

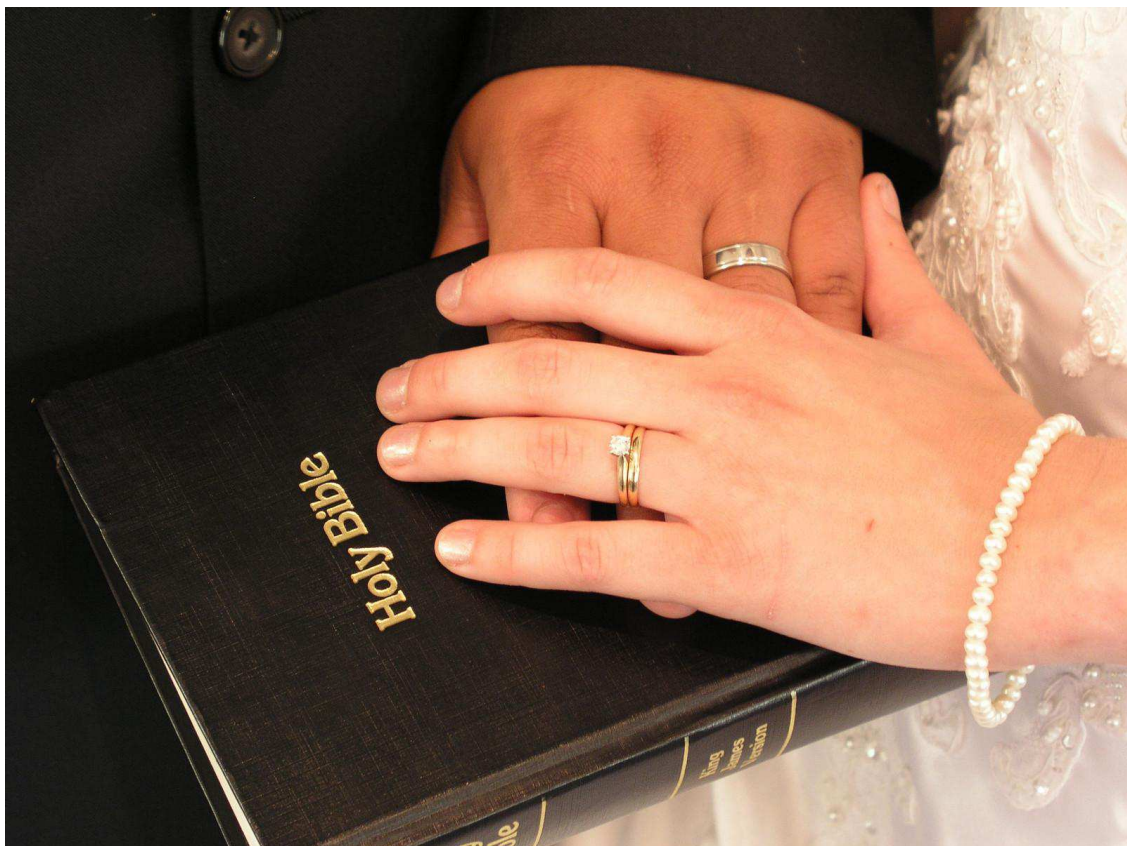


# CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

CHRISTLICHE MISSIONARISCHE GEMEINSCHAFT INTERNATIONAL –  
DEUTSCHLAND

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**SERIES 2: MARRIAGE PREPARATION SEMINAR**

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## **The Great Commission**

The marriage institution is for God and belongs to Him. We get married for God! Marriage is spiritual. It is spiritual just as prophecy, prayer e.t.c. It is secondly for the earth and will not continue in heaven. There is an appointed time, when marriage will come to an end just as prophecy. Marriage is earthly, but is it also spiritual. When you get married, you must know the earthly and the spiritual aspects concerning marriage. In the first marriage seminar, we said that God created the man and gave him a commission.

### **Genesis 1:1-2**

***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. New International Version (NIV)***

### **Genesis 2:15-18**

***15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." 18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." New International Version (NIV)***

We have from the beginning:

1. The creation of the earth and heaven
2. The creation of the man
3. Giving man the commission
4. The creation of the woman
5. The fulfillment of the commission

If the man was capable of doing the work by himself, then God would not have created the woman. God would have found another solution for multiplication. However, God thought that it was not good for a man to be alone, so He created the woman and He eventually gave them both the commission to carry out.

