Marriage School Student Manual

Student Manual for Church and Online Study

Pastor Lenin Were
RTD Church International School of Ministry

Public student edition | November 2026

This teaching edition follows all 24 chapters of Pastor Lenin Were's Marriage School manuscript. It adds learning frames, discussion questions, and six practice labs. The author's chapter text appears in full in the reading sections.

What you will study

- Prepare for relationships through maturity, discernment, character, and shared faith.
- Practice friendship, communication, mutual respect, and wise boundaries.
- Consider singleness, parenting, marriage, restoration, and warning signs without shame or coercion.
- Make a practical plan for growth in your current season of life.

How the online course works

The 24 book chapters become 24 chapter lessons. Six practice labs follow every four chapters, making 30 online units in 12 modules. Each chapter lesson has four review questions; three correct answers meet the 75% passing score. Labs ask for a short written or oral application and have no numeric online quiz score. The final exit questionnaire follows all unit requirements. The online certificate confirms completion of online requirements; local instructors review written work separately.

Participation and care

This course is for adults age 18 and older. It is pastoral education, not individual counseling. No learner is required to disclose sexual history, trauma, private family details, or another person's confidential information in class or online. A person facing threats, coercion, or abuse should prioritize safety and seek qualified local support. Marriage teaching must not be used to pressure someone to remain in danger.

Read each assigned Bible passage in its context. The notices below identify the Bible translations used. When teaching or printing this edition, retain these notices.

Copyright © Pastor Lenin Were. RTD Church International School of Ministry. This student edition is provided for enrolled course study. Retain the author and ministry attribution when sharing it with a class or local church group. The instructor answer key is a separate private document.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked ESV are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Text Edition: 2025. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Dedication

I lovingly dedicate this book to my beloved wife, Jacinter Lenin—the wife of my youth and a beautiful gift from God. Your love, strength, and partnership have been a continual blessing to my life and ministry.

To my son, David Lenin—may you grow in the fear and knowledge of the Lord, and may you learn to honor the sacred institution of marriage as God designed it. I pray you will walk in wisdom and fulfill the divine purpose set before you.

Finally, I dedicate this work to the cherished family of Restoration of the Tent of David Church. Your prayers, love, and unwavering support have been a constant source of encouragement as I pursue the vision God has placed upon this ministry. You are a living testimony of what God can do through faith, unity, and obedience

Preface

I give all glory and thanks to God for the grace to write this book. It is my prayer that the Lord will use these pages to heal, build, and strengthen marriages, helping them rise to fulfill their God-given mandate on earth.

We are living in a time when marriages are under heavy attack across the nations. The enemy understands why God treasures marriage—it is the first institution He created, and it holds the power to shape families, communities, and nations. The future of our world depends largely on the kind of children we raise in our homes—and that begins with healthy marriages.

Having been raised in a broken home, I've carried with me the deep impressions of that experience. Though I was not an orphan, I often say I felt like one. Both my parents were alive, but I never had the opportunity to grow up with them under one roof. I moved from one home to another, longing for stability, acceptance, and love. I yearned for a place to call home—but never truly found one.

There were many painful moments in my youth. In sorrow, I sometimes blamed God for my parents' separation. My heart wrestled with rejection. But one day, after coming to know Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, I turned to Him for answers. I asked why my parents' marriage had failed.

One evening during high school, I opened my Bible, seeking understanding. The Lord led me to the book of Isaiah, where He spoke clearly to my heart. He showed me that He had come to rescue my parents' marriage, but no one responded to His call. He revealed that His power to save, heal, and deliver is always present—but it is our lack of faith and unwillingness to listen that often blocks His intervention.

Isaiah 50:1–3 (NKJV)
"Thus says the Lord: 'Where is the certificate of your mother's divorce,
Whom I have put away?
Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you?
For your iniquities you have sold yourselves,
And for your transgressions your mother has been put away.
Why, when I came, was there no man?
Why, when I called, was there none to answer?
Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem?
Or have I no power to deliver?'"

That Scripture marked the beginning of my healing journey. I realized that God had always been near—ready to help, ready to save—but we so often fail to recognize His voice during times of turmoil. I also came to understand one painful truth: when divorce happens, children often suffer the most. This is one of the reasons why God hates divorce. It leaves deep wounds that take years—sometimes a lifetime—to heal.

I thank God for His agape love, the love that flows from Calvary. That love healed my heart. When God restored me, I began to see my parents' story not just with pain, but with purpose. I listened to both sides of their experience, and coupled with the Word of God, I began to understand the deep lessons that eventually formed the foundation of this book.

Even before I was married, God began to use me to counsel and pray for couples on the brink of divorce. I saw marriages healed, homes restored, and hearts reconciled. It was humbling to see people who had been married for decades coming to a young man for counsel and prayer. Through that experience, I realized that part of my pastoral calling is to help restore marriages to the will of God.

I earnestly prayed not to repeat the mistakes of my parents. I asked the Lord for wisdom, understanding, and discernment—not just for the wife He would give me, but for how I would steward my own marriage. I wanted my life to be a testimony of God's redemptive power. I firmly believe that marriage works—because God made it to work.

This book is filled with teachings, lessons, and personal stories from my journey. It testifies to the power of God in marriage, and how we can do great things when we understand and walk in God's original plan for this sacred institution. When things fall apart, the best thing to do is return to the blueprint. This book will help guide you back to God's mind and heart for marriage—the very foundation He created to reflect His will and accomplish His purpose on earth.

Author: Pastor Lenin Were, M.T.S.

Ministry: Restoration of the Tent of David

Website: www.restorationofthetentofdavid.church

Email: info.restorationofthetentofdavid.church

Chapter 01

Leave and Cleave: A Call to Maturity in Marriage

Online unit U01 | Module 01: Readiness and discernment

Learning focus

Marriage readiness includes maturity, responsibility, and a new priority for one's spouse.

Bible reading

Genesis 2:24 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
— Genesis 2:24

Marriage begins with maturity. God's instruction in Genesis 2:24 is not merely cultural—it is spiritual, emotional, and practical. Before a man enters into marriage, he must demonstrate the ability to lead, to provide, and to walk independently. This is a foundational truth many in today's generation overlook.

We live in a time where young men pursue marriage without readiness. They remain dependent on their parents, bringing girlfriends into their childhood bedrooms—confusing lust with leadership. But God's design is different. Before Adam received Eve, he had a garden to tend, responsibilities to manage, and an identity rooted in God.

Jesus Himself modeled this. Though He speaks of the many mansions in His Father's house, He still went ahead to prepare a place for His bride (John 14:2). Preparation is not just physical—it is spiritual, financial, and emotional.

To the single man:
Do not rely on your parents to support your wife. Build your own altar, your own home, and your own stability. Independence is not pride—it's stewardship.

To the single woman:
Marry a man with vision. One who is already walking in purpose. Don't assume you can change his direction after marriage. If you can't support his calling or submit to his leadership, then you're not aligned with him. Marriage is not about fixing someone—it's about walking together in the same direction.

The second part of this scripture is just as crucial: He shall be united to his wife.
This means prioritizing your spouse over every other relationship. Your wife becomes your partner, your confidante, your first call—not your mother, not your friends. A man must protect, defend, and cling to his wife—not just in easy times, but especially in adversity. Even when she makes mistakes, God holds him accountable to love, lead, and cover.

And finally, the two shall become one flesh.
This speaks to the deep intimacy and connection of marriage—spiritual, emotional, and physical. Sex within marriage is not merely physical release; it's a sacred exchange of trust, emotion, and covenant. When that unity is broken or neglected, distance grows.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 7:3, "Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband."

Affection and sexual intimacy are not optional in marriage—they are acts of service and expressions of love that build oneness.

Key Takeaways

Maturity precedes marriage. A man must be prepared to provide, protect, and lead.

Marriage requires alignment in vision, values, and purpose.

Cling to your spouse, not to outsiders or old ties.

Sex in marriage is sacred and sustaining—it strengthens emotional and spiritual unity.

Discuss

1. What does leaving and cleaving mean while still honoring parents?
2. What signs of spiritual, emotional, and practical readiness would you look for?

