

SENIOR FOUR CRE.

(Continuation on types of marriages.)

MARRIAGE IN CHURCH HISTORY.

The early believers emphasized the following views in preparation for good marriage.

They advocated for monogamy as an ideal form of marriage and disapproved polygamy.

They called upon Christians to have some period of courtship and did not specify the period of time to spend in courtship.

The early believers emphasized that the husbands and the wives have equal rights in marriage.

They also taught that children are gift from God in marriage.

That marriage can be expressed physically and emotionally where by marriage is protected by self-control and also do away with selfishness in marriage.

They emphasized that Christian marriage is a commitment of love and that the love of couples is a reflect of God's love which is ever lasting.

They taught that marriage is a sacrament, a holy sign of God's grace among men.

The early Christians emphasized that husbands and wives should be united in Christ to help them grow deeper in their love.

The early believers emphasized that Christians should marry fellow Christians to avoid conflicts arising from religious differences.

The early believers also emphasized that husbands and wives should be faithful to each other.

BIBLICAL TEACHING ABOUT MARRIAGE.

OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING

The Old Testament teaches that marriage is blessed by God and it was initiated by God. **Genesis 1:23.**

The Old Testament teaches that marriage is meant for pro –creation. **Genesis 1:28** “Go forth produce and subdue the world.”

The Old Testament teaches that the husbands and wives have equal rights in marriage.

The Ten Commandments protect the marriage institution from those who may destroy it like the tenth commandment prohibits any man from wishing to possess another man’s wife.

The Old Testament recognizes the period of courtship which every man should undergo before marrying for example Jacob and Rachael had a lovely courtship which lasted for seven years before marriage.

The Old Testament teaches that marriage is supposed to be monogamous because God provided Adam with only one wife Eve.

The Old Testament teaches that marriage is meant for companionship that is why God created Eve for Adam because he lacked company and was lonely and wanted Adam to get company.

According to the Old Testament virginity was highly valued and marriage that involved a virgin girl was valued and respected.

Dowry was approved by the girl’s parents before marriage and it was compulsory for example Isaac had to pay dowry for Rebecca before marriage.

The Old Testament teaches that marriage is supposed to be permanent however Moses gave circumstances under which the husband could divorce the wife but the procedure was long and hectic which made them to eventually reconcile.

Widow inheritance was accepted according to the laws of Moses where by a brother to an Israelite who had died had the authority to take over the deceased's wife.

According to the Old Testament intermarriage was prohibited, Israelites were supposed to marry among the twelve tribes.

The Old Testament calls for faithfulness in marriage for example prophet Hosea's marriage with a prostitute was intended to symbolize faithfulness in marriage.

The Old Testament teaches that God promised special happiness to married people.

NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING.

The New Testament teaches that marriage is initiated by God and is started by God **Mathew 4:6.**

The New Testament teaches that marriage is supposed to be monogamous that is why Jesus emphasized that a man shall leave his father and mother and get united with his wife and become one. **Mark 8:10.**

The New Testament teaches that the husband is the head of the family and he is supposed to fulfill all his responsibilities.

The New Testament teaches us that husband and wife have to reconcile and forgive each other in case of any challenge in marriage.

The New Testament calls upon the wife and husband to be faithful to each other and condemns adultery.

The New Testament teaches that marriage without children is incomplete for example Zacharia and Elizabeth were childless for a long period of time and cried to God until when God blessed them with a child [John the Baptist].

The New Testament teaches married couples to fulfill their conjugal duties, they should sexually satisfy each other without denying each other sexually.

The New Testament teaches that Jesus honored marriage for example he physically attended a wedding at canna meaning that he recognized and respected the marriage institution therefore people should respect the marriage institution.

The New Testament teaches that marriage is supposed to be permanent and condemns divorce.

The New Testament also calls upon husbands to handle their wives with a lot of care since women are of a weaker sex.

The New Testament teaches that marriage is optional, therefore one is free to remain a celibate for the purpose of serving God.

QN1. Give the biblical teachings that can help marriage to be more stable.

QN2. What were the values expected of a good wife according to proverbs 31:10-31?

-Hardworking.

-Trustworthy.

-Caring.

-Creative.

-The one who is loving.

-Humble.

-A provider.

-Minds about herself [beauty].

-One who honors the lord.

-One who is wise and dignified.

QN3. What should the church do make marriages stable?

-Should carry out guidance and counseling of married couples.

-Should call for monogamous marriages.

- Should advocate for permanence and condemn divorce.
- Should promote equality in marriage.
- Should call for forgiveness and reconciliation among married couples.
- Should call upon wives to be submissive to their husbands.
- Should call upon wives and husbands to love each other.
- Should call upon married partners to satisfy each other sexually.
- Should call upon married partners to be hard working.
- Should call upon married couples to use their marriage to glorify God by doing what is required by God.
- Should call upon husbands to handle the wives with care because they are of a weak sex.
- Should encourage the husbands to fulfill their duties as the family head.
- Should organize family days and pray for the family as a way of call for God's intervention.

END.