### **Genesis 1:28-30**

***28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." 29 Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move***

***along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. New International Version (NIV)***

The man and the woman were both created on the same day. God first gave the contract of commission to the man before he created the woman. He had a reason for doing that. God could have made the woman to be an ordinary worker just as the man, but He did not do that. God wanted the woman to be nearer to the man. He granted her to be nearer to the man, more than any other created creature. There was and there is a commission behind the institution of marriage.

God planted a garden in Eden. I believe that the man saw how God planted this garden, so that he would learn and continue taking care of this garden. After God created the woman, He gave them the commission to fill the earth with many other gardens. He also commissioned the man and the woman to fill the earth and multiply themselves.

The commission was to:

- Multiply and fill the earth
- Filling the earth with gardens

Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman, with the sole purpose of multiplying and filling the earth and accomplishing the purpose of God. This was in the old testament.

Now in the New Testament, Jesus came and planted the garden of God. This work was the reconciliation between human beings and God, through the death of the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus began to build up disciples and He also preached the gospel. He did all this in order to create the garden of God. Jesus did not do anything by Himself, but He did what He saw the Father doing. He built up the people He won to God, into the garden of God. By so doing, He established and laid the foundation of the church. The Lord Jesus furthermore built up the disciples and transformed their lives. He then gave them a new commission to go and fill the earth with Disciples of Christ.

***Matthew 28:18-20***

***18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” New International Version (NIV)***

In the Old Testament, the accomplishment of the commission given to Adam and Eve was through the bearing of children. They both had to fill the earth by giving birth. This was in the old covenant.

In the New Testament or in the new covenant, the expectations are still the same as in the Old Testament. Today, we must give birth to spiritual children, that is to win souls to the kingdom of God and make them into disciples. There is a need of multiplication and growth of disciples in the kingdom of God. This will lead to the fulfilment of the commission. The more you grow in the Lord, you come closer to the accomplishment of the commission. If you do not grow spiritually, you will not bear any fruit. You need to multiply yourself by growing spiritually. When a man continues to grow spiritually, he will then need a wife to help him fulfill the great commission. The fulfillment of the commission becomes possible because they will work together to win souls for Christ, and make them into disciples. Marriage is an institution that is there for the accomplishment of the great commission given by God. You get married so that you can work for God and fill the earth with disciples.

It is therefore not advisable to marry a person who is not a Christian. You can not marry such a person to help you fulfil the commission God has given you. What relationship is there between God and Belial? When a person decides to marry a non-Christian, he/she is marrying a person who is spiritually dead. We are a new creation in Christ Jesus and our old man was done away with. This new creation was created by the Holy Spirit.

There are Christians who say they will get married to a person who is not a Christian and then pray that God will touch the heart of that person. They say they will pray in order to turn the person to God. This is the same as saying, they will go to the mortuary and marry a dead person and then they will pray that God brings the dead person to life. This is destroying your own commission and purpose! You cannot fulfill this with a non-Christian.

### ***Finding the right partner***

When you are searching for a husband, you must ask these questions:

- Is he working in the garden of God?
- If he is working in the garden: where is his garden located?

If you want to serve God, you need to get married to a person who has revealed where he is working spiritually. You need to know where he is working, because you will serve with him at that position. You will become his co-worker; therefore he needs to show you his portion in the garden of God. Is he working hard to ensure that other people live in holiness? Is he investing in the kingdom of God? You need proof to know if he is really a servant of God, because if you get

married to a person who does not invest in God, then you will have big problems. Is he a person when he is not around people who seek for him? If you see such a man, then he is there investing in God's kingdom. If you marry a man who has no direction, you will marry him and help him to accomplish nothing.

Women, you get married to glorify the men. The bible says that the woman is the glory of the man. How do you glorify your husband? He is your lord, and you also call him your lord, meaning it from the heart. Do not get married if you are not ready to serve your husband as your lord. If you are not ready to do it, do not get married. The bible says women must imitate Sarah who respected her husband and even called him lord. If you marry a man in your generation, you must make sure that you will be able to consider him as lord. Just as Jesus is the Lord of the church, and the church is submissive to him, so should women be to their husbands. The church is the bride of Christ, that is why he is our Lord. A woman must submit to her husband and receive him as lord.

### ***For the Men***

When a man seeks for a wife, he must analyse whether she serves God or she is the type of woman who just wants romance. If she doesn't want to serve God, then you will be in trouble. Have you set goals and objectives for the coming years? Do you have goals and objectives for the plantation of God? My advice is, you need to define your goals and objectives for the next years.

In the process of searching for the right partner, a man is confronted by some issues. I call these the **3 F's**. Men must confront these aspects whilst growing in the Lord, because without growth it is not possible to accomplish the commission.