Practice

Make a private readiness inventory covering faith, work, finances, communication, and family boundaries.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 02

To Our Single Ladies: A Call to Dignity and Discernment

Online unit U02 | Module 01: Readiness and discernment

Learning focus

Discernment, dignity, and trusted counsel can protect a person entering a relationship.

Bible reading

Genesis 29:12 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. So she ran and told her father."
— Genesis 29:12 (NKJV)

Where are the Rachels of our generation—young women who respond to interest from a man by first seeking the wisdom and counsel of their fathers? When Jacob approached Rachel, she didn't follow him to a private place. She didn't entertain him secretly. She ran home and involved her father.

That is dignity. That is discernment. That is protection.

Sadly, many of today's young women are not responding in the same way as Rachel. Instead of running home, they run into relationships headfirst—with no counsel, no prayer, no accountability. And many wake up to heartbreak, betrayal, or even abuse.

Some were approached at parties, while others were approached in clubs or bars. Some were flattered by sweet words and ended up in one-night stands. Some entered situationships, mistaking cohabitation for commitment. Others gave their bodies away before understanding the man's intentions.

Let me speak clearly and directly:
You are worth more than a casual relationship.
You are not a test drive. You are not a consolation prize. You are a daughter of the Most High God.

Dangers to Avoid

Casual sex: No matter how flattering the attention, it is not love. Real love values you—body, soul, and future.

Hidden relationships: If a man wants to hide you, he's not ready to lead you. Anything secretive is suspect.

Living together unmarried: Cohabitation is not a covenant. You're giving the benefits of marriage without the commitment of it.

Emotional manipulation: Any relationship where you're pressured to prove your love through compromise is not love—it's control.

A Rachel Spirit

Rachel's response teaches us that real protection is found under spiritual authority. If you don't have an involved father, find a spiritual father—someone who can speak truth, ask hard questions, and hold you accountable.

When a man knows you're covered, he approaches you differently.
He knows he can't manipulate or mislead you. He knows there's someone he must answer to.

There is honor in accountability. There is safety in wisdom.

Counsel for Single Ladies

Don't date in the dark. Bring your relationship into the light of trusted voices.

Don't trade your body for attention. What's easily accessible is often easily discarded.

Don't fear being single. Singleness is not a curse—it's a season for purpose, growth, and intimacy with God.

Don't pursue—be positioned. Let the man pursue you. Let God bring him to your well, just as Jacob was brought to Rachel.

Final Encouragement

You are not forgotten. You are not behind. God has not skipped you. Wait with dignity. Walk in purpose. And trust that the right man will not require you to lower your standards to gain his love.

You are valuable. You are loved. You are seen.

Discuss

3. How can counsel help without replacing a person's own choice?
4. What would respectful accountability look like in a new relationship?

Practice

Write down your relationship boundaries and identify two trustworthy people you could consult.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 03

To the Married Couples: Rediscovering Friendship and Oneness

Online unit U03 | Module 02: Friendship and influence

Learning focus

Married partners can nurture friendship through attention, honesty, prayer, and shared time.

Bible reading

Proverbs 5:18 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth."
— Proverbs 5:18 (NKJV)

In the early days of many marriages, love is full of laughter, closeness, and shared dreams. But over time, distance can quietly grow between spouses. The demands of life, parenting, careers, and routines can replace the deep friendship that once existed. This chapter is a call to restore that friendship and make your spouse your closest companion once again.

Let me say this clearly:
Your spouse should be your best friend.
Not your colleague. Not your childhood buddy. Not someone from church. Not a neighbor. No one should know you, love you, or share life with you the way your husband or wife does.

The Danger of Outside "Best Friends"

Too many couples grow closer to someone else while growing apart from each other. Emotional intimacy with someone outside the marriage—whether with good intentions or not—can quickly become emotional adultery. Even if there is no physical infidelity, the heart can drift.

You may spend hours talking to someone else while giving your spouse silence. You may laugh freely with others, but carry tension at home. These are warning signs. If you find it easier to talk to someone outside your marriage than to your spouse, the enemy already has a foothold.

Rebuilding Friendship in Marriage

Talk every day, not just about chores or logistics, but about feelings, goals, frustrations, and faith.

Create space for each other. Set aside time without distractions. Go on walks. Share meals. Laugh together again.

Be vulnerable. The best friendships are built on transparency. Share what's going on in your heart.

Listen well. Don't just wait to speak—listen to understand. Give your spouse the gift of your undivided attention.

Pray together. Couples that pray together grow closer. Prayer softens hearts and invites God to work.

A Word for Wives and Husbands

To husbands:
Rejoice in the wife of your youth. Don't let time, aging, or routine dim the light of your love. Compliment her. Pursue her heart again. Make her feel chosen every day, not just on your wedding day.

To wives:
Encourage your husband. Respect him. Be his cheerleader when the world discourages him. Let your words build him up, not tear him down. He longs for admiration from the one he loves most—his wife.

A Covenant, not a Contract

Marriage is not a contract based on performance. It's a covenant based on commitment. Love is not sustained by convenience but by consistent, sacrificial effort. That effort flows most naturally when your spouse is not just your partner, but your friend.

Key Reminders

Rekindle your relationship with your spouse as your best friend.

Avoid emotional attachments to others that replace your spouse's role.

Prioritize time, conversation, and laughter together.

Marriage is a daily choice to love, serve, and stay committed.

Discuss

5. What daily habits strengthen friendship in a marriage?
6. How can a couple reconnect when routine has crowded out conversation?

Practice

With mutual agreement, plan one device-free conversation this week; keep any private details out of class.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 04

Mother of Many Nations: Becoming a Godly Woman of Influence

Online unit U04 | Module 02: Friendship and influence

Learning focus

Godly influence includes character, mentoring, and care for the next generation.

Bible reading

Genesis 17:16 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."
— Genesis 17:16 (NKJV)

God's promise to Sarah was more than about bearing one child—it was a destiny declaration. He called her to become the mother of many nations. That same calling extends today to every woman who chooses to walk in godliness, character, and purpose. Motherhood in the kingdom of God is not just biological—it is spiritual. You can birth nations through the way you live, lead, and love others.

But there is a cost: self-denial, wisdom, maturity, and spiritual discipline.

Where Are Today's Sarahs?

In a world consumed with outer beauty, social media attention, and selfish ambition, God is still calling women to rise and take their rightful place—not as trendsetters, but as nation-shapers.

We need women who:

Are more concerned with their character than their cosmetics.

Teach younger women the meaning of dignity, discretion, and love.

Model faithfulness, modesty, and inner strength.

Choose influence over popularity and purpose over pleasure.

Our generation is filled with daughters but lacks true mothers. That's why young people are spiritually malnourished, emotionally unstable, and culturally confused. A mother of many nations nurtures not only her children but also generations to come.

Modern Culture vs. Biblical Womanhood

Too many mothers today compete with their daughters, rather than mentoring them.

Mothers dressed like teenagers.

More time in salons than prayer closets.

More invested in career than character.

Chasing youth, rather than embracing legacy.

God’s call is clear:

“...admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”
— Titus 2:4–5 (NKJV)

If you cannot teach your daughter how to be a woman of God, who will?

The Mother’s Mantle

A mother of nations carries the weight of:

Counseling with wisdom.

Modeling purity and dignity.

Correcting in love.

Protecting the next generation from harm.

Just like Sarah protected Isaac from the negative influence of Ishmael, mothers must be vigilant. This generation needs women who will shield children from destructive media, broken relationships, and misguided ideologies.

A Mother’s Responsibilities

Be your husband’s trusted companion. Don’t compete—complete him.

Create a godly home environment. Clean, safe, loving, and prayerful.

Raise children with biblical values—discipline, integrity, and faith.

Model submission—not weakness, but strength under God’s order.

Sarah called her husband “lord” not because he was flawless, but because she honored God's structure. Proper submission is not oppression—it’s partnership under divine alignment.

Key Takeaways

A mother of nations is a woman of prayer, purpose, and influence.

Don’t chase relevance—pursue righteousness.

Your life teaches louder than your words—so live what you want others to become.

Train, teach, protect, and guide the next generation with conviction and love.

The world may applaud vanity, but heaven honors virtue.
Rise up, women of God. We need your voice, your example, and your presence. The next generation is waiting.

Discuss

7. How does the chapter describe influence beyond biological motherhood?
8. What kind of example helps younger people grow in wisdom?

Practice

Choose one concrete mentoring or encouragement action appropriate to your role and relationships.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Practice Lab 1

Chapters 1 to 4

Review these four chapter ideas and choose one principle to practice in your current season. Your assignment may use a hypothetical situation.

- Chapter 1: Marriage readiness includes maturity, responsibility, and a new priority for one's spouse.
- Chapter 2: Discernment, dignity, and trusted counsel can protect a person entering a relationship.
- Chapter 3: Married partners can nurture friendship through attention, honesty, prayer, and shared time.
- Chapter 4: Godly influence includes character, mentoring, and care for the next generation.

Discuss

9. Where do these chapters reinforce one another, and where do they speak to different situations?
10. Which teaching is most useful for your current season?
11. What question would you take to a trusted mentor or instructor?

Application assignment

Write 150–250 words or give a short oral response: identify one principle, one Bible passage to study in context, and one realistic action to take within 30 days. Do not include another person’s confidential information or details of sexual activity or trauma. Local instructors review the assignment separately from the online completion record.

Chapter 05

Take Me to Rest, Lord: Trusting God in the Waiting Season

Online unit U06 | Module 03: Waiting and restoration

Learning focus

A season of singleness can include purpose, growth, and trust rather than anxious striving.

Bible reading

Genesis 2:20-21 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him."
— Genesis 2:20 (NKJV)

The story of Adam and Eve reveals a profound truth about relationships: God does His best work when we are at rest.

Adam's season of singleness was not idle—it was purposeful. He was naming animals, fulfilling his calling, walking with God. Yet in the middle of all that, there was a gap: no suitable companion. But God did not ask Adam to search. He caused Adam to sleep.

This divine sleep wasn't just physical—it was symbolic of trust.
Adam didn't need to chase, strive, or worry. God was preparing Eve behind the scenes.

Rest is a Position of Faith

Many single men and women today are exhausted, not from work, but from worry. The pressure to find "the one," to avoid being left behind, or to respond to societal expectations is heavy. But Scripture teaches that what is born of rest is blessed, and what is born of impatience often becomes a burden.

When Adam rested, God worked.
When we rest in God, we allow Him to align timing, character, and calling.

What Kind of Rest Is God Calling You To?

Rest from anxious searching. Let go of constant striving for a partner.

Rest in your identity. You are already complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10).

Rest in obedience. Focus on being in God's will, not just finding someone.

Rest in preparation. Let God shape your character before He brings the companion.

Jesus: The Model of Restful Obedience

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, lived 33 years on this earth and never married, but He fulfilled the highest calling. His life was not defined by relationships but by purpose. He had no physical beauty to draw people (Isaiah 53:2), yet His obedience, love, and character attracted multitudes.

"There is no beauty that we should desire Him…" — Isaiah 53:2 (NKJV)

Young people, hear this:
The most attractive thing about you should be the presence of God in your life.
Not your looks. Not your Instagram page. Not your fashion or fame. But Christ in you—the hope of glory.

The Dangers of Desperate Pursuit

Entering wrong relationships out of fear of being alone.

Compromising your purity to gain love.

Comparing your journey to others and forcing your season.

Stop banging doors, God hasn't opened. Let Him bring your Eve or your Adam in His perfect time.

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept…" — Genesis 2:21 (NKJV)

Key Reminders

Rest is not laziness—it's faith in God's sovereignty.

Don't idolize marriage. Jesus is your first love.

Stay in your purpose—your future spouse will find you in your assignment.

Your worth is not measured by your relationship status—but by your identity in Christ.

Instead of saying, "Lord, I'm tired of waiting," say:
"Take me to rest, Lord, and prepare my heart while I wait on You."
Let God shape your character, deepen your faith, and fulfill your calling. In due season, He will bring you what you were never meant to chase.

Discuss

12. What does purposeful waiting look like in ordinary life?
13. How can someone resist pressure to rush a relationship?

Practice

Write a one-week plan for spiritual growth, service, rest, and supportive friendships.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 06

The Power of Two in Marriage Restoration: Standing Together When One Falls

Online unit U07 | Module 03: Waiting and restoration

Learning focus

Mutual support and faith can help a couple face difficulty together.

Bible reading

Ecclesiastes 4:12 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken." — Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NKJV)

Marriage was never meant to be a showcase of perfection, but a testimony of partnership, endurance, and grace. At the altar, we don't vow to be perfect—we vow to stand together in good times and in bad, in joy and in sorrow, through failure and forgiveness.

When one spouse stumbles, the strength of the other can bring restoration. That is the power of two.

⚖ What If Your Spouse Falls?

It's easy to love when everything is going well. But what about when your spouse:

Make a mistake?

Spiritually drifts?

Fails morally or emotionally?

Here's the truth: Grace is not earned. It's given.

If your spouse falls, it's not your cue to run or retaliate. It's your moment to intercede, to fight in prayer, to stand in the gap. You don't both have to fall. If one remains standing, there is still hope.

"If one falls, the other can lift him up." — Ecclesiastes 4:10

Stand in the Gap, Not in Judgment

Instead of saying:

"You hurt me, so I'll hurt you back…"
Say:

"You've fallen, but I'm still standing—so I will help you rise."

God calls us to cover our spouses, not to expose them.

"Wives, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives." — 1 Peter 3:1

This does not mean tolerating abuse or endangering yourself—it means loving like Christ loves: redemptively, patiently, and prayerfully.

The Threefold Cord: God, Husband, and Wife

The true strength of a marriage lies in the third cord—God Himself.

Without Him, it's just two flawed people trying to make it work.

With Him, it's a divine partnership that can overcome storms.

Marriage isn't a contract—it's a covenant with God. That's why including Him in your union from the beginning is vital.

"What God has joined together, let not man separate." — Matthew 19:6

Be Careful Who You Marry

If you're still single, this chapter speaks to you, too.

Don't compromise.
Don't marry someone hoping to convert them later. If Christ hasn't changed their heart now, your love won't do what only the Spirit of God can.

"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers." — 2 Corinthians 6:14

Your spouse should not be your biggest mission field—your home is not a rescue project. Instead, choose someone who already loves God and walks in purpose.

Why a Wedding Matters

A wedding is not just a cultural celebration—it's a spiritual covenant. Vows are made before God, and when done right, heaven recognizes and blesses the union.

Do it God's way. Purity. Prayer. Honor.

Secure heaven's backing. There's grace for couples who marry in righteousness.

Key Takeaways

Marriage restoration is possible when even one spouse chooses to stand in faith.

Don't fight your spouse—fight for your spouse.

A God-centered marriage has the power to withstand any storm.

Include God in your union from the beginning—He is the third cord that strengthens it.

When the enemy attacks, don't turn on each other—turn toward God, and stand together.
You are stronger than you think. And with God, nothing is impossible.

Discuss

14. What does standing together require from both partners?
15. When should a couple seek outside help rather than handle a problem alone?

Practice

Create a support map of trusted people and qualified help; do not share another person's private story in class.

Care note

Keep intimate and traumatic details private. Seek qualified help if a relationship involves coercion, threats, or danger. An instructor should not pressure a learner to disclose or reconcile in an unsafe situation.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 07

Holy Matrimony: Building Marriage on a Sacred Foundation

Online unit U08 | Module 04: Covenant and integrity

Learning focus

The chapter presents marriage as a sacred covenant that calls for preparation and faithfulness.

Bible reading

Mark 10:9 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"What God has joined together, let not man separate."
— Mark 10:9 (NKJV)

Marriage is not merely a social contract, a cultural tradition, or a romantic event. It is a sacred covenant before God—a divine joining with spiritual implications and eternal significance. That's why the Bible calls it Holy Matrimony.

In a world that glamorizes weddings but disregards holiness, this chapter is a wake-up call:
God is more interested in the purity of your union than the size of your ceremony.

A Wedding Without God Is Just a Party

Some couples invest heavily in wedding decorations, attire, venues, and guest lists—but neglect the very presence of the One who designed marriage. Others live together, share a bed, and call it love—but bypass the altar altogether.