The **3 F's** are:

- 1. Fame:** Pride, Honour, Self Love and Ego
- 2. Fortune:** Material, Prosperity, Money, Gold and Silver
- 3. Females:** Sexuality, Beauty, Desire, Love, Feelings and Emotions

### ***Fame***

When a man is seeking for a wife, he needs to know himself. God said he will give the man - a woman who is meet for him. How can the man find the right woman if he does not know himself? God said we should come to him so that we would see, because we are blind. God knows you and knows you better than you know yourself.

**Revelations 3:18 says:**

***I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. New International Version (NIV)***

What type of man are you? The Lord Jesus said in order to be His disciple, you must renounce your ego and yourself. When you are not ready to renounce your ego and yourself then you are not ready to become a disciple of Christ.

When the bible says that men are the lords over their wives, what does it mean to be the lord? Jesus gives us an example of what it means. He was the son of God, but he came and washed the feet of his disciples. The men must do what Jesus Christ did. With humility, the man goes and washes the feet or goes to serve his wife. The feet are the filthiest part of the body because they walk on the floor. Washing feet means you see the weaknesses in your partner and you go and help him or her to become a better person. The Lord Jesus is working hard so that He will present the church as a radiant bride before God. Men must also work hard so that their wives can be presented before God without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

There are women who cry because they do not want their husbands to serve God and they are others who cry because their husbands do not serve God and they want them to serve. You must know the character of the woman you want to marry. A man must not marry a woman who is stronger than him in character, that is, a woman with a strong ego or pride. This type of woman can not consider him as lord.

### **Fortune**

The Lord Jesus said if anyone is not ready to renounce all possessions, the person cannot be His disciple. To the woman, if you marry a man who does not give to God, you are lost. He must give a portion of his substance to God because where his treasure is that is where his heart will be. You must ask him if he gives to God. Do not marry a person who is just investing on earth. In order to make disciples on earth, he must and needs to invest! You can invest on earth, BUT work and invest more in heaven.

The bible says when you take care of the work of God, God becomes occupied taking care of your own house. You need to examine your character in relation to fortune. If you marry a man who gives God, God will provide for you in your marriage. This will also be a blessing for your children. A man must provide for his family and he must also work. A man must be ready to suffer and work to provide for his family. If he is not ready to sacrifice for his family, you will

have big problems. You need to ask the man how much he has received in past two years and what he has done with the money.

For the man, a woman who wastes material things is a big problem. When you want to marry, ask her how she spends her money. What does she do with her money? Ask her how much she sends to her parents?

### ***Females***

You must know yourself. Are you a hot person who needs cold water all the time, because you are always sexually excited. Do you have a strong sexual desire? The good thing is that when you are single, God gives the grace to control that desire. There are many activities that one can do to hinder these strong desires before marriage. Furthermore, if you have a strong desire pray that God gives you a wife who has a strong desire. However, you must not awaken love before the right time.

When there is no equilibrium in the sexual appetite, between married people, these people will have problems even in their service in the kingdom of God. God gives a man, the right woman who is a perfect match for him. The bible says the body of the man belongs to the wife and the body of the woman belongs to the husband. Both of them need to be satisfied. You need to pray that you have sexual satisfaction in your marriage.

For the man, before you get married look at how your wife dresses. If you are satisfied with it then that is good. However before marriage, do not be so in love with the appearance because one day she will get old and you cannot divorce her because of it. Instead, you must love her no matter what. You do not get married to a woman because she is sexually appealing.

During the engagement phase just before the marriage, you must ask for permission from your disciple maker concerning - speaking on sexual topics. There are topics that need to be discussed under supervision e.g. whether the man has complicated expectations in bed.

Further aspects that also need to be considered before marriage:

- 1) How is the intellectual connection between the two of you? Do not marry someone who you regard as boring intellectually.
- 2) Do you enjoy talking to each other?

The 3 F's are also the factors that destroy marriages. The reason why most marriages are destroyed is because of money, ego and unfaithfulness.

There are other aspects that also need to be considered, for example, is the man separated from his family? The bible says a man is supposed to leave his family and become one with his wife. A man who has not separated from his family can destroy his marriage. Most of the times, the husband's family is responsible for destroying the marriage. Therefore before you get married, look whether your future husband will love you more than his family. God says the man will leave his family and be joined together with his wife. On the other hand, woman when you love a man, you will also love his mother. She is the woman who took care of your husband. Respect your mother in law and the man also has to honor his wife's father. Amen!