Living together before marriage is not God's plan.
Having sex before marriage defiles what God meant to be holy.

Marriage was created by a holy God. That means the process of entering marriage must also be holy.

The Importance of a God-Honoring Foundation

"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" — Psalm 11:3 (NKJV)

A righteous marriage cannot stand on a sinful foundation. Many couples are struggling not because they are incompatible, but because they ignored God's blueprint.

They began in lust, not love.

They pursued pleasure, not purpose.

They made private commitments, but not public covenants.

They invited people to celebrate, but not God to consecrate.

When the foundation is cracked, everything built on it becomes unstable.

Stop the Shortcuts

Some believe cohabitation helps them "get to know each other." But that's deception. What it often leads to is false security, soul ties, and spiritual confusion. You don't test-drive a covenant. You commit to it by faith, under God's covering.

"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."— Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

To the Women: Protect Your Dignity

If a man pressures you to have sex before marriage, he is not your husband—he is your test.
If he truly loves you, he will wait. If he fears God, he will lead in purity.

Do not give away what God called sacred.
Your body is not a bargaining chip—it's a temple of the Holy Spirit.

To the Men: Lead in Righteousness

If you want God's favor on your marriage, start with integrity. Don't expect God to bless what you're willing to compromise. Be the kind of man who prepares—not only a home, but a holy space where your future wife can flourish.

The Blessing of a God-Centered Wedding

A wedding is not just a celebration—it is a consecration. When a man and woman say "I do" before God and witnesses, they are stepping into a divine agreement.

In that moment, God places His seal on the union. And what God seals, no man can destroy.

"So then, they are no longer two but one flesh." — Matthew 19:6

Key Takeaways

Holy Matrimony begins with holiness, not just feelings or convenience.

The foundation you build before marriage determines how strong it will stand.

Sex before marriage brings emotional baggage and spiritual consequences.

A wedding before God is more powerful than a contract before the state.

God's grace flows through purity, obedience, and covenant.

Don't just aim for a beautiful wedding.
Aim for a blessed, holy, and unshakable marriage.

When you do it God's way, you gain heaven's help—and that's the greatest wedding gift of all.

Discuss

16. How does the chapter distinguish a wedding from a marriage?
17. Which shared values deserve discussion before a covenant is made?

Practice

List three commitments you would want to discuss openly before marriage.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 08

I Made a Covenant with My Eyes: Guarding Your Gaze, Protecting Your Heart

Online unit U09 | Module 04: Covenant and integrity

Learning focus

Visual and digital boundaries can support integrity and faithful relationships.

Bible reading

Job 31:1 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?"
— Job 31:1 (NKJV)

In a world saturated with sensual images, sexual temptation, and shallow attraction, it is urgent that believers—especially those preparing for or already in marriage—learn to guard their eyes. What you consistently look at will shape what you desire.

Job's declaration wasn't legalistic—it was liberating. He wasn't just trying to avoid sin. He was setting up spiritual boundaries to protect his heart, his integrity, and his future. That is wisdom.

What You See, You Start to Want

The eyes are not neutral—they are doorways to the soul. Jesus Himself taught that "if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light" (Matthew 6:22).

But in today's culture:

Beauty is emphasized over character.

Lust is promoted over love.

Feelings are prioritized over faith.

As a result, many people—especially young men and women—choose life partners based on physical attraction rather than spiritual alignment. And sadly, they end up in marriages filled with regret, because the outward beauty they chased could not sustain a lifelong covenant.

Choose With Your Spirit, Not Just Your Senses

Marriage is a decision that affects destiny. It's not enough to ask:

"Do I like how they look?"

“Are they my type?”

“Are they successful or stylish?”

The better questions are:

“Can I trust this person spiritually?”

“Do we share purpose, values, and faith?”

“Can they lead—or be led—according to the Word of God?”

“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.” — Proverbs 31:30 (NKJV)

Dangers of Choosing With the Eyes Alone

You might marry a beautiful face but live with a broken heart.

Physical attraction fades—character endures.

When trials come, it’s not the body that will carry you through—it’s their spirit.

A spiritually weak spouse will become a burden, not a blessing.

For the Spiritually Strong: Choose Your Equal or Greater

To women in ministry, spiritually mature ladies, or those called to lead:

Do not marry a spiritual infant.
A man who cannot lead you in prayer, truth, and love will frustrate your walk with God. God designed the husband to be the spiritual priest of the home, the one who washes his wife with the Word (Ephesians 5:26).

If he doesn’t know the Word, love the Word, or live the Word, don’t marry him expecting to change him.

Likewise, a man led by lust, who objectifies women, is not ready for the responsibility of a wife.

A Covenant with Your Eyes

Making a covenant with your eyes means:

Refusing to entertain lustful images.

Avoiding comparison traps on social media.

Training your eyes to see people as souls, not objects.

Asking God to filter your vision through the lens of holiness.

Your eyes should be surrendered to the Holy Spirit because the things you see today will influence the choices you make tomorrow.

Key Takeaways

What you fix your eyes on will shape your future.

Don’t let lust lead you into a lifelong mistake.

Physical beauty is a bonus, but spiritual alignment is essential.

Husbands are called to wash their wives with the Word, not be dragged by them spiritually.

Make a covenant with your eyes—and let your vision be ruled by purpose, not pleasure.

Your eyes are prophetic. They look toward your future.
Guard them, discipline them, and let God sanctify them.

Because who you marry will not only shape your love life, but it will also shape your legacy.

Discuss

18. How can a person guard attention without treating others as objects?
19. What habits help a married or single person practice integrity online?

Practice

Review one media habit privately and make one specific, sustainable boundary.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Practice Lab 2

Chapters 5 to 8

Review these four chapter ideas and choose one principle to practice in your current season. Your assignment may use a hypothetical situation.

- Chapter 5: A season of singleness can include purpose, growth, and trust rather than anxious striving.
- Chapter 6: Mutual support and faith can help a couple face difficulty together.
- Chapter 7: The chapter presents marriage as a sacred covenant that calls for preparation and faithfulness.
- Chapter 8: Visual and digital boundaries can support integrity and faithful relationships.

Discuss

20. Where do these chapters reinforce one another, and where do they speak to different situations?
21. Which teaching is most useful for your current season?
22. What question would you take to a trusted mentor or instructor?

Application assignment

Write 150–250 words or give a short oral response: identify one principle, one Bible passage to study in context, and one realistic action to take within 30 days. Do not include another person's confidential information or details of sexual activity or trauma. Local instructors review the assignment separately from the online completion record.

Chapter 09

Pursuit of Independence: How Selfishness Threatens the Unity of Marriage

Online unit U11 | Module 05: Unity and purity

Learning focus

Marriage unity grows through shared decisions, humility, and interdependence.

Bible reading

Amos 3:3 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"Can two walk together unless they are agreed?"
— Amos 3:3 (NKJV)

God's vision for marriage is oneness—not just in body, but also in purpose, values, and spirit. When a man and woman unite in marriage, they become one rather than two (Genesis 2:24). This means that decisions, dreams, and responsibilities should be shared—not divided.

Yet, in today's culture, many couples are being torn apart by a dangerous mindset: independence within marriage.

The Deception of Independence

This deception often whispers:

"I can do it by myself."

"I don't need anyone."

"This is my money, my dream, my success."

This spirit may seem strong on the outside, but it builds walls instead of bridges in marriage. Independence within a covenant is not strength—it's isolation. When either spouse starts living as if they are single again, the union begins to crumble.

Marriage is not two individuals building separate lives under one roof. It is one life, one mission, one direction—shared in harmony.

Signs of a Destructive Independent Spirit

Spouses sleeping in separate rooms by choice, not necessity.

Keeping separate finances and making major decisions without each other.

Pursuing personal ambitions with little regard for the family's needs.

Prioritizing "me time" over "we time."

Speaking with "I" instead of "we."

These may sound small, but over time, they build emotional and spiritual distance that is difficult to recover from.

God’s Design: Partnership, Not Parallel Lives

God created marriage as a team. He gave Adam work and then made Eve, not as a competitor, but as a helper, a companion, a co-laborer. That means both spouses are called to support each other’s growth, not chase individual fulfillment at the other’s expense.

When unity is preserved:

Goals are clearer.

Decisions are wiser.

Conflict is minimized.

Children are more secure.

God is glorified.

“Two are better than one… for if one falls, the other can lift him up.” — Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

When Pride Invades Marriage

Pride says, “I don’t need you.”
Love says, “I’m stronger because we’re together.”

Many couples live like roommates instead of covenant partners. Pride isolates. It silences communication, fuels selfishness, and resists compromise. But love invites togetherness, listens, and yields for the sake of peace.

If you're always trying to “win” in marriage, you’re already losing.

Restore Oneness Through Humility

Whether you are in a new marriage or decades into it, you can break the stronghold of independence by:

Praying together regularly.

Consulting each other before major decisions.

Celebrating each other’s strengths.

Sharing struggles instead of hiding them.

Reaffirming your commitment to unity.

Key Takeaways

Marriage is not about independence, but interdependence.

Selfishness is the enemy of oneness.

Pride builds distance—humility builds connection.

Your marriage is stronger when you choose unity over ego.

God's favor flows where there is agreement and shared purpose.

You were never meant to do marriage alone—or in competition.
Lay down the armor of pride. Pick up the mantle of unity.
And let your marriage reflect the oneness that God intended from the beginning.

Discuss

23. How is interdependence different from losing personal dignity?
24. What helps partners disagree without competing for control?

Practice

Use a private decision worksheet: issue, each person's concerns, shared values, and next conversation.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 10

Avoid Sex Before Marriage: Protecting Purity, Preserving Destiny

Online unit U12 | Module 05: Unity and purity

Learning focus

The author's teaching calls learners to honor sexual boundaries before marriage while recognizing grace and a new start.

Bible reading

1 Corinthians 6:18 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author’s manuscript

"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body."
— 1 Corinthians 6:18 (NKJV)

Sex is sacred. God created it not just for pleasure, but for purpose—to unite husband and wife in covenant, create intimacy, and bring forth life. But outside of marriage, sex becomes destructive instead of divine, corrupting what God meant to be holy.

This is not about being “old-fashioned.” It’s about being biblical, wise, and protected. God doesn’t withhold sex before marriage to punish you—He withholds it to preserve you.

What Happens When You Ignore God's Boundaries?

Sex before marriage opens doors to:

Spiritual bondage: It invites demonic influence and unholy soul ties.

Emotional scars: Guilt, shame, and brokenness often follow.

Loss of discernment: Lust clouds your judgment about a person’s character.

Disconnection from God: You can’t walk in purity and rebellion at the same time.

Stolen destiny: Satan uses sexual sin to delay, derail, or destroy your purpose.

“There is no peace,” says the Lord, “for the wicked.” — Isaiah 57:21

Many live in confusion, anxiety, and depression without realizing it stems from sexual compromise.

Sex Before Marriage Forms Unholy Soul Ties

Every sexual encounter isn't just physical—it's spiritual.

When you have sex with someone, you don't just share your body—you connect souls. That's why after sleeping with the wrong person, some people feel confused, emotionally attached, or unable to break free—even if the relationship is toxic.

"The two shall become one flesh." — Genesis 2:24

When this union happens outside of marriage, it becomes a perversion of covenant. Many people carry invisible baggage—memories, bondages, even spiritual attachments from past sexual relationships.

Consequences of Premarital Sex

Addiction to lust and pornography

Loss of spiritual power

Early and painful breakups

Unplanned pregnancies and abortions

Increased risk of STDs

Disrespect from your partner

Marital issues later on, including sexual dysfunction or mistrust

You might think you're "just having fun" now—but you're crafting a painful narrative that could haunt your future marriage.

God's Standard: Repentance, Renewal, and Purity

God is not trying to condemn you—He wants to restore you.

If you've already fallen into sexual sin, there is hope. Come to Him with a broken heart and repent. True repentance isn't just about feeling sorry—it's about turning back to God with action.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." — Isaiah 1:18

Jesus can:

Heal your wounds

Break every soul tie

Wash away every trace of shame

Restore your purity

How to Stay Pure Before Marriage

Set boundaries early. Don't wait until you're tempted.

Avoid isolated settings. Privacy fuels passion. Stay accountable.

Guard your eyes. What you watch influences what you desire.

Fast and pray. Your flesh won't bow unless your spirit is strong.

Don't awaken love too soon. Focus on purpose, not passion.

Surround yourself with godly mentors. You're not meant to fight alone.

"Do not awaken love until it pleases." — Song of Solomon 8:4

Key Takeaways

Sex before marriage damages your soul, clouds your discernment, and blocks your spiritual progress.

God's standard is not just for your holiness, but for your healing and happiness.

You can start over. Repentance leads to restoration.

Purity is still possible—and it's still powerful.

Your body is sacred.
Your destiny is holy.
Don't exchange temporary pleasure for lifelong regret.
Let God write your love story—on His terms, in His timing, with His blessing.

Discuss

25. How does the chapter connect boundaries with dignity and purpose?
26. How can a church discuss purity without shaming people?

Practice

Write a private boundary plan; do not disclose sexual history or another person's details to the class.

Care note

Keep intimate and traumatic details private. Seek qualified help if a relationship involves coercion, threats, or danger. An instructor should not pressure a learner to disclose or reconcile in an unsafe situation.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 11

Marriage Is Not a Solution to Lust: Crucify the Flesh, Don't Just Change Circumstances

Online unit U13 | Module 06: Desire and motives

Learning focus

Marriage does not automatically resolve habits of lust; character and accountability matter before and after marriage.

Bible reading

Galatians 5:16 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
— Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

One of the greatest deceptions among singles is the belief that marriage will fix lust.
"If I get married, I won't struggle anymore."
"If I just find a spouse, I'll stop watching pornography."
"If I have regular sex, I won't fall into temptation."

This is a lie.

Lust is not solved by marriage—the cross crucifies it.
Marriage may satisfy physical desires, but only Christ can cleanse the heart and tame the flesh.

Why Lust Doesn't Disappear at the Altar

Lust is a spiritual condition, not a physical problem. It thrives in secrecy, selfishness, and fantasy. If not dealt with, lust will:

Follow you into your marriage bed.

Cause discontentment even with a faithful spouse.

Lead you to compare your partner with past experiences or fantasies.

Open the door to adultery, pornography, or emotional affairs.

What you do before marriage doesn't magically disappear after vows are exchanged. It either dies at the cross or lives on in hidden bondage.

"Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." — Galatians 5:24

What Lust Actually Is

Lust is not love.
Lust is not attraction.
Lust is not even sexual desire—it is disorderly desire. It craves pleasure without responsibility. It takes, but it doesn't give. It wants intimacy without covenant.

Love says, “I give.”
Lust says, “I consume.”

Until you confront and kill lust, marriage will not cure it—it will expose it.

When Lust Enters Marriage

The spouse becomes an object of performance instead of a partner.

Comparison with others grows stronger.

True intimacy becomes difficult.

Pornography becomes a secret outlet.

Discontentment opens the door to adultery.

No spouse can compete with an untamed imagination.
Your partner was never meant to fulfill a void that only God can fill.

✝ What’s the Real Cure?

The real solution is not marriage—it’s sanctification.

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.” — Psalm 119:9

Practical Steps to Conquer Lust:

Spend time in the Word daily. Let truth wash your mind.

Fast regularly. Bring your flesh into submission.

Guard your eyes. What you feed, grows. What you starve, dies.

Repent deeply. Not shallow guilt—deep surrender.

Confess to someone mature. Break secrecy with accountability.

Reject sexual fantasies. Don't fuel what you're trying to fight.

Key Takeaways

Lust is not healed through intimacy—it is crucified through surrender.

Marriage exposes what’s in your heart—it doesn’t erase it.

Don’t burden your future spouse with a battle you haven’t begun to fight.

You need cleansing, not just company.

Let God purify your desires. Let Him prepare your heart—not just for marriage, but for a life of holiness.

If you don’t defeat lust before marriage, it will destroy your marriage from the inside out.

Discuss

27. Why does a change of marital status not change every habit?
28. What forms of accountability respect privacy and personal responsibility?

Practice

Identify one private, appropriate step toward integrity or qualified support.

Care note

Keep intimate and traumatic details private. Seek qualified help if a relationship involves coercion, threats, or danger. An instructor should not pressure a learner to disclose or reconcile in an unsafe situation.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 12

The Reason Behind the Chasing: What's Really Driving Your Pursuit?

Online unit U14 | Module 06: Desire and motives

Learning focus

Examining motives helps distinguish purposeful relationship choices from fear or insecurity.

Bible reading

Jeremiah 17:9 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"
— Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV)

Many pursue relationships passionately but without purpose. Young men and women chase partners driven by emotion, attraction, or pressure—often without asking a crucial question: Why?

Is it loneliness? Physical desire? Social comparison? Insecurity?
Your reason matters because it shapes your choice.

The Wrong Reasons People Chase

Physical appearance – You're drawn to beauty but ignore the heart.

Loneliness – You want someone, not necessarily the right one.

Status or wealth – You're chasing a lifestyle, not a person.

Pressure – Everyone around you is getting married or dating.

Fantasy – You saw something on social media or TV and want to copy it.

None of these is a strong foundation for a lasting relationship.

A Better Reason to Pursue Someone

You should pursue someone because:

You see Christ in them.

You recognize a shared calling or life direction.

Their character draws you, not just their charm.

You believe you can grow in God together.

“Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?” — Amos 3:3

When I began pursuing my wife, it wasn’t because of a moment of infatuation. I saw the presence of Christ in her. That’s what gave peace and clarity. I didn’t need to rush, manipulate, or impress. Christ drew me to her.

What’s Fueling Your Attraction?

Ask yourself:

Would I still pursue this person if their looks were to fade?

Can I learn from them?

Are we spiritually aligned?

Am I chasing them out of a desire to be complete?

Marriage doesn’t complete you. Only Christ does. If you’re chasing a person to fix a broken part of you, it won’t work.

Key Takeaways

Don’t chase out of fear or fantasy. Pursue with clarity.

Let Christ be the center of your desire, not culture or lust.

If you can’t explain why someone fits your purpose, pause.

Wait until your heart is healed before chasing someone else’s.

Don't chase affection. Chase purpose.
When you're aligned with God's will, the right person doesn’t need to be forced—they’ll be drawn into your path by divine timing.

Discuss

29. Which motives can cloud discernment in relationships?
30. How can reflection help without creating endless indecision?

Practice

Privately write your reasons for pursuing or avoiding a relationship and test them against your values.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Practice Lab 3

Chapters 9 to 12

Review these four chapter ideas and choose one principle to practice in your current season. Your assignment may use a hypothetical situation.

- Chapter 9: Marriage unity grows through shared decisions, humility, and interdependence.
- Chapter 10: The author's teaching calls learners to honor sexual boundaries before marriage while recognizing grace and a new start.
- Chapter 11: Marriage does not automatically resolve habits of lust; character and accountability matter before and after marriage.
- Chapter 12: Examining motives helps distinguish purposeful relationship choices from fear or insecurity.

Discuss

31. Where do these chapters reinforce one another, and where do they speak to different situations?
32. Which teaching is most useful for your current season?
33. What question would you take to a trusted mentor or instructor?

Application assignment

Write 150–250 words or give a short oral response: identify one principle, one Bible passage to study in context, and one realistic action to take within 30 days. Do not include another person’s confidential information or details of sexual activity or trauma. Local instructors review the assignment separately from the online completion record.

Chapter 13

Foundation Issues to Deal With Before Marriage: What You Don’t Heal Now Will Haunt You Later

Online unit U16 | Module 07: Healing and blessing

Learning focus

Unaddressed wounds and habits deserve attention before a marriage covenant.

Bible reading

Psalm 11:3 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author’s manuscript

"If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"
— Psalm 11:3 (NKJV)

Before a building is erected, its foundation must go deep.
The same holds true for marriage.

Many relationships collapse not because the love wasn't real, but because the foundation wasn’t solid. The issues went unaddressed. The past remained unhealed. The baggage stayed packed.

In this chapter, we confront the hard truth: you cannot build a holy covenant on broken ground.

What Are Foundation Issues?

Foundation issues are deep, unresolved matters that shape how a person thinks, feels, and relates. They often stem from past trauma, family dysfunction, spiritual bondage, or personal compromise.

Some examples include:

Childhood abuse (verbal, physical, sexual)

Parental abandonment or divorce

Unhealed heartbreak

Unforgiveness toward past relationships

Pornography or sexual addiction

Emotional immaturity or rage

Fear of commitment or deep insecurity

Secret sin or unconfessed struggles

Why These Must Be Addressed Before Marriage

Marriage doesn't erase pain—it exposes it.
Unresolved trauma will surface under pressure.

Your spouse is not your healer—God is.
Don't enter marriage expecting someone else to fix what you never faced.

Hiding issues now means hurting your partner later.
Secrets become strongholds. Strongholds destroy trust.

Unhealed people hurt others.
If you don't break the cycle, you'll pass it on.

A Warning to Singles in Relationships

If you're dating or courting and sense foundation issues in your partner—or in yourself—don't ignore them. Don't hope they'll just "go away" after the wedding.

Issues swept under the rug in courtship become mountains in marriage.
You can't build a future on denial.

Love does not mean blindness. Love means truth.

Steps to Healing Your Foundation

Acknowledge the issue.
Stop pretending. Confess to God and to someone trustworthy.

Seek inner healing and deliverance.
Not all pain is emotional—some are spiritual. Don't just vent—be set free.

Go to counseling if necessary.
Christian therapy and mentorship can help process trauma.

Commit to change.
Don't just want healing—pursue it. Do the work.

Bring everything into the light.
Before marriage, talk openly with your future spouse. Transparency builds trust.

Prayer for Healing

"Lord, reveal every hidden wound, every unhealthy pattern, every ungodly belief that could destroy my future. Heal what is broken. Expose what is buried. I surrender my past to You so I can build my future on solid ground."

Key Takeaways

You can't build a godly marriage on a wounded soul.

Foundation issues don't disappear—they manifest later if ignored.

Take the time to heal, grow, and be whole before saying "I do."

Don't rush into a covenant when your soul is still in crisis.

Wholeness is the best gift you can give your future spouse.

Address the cracks in your foundation now, so your marriage can rise strong, stable, and secure—built not on fear, pain, or fantasy, but on the solid rock of truth, healing, and Christ.

Discuss

34. What issues might affect trust or communication later?
35. How can a person seek help without being defined by past pain?

Practice

Make a private support plan for one growth area; share only the next step you choose to share.

Care note

Keep intimate and traumatic details private. Seek qualified help if a relationship involves coercion, threats, or danger. An instructor should not pressure a learner to disclose or reconcile in an unsafe situation.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 14

Benefits of Holy Matrimony: The Blessings of a God-Centered Union

Online unit U17 | Module 07: Healing and blessing

Learning focus

The chapter celebrates the spiritual, emotional, and generational hopes of a God-centered marriage.

Bible reading

Proverbs 18:22 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord."
— Proverbs 18:22 (NKJV)

Marriage, when entered into with God at the center, is not merely a social arrangement—it is a spiritual partnership that brings favor, purpose, and generational impact. Holy Matrimony is more than a title; it's a declaration that your union is rooted in the Word, governed by heaven, and empowered by grace.

A wedding lasts a day.
Holy Matrimony shapes a lifetime.

What Makes Marriage Holy?

It begins in obedience, not convenience.

It's founded on covenant, not emotion.

It reflects Christ's love for the church—sacrificial, patient, and pure.

It includes God in every decision, desire, and direction.

When a couple honors God before and within their marriage, they unlock spiritual blessings that cannot be obtained any other way.

The Supernatural Benefits of Holy Matrimony

God's Favor

"Obtains favor from the Lord." (Proverbs 18:22)
A man or woman walking in obedience to God's marital order enjoys divine help, protection, and provision in ways unavailable outside of covenant.

Spiritual Covering
The union becomes a hedge—God Himself surrounds the couple. Demonic access is limited when both spouses walk in spiritual agreement.

Emotional Security
Holy Matrimony provides a safe space for vulnerability, healing, and acceptance. You are not merely loved—you are covered.

Multiplication of Purpose
One can chase a thousand: two, ten thousand. (Deuteronomy 32:30)
There's power in agreement. Holy marriages accelerate calling, vision, and kingdom impact.

Generational Blessing
When two believers establish their home on Christ, their children inherit a spiritual legacy—not just a financial inheritance.

Protection from Sexual Immorality
God-honoring intimacy within marriage fosters emotional and physical unity, shielding both spouses from temptation.

Access to Grace
God supplies a unique grace for husbands to lead, and for wives to nurture and build. Holy Matrimony unlocks this supernatural assistance.

Why the World's Version Doesn't Work

Modern culture promotes:

Pleasure without purity

Commitment without covenant

Love without sacrifice

But this kind of marriage quickly cracks under pressure. Without holiness, marriage becomes a battlefield of egos, not a garden of growth.

God Must Be the Third Cord

"A threefold cord is not quickly broken." — Ecclesiastes 4:12
Your marriage must be more than you and your spouse—it must include God. When He holds you together, nothing can pull you apart.

Summary of Blessings in Holy Matrimony

Key Takeaways

Holy Matrimony is sacred and powerful when God is at the center.

The benefits of a God-ordained marriage encompass spiritual, emotional, and generational aspects.

Choose covenant over convenience, obedience over opinion, and purity over pressure.

What you do before marriage determines what you enjoy after.

Marriage done God's way doesn't just work—it flourishes.
Honor the covenant, build on the Word, and walk in the favor that only Holy Matrimony can provide.

Discuss

36. Which blessings does the author associate with covenant marriage?
37. How can gratitude coexist with realistic expectations?

Practice

List three hopes and three daily practices that could support a healthy marriage.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 15

Message to Our Single Parents: Strength, Grace, and Redemption in the Journey

Online unit U18 | Module 08: Parenting and discernment

Learning focus

Single parents have dignity, courage, and a need for practical community support.

Bible reading

Psalm 113:9 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!"
— Psalm 113:9 (ESV)

Single parenting is not a label of shame—it's a badge of courage. Whether due to loss, divorce, abandonment, or a challenging past, raising children as a single mother or father is a sacred calling filled with both weight and honor.

Although the journey may be lonely, God sees you. Although the road may be challenging, He walks with you. Although the world may misunderstand, heaven affirms you.

This chapter is for every single parent fighting to hold their family together, to raise godly children, and to believe that their story isn't over.

Realities You Face—But Don't Face Alone

Sleepless nights

Financial pressure

Co-parenting tension (or complete absence of support)

Guilt over your past

Fear of your child repeating your mistakes

Judgment from others

Yet in all of this, God remains your source.
He is the other Parent in your home.

He is the Sustainer of your heart.
He is the Father to the fatherless and the Defender of the abandoned.

“A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation.” — Psalm 68:5

Encouragement for Single Mothers

You may feel overlooked, tired, or unappreciated. But know this:

You are not raising your children alone—God is with you.

Your prayers over your children are powerful and effective.

You don’t have to be both mother and father. Be who God has called you to be and let His grace fill the gaps.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” — 2 Corinthians 12:9

Encouragement for Single Fathers

To the single dad doing his best to be protector, provider, and nurturer:

You are modeling strength through responsibility.

Don’t underestimate the power of your presence—even if imperfect.

Let God be the source of your wisdom, peace, and emotional support.

Your faithfulness matters more than your perfection.

To All Single Parents

1. Don’t let your past define your future.

God is the master of new beginnings. Your story may have started in pain, but it can end in purpose and glory.

2. Your child is not a mistake.

Regardless of how they came into the world, God has a divine plan for them—and for you.

3. You are not second class.

You are not less than married parents. You are chosen, capable, and called.

4. Create a godly home.

Let your home be filled with love, worship, and truth. Model forgiveness. Teach the Word. Prioritize prayer.

Practical Wisdom for Single Parents

Set healthy boundaries with ex-partners, especially if they are toxic or spiritually compromising.

Pursue healing. Don’t bleed on your children because of a wound someone else gave you.

Avoid bitterness. Forgive for your freedom and your child’s future.

Speak life over your children. Prophesy their destiny even when the present is difficult.

Key Takeaways

Single parenting is hard—but with God, it is holy.

Your value is not diminished because of your status.

God’s grace is more than enough to raise your children in love and truth.

Your child’s destiny is not determined by how they were conceived—but by what God has spoken.

You are not alone.
Heaven stands with you.
Your faith, sacrifice, and love are seen.
And your reward will be great.

Discuss

38. What strengths and burdens does the chapter name?
39. How can a church support single parents without making assumptions about their story?

Practice

Identify one practical support connection or act of encouragement appropriate to your situation.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 16

Be Cautious in Relationships: Guarding Your Heart with Wisdom and Discernment

Online unit U19 | Module 08: Parenting and discernment

Learning focus

Guarding the heart involves wise boundaries and testing a relationship's character over time.

Bible reading

Proverbs 4:23 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."
— Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

Relationships shape your life, for better or worse. They can build you—or break you. Lead you into purpose—or drag you into pain. That's why Scripture tells us to guard our hearts—not with fear, but with wisdom.

This chapter is a warning: Not every relationship is from God.
Some are distractions. Others are delays. And a few are outright traps sent by the enemy to derail your destiny.

Why You Must Be Careful

The wrong person can cost you years of progress.
Not everyone who shows up in your life is meant to stay.

Your emotions can blind you.
What feels right can be spiritually dangerous.

Spiritual attacks often come through relationships.
If Satan wants to destroy your purpose, he'll often send a person, not a problem.

Signs You're in a Dangerous Relationship

They draw you away from God, not toward Him.

You compromise your values to keep their affection.

You feel confused, anxious, or emotionally unstable around them.

You've lost your peace—but cling to the fantasy of what could be.

They mock your spiritual life or ignore godly boundaries.

No matter how attractive, successful, or charming someone is, if they don't fear God, they're not safe for your future.

"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers." — 2 Corinthians 6:14

Choose With Discernment, Not Just Emotion

Before you let someone close to your heart, ask:

Are they submitted to God?

Can they lead or follow spiritually?

Do they walk in integrity, or do they hide things?

Are they teachable and humble—or proud and controlling?

Do they respect your boundaries and honor your calling?

If they check none of these boxes, they may be a distraction in disguise.

Ask God to Reveal Motives

Pray this:

"Lord, if this relationship is not from You, expose it and remove it. I want Your will—not just what feels good. Give me discernment beyond my emotions."

Some people come into your life only to sabotage your spiritual journey. God will always show you signs—don't ignore them.

You're Not Desperate—You're Destined

One reason people fall into toxic relationships is the fear of being alone. But remember:

Being alone in God's will is safer than being with someone outside of it.

Desperation opens the door to deception.

It's better to wait for the right person than to repair damage from the wrong one.

Key Takeaways

Your heart is sacred; guard it fiercely.

Not everyone who pursues you is safe for your purpose.

Test every relationship by the Word and by prayer.

Be cautious. Be wise. Be led by the Spirit.

God's best is always worth the wait.

God has not called you to confusion, chaos, or compromise.
He has called you to peace, purpose, and purity.
And the right relationship will not pull you away from God—it will push you deeper into His will.

Discuss

40. How can caution differ from fear?
41. What observable behavior matters more than a person's claims?

Practice

Create a relationship discernment checklist based on conduct, shared values, and respectful boundaries.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Practice Lab 4

Chapters 13 to 16

Review these four chapter ideas and choose one principle to practice in your current season. Your assignment may use a hypothetical situation.

- Chapter 13: Unaddressed wounds and habits deserve attention before a marriage covenant.
- Chapter 14: The chapter celebrates the spiritual, emotional, and generational hopes of a God-centered marriage.
- Chapter 15: Single parents have dignity, courage, and a need for practical community support.
- Chapter 16: Guarding the heart involves wise boundaries and testing a relationship's character over time.

Discuss

42. Where do these chapters reinforce one another, and where do they speak to different situations?
43. Which teaching is most useful for your current season?
44. What question would you take to a trusted mentor or instructor?

Application assignment

Write 150–250 words or give a short oral response: identify one principle, one Bible passage to study in context, and one realistic action to take within 30 days. Do not include another person’s confidential information or details of sexual activity or trauma. Local instructors review the assignment separately from the online completion record.

Chapter 17

Don’t Ignore the Red Flags: God’s Warnings Are Meant to Protect You

Online unit U21 | Module 09: Safety and friendship

Learning focus

Warning signs in a relationship should be taken seriously rather than explained away.

Bible reading

Proverbs 22:3 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author’s manuscript

"The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it."
— Proverbs 22:3 (ESV)

Love should not make you blind. It should help you see clearly.
But in the name of romance, many people ignore the obvious—the red flags—that God sends to protect them. These warning signs often appear early, but when overlooked, they lead to deep regret, broken hearts, and shattered dreams.

This chapter is a call to open your eyes.
If God is flashing red lights, don’t run through them hoping for green lights later.

What Are Red Flags?

Red flags are signs of:

Spiritual misalignment

Emotional instability

Controlling or manipulative behavior

Unrepentant sin

Lack of character, consistency, or commitment

Disrespect toward you or your boundaries

God doesn’t hide danger. He reveals it through patterns, behavior, and conviction. But you must be willing to see.

“You will know them by their fruits.” — Matthew 7:16 (NKJV)

Common Red Flags People Ignore

They don’t honor God in private.
Church attendance doesn’t equal character.

They're emotionally abusive.
Constant criticism, gaslighting, or silent treatments are not love—they are control.

They pressure you to cross boundaries.
Anyone who pushes you to sin doesn't love your soul.

They isolate you from godly counsel.
If they don't want you to seek advice, they may have something to hide.

They lack direction and discipline.
No vision. No accountability. No drive to grow. That's a red flag.

They never take responsibility.
Always blaming others is a sign of immaturity.

Don't Confuse Red Flags with "Potential"

You are not called to marry someone's potential while ignoring their patterns.
God is not asking you to save them. He's calling you to obey Him.

If you're praying for confirmation while ignoring red flags, you're not waiting on God—you're avoiding His answer.

What to Do When You See Red Flags

Pause. Don't rush forward. Seek clarity in prayer.

Confront with love. Give the person a chance to be honest or change.

Seek godly counsel. Bring it into the light with trusted leaders or mentors.

Be willing to walk away. Even if it hurts, obedience is better than bondage.

"Obedience is better than sacrifice." — 1 Samuel 15:22

God Will Give You Peace

Red flags create inner conflict because your spirit knows what your heart doesn't want to admit.
That unease, that lack of peace—it's not fear. It's discernment.

The right relationship won't drain your faith. It will deepen it.
It won't silence your convictions. It will sharpen them.

Key Takeaways

Red flags are not obstacles to overcome—they are warnings to heed.

You cannot build a healthy marriage on ignored dysfunction.

Don't confuse attraction for anointing.

God gives peace with His blessings, not confusion.

If you need to convince yourself to stay, it's probably time to walk away.

If it's not God's will, no amount of hope or effort can make it right.
But if it is God's will, it will align with His Word, confirm in your spirit, and draw you closer to Him—not into compromise.

Discuss

45. Which red flags in the chapter are observable rather than speculative?
46. How can a person respond safely when pressure or coercion appears?

Practice

Privately identify trusted support and a safe next step if a relationship feels unsafe; do not disclose details in class.

Care note

Keep intimate and traumatic details private. Seek qualified help if a relationship involves coercion, threats, or danger. An instructor should not pressure a learner to disclose or reconcile in an unsafe situation.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 18

The Role of Friendship in Relationships: Building on a Foundation That Lasts

Online unit U22 | Module 09: Safety and friendship

Learning focus

Friendship provides a foundation of trust, respect, and shared life for lasting relationships.

Bible reading

Proverbs 17:17 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."
— Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV)

Before romance, before chemistry, before attraction—there must be friendship.
Great marriages are not just built on love—they are built on deep friendship.

Your future spouse should not only be your lover but also your confidant, encourager, teammate, and safe place.Romance may ignite the spark, but it is friendship that keeps the fire burning through every season.

Why Friendship Is the Best Foundation

Friendship fosters honesty.
You can be real, not just impressive. You talk about your flaws, your dreams, your fears—without fear of rejection.

Friendship builds trust.
When you start as friends, you learn to respect boundaries, keep promises, and communicate clearly.

Friendship deepens compatibility.
You discover shared interests, values, and rhythms of life without the pressure of performance.

Friendship helps you wait.
When friendship is prioritized, the relationship can grow without rushing into physical intimacy or emotional codependency.

"Do not awaken love until it pleases." — Song of Solomon 8:4

The Danger of Skipping Friendship

Many people jump straight into romance and neglect the groundwork of friendship. As a result:

They fall for appearances rather than substance.

They ignore incompatibility because they're infatuated.

They confuse chemistry with connection.

Without friendship, the relationship becomes shallow and struggles to survive when hard seasons come.

Qualities to Seek in a Godly Friend (and Spouse)

Consistent in character (not one way in public and another in private)

Loves God more than they love you

Listens well and communicates with clarity

Loyal through good and bad seasons

Honors your purpose and celebrates your growth

If someone doesn't qualify as a true friend, they're not ready to be your spouse.

Friendship in Marriage

In a holy marriage, the romance may rise and fall, but friendship sustains the connection. Laughter, inside jokes, spiritual conversations, shared dreams—these are the glue of lifelong love.

When friendship thrives:

Conflicts are less destructive.

Forgiveness comes easier.

Communication flows freely.

Intimacy becomes deeper.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor." — Ecclesiastes 4:9

Key Takeaways

Friendship is the soil in which lasting love grows.

Choose someone you enjoy, trust, and admire—not just someone who excites you.

If friendship isn't present before marriage, it will be painfully missed after.

Don't just ask, "Are we in love?"—ask, "Do we genuinely like each other?"

A romantic relationship without friendship is like a house with no foundation.

Take time to build the friendship.
Water it with laughter, honesty, and prayer.
Because long after the butterflies fade, friendship will still be holding your hand.

Discuss

47. How does friendship differ from early romantic excitement?
48. Which qualities make someone a trustworthy companion?

Practice

Write a private list of friendship qualities you want to practice as well as seek.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 19

Trusting God With Your Love Story: Surrendering to Divine Timing and Direction

Online unit U23 | Module 10: Timing and belonging

Learning focus

Trusting God includes patient preparation and wise action rather than forcing a relationship.

Bible reading

Proverbs 3:5-6 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."
— Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)

You don't have to write your love story alone.
The One who created your heart also knows how to connect it with the right person—at the right time, in the right way, for the right purpose.

When you try to force what God wants to form, you end up with frustration.
But when you surrender your love life to Him, He aligns everything perfectly in His time.

The Pressure to Take Control

It's tempting to try and figure everything out:

"When will it happen?"

"What if I never meet someone?"

"Should I go back to my ex?"

"Maybe I just need to lower my standards…"

This kind of anxiety comes when we lean on our understanding instead of trusting God's sovereignty.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication… let your requests be made known to God." — Philippians 4:6

Why Trusting God Is Worth It

God sees the future you can't.
He knows who will walk with you through storms—not just who makes your heart flutter today.

God's delays are not denials.
Sometimes He's preparing them—or preparing you.

God knows your heart better than you do.
He can align you with someone who matches your assignment, not just your attraction.

God doesn't just want you married—He wants you fruitful.
The goal isn't just to say "I do," but to fulfill His purpose together.

Don't Compromise While You Wait

Many lose faith in God's timing and end up settling:

Getting into relationships that don't glorify God.

Staying with people who drain their peace.

Rushing into marriage out of fear, not faith.

Trusting God means you'd rather be single in His will than married outside of it.

A Prayer for Surrender

"Lord, I release control of my love life. I trust Your wisdom more than my emotions. Help me not to settle out of fear, but to wait in faith. Write my story in Your way, in Your time, for Your glory. Amen."

Practical Ways to Trust God with Your Love Story

Stay in purpose. Don't pause your calling while you wait for someone to join it.

Pray with specifics but surrender the outcome.

Work on yourself. Be the kind of person you're hoping to attract.

Don't idolize marriage. Worship God, not the idea of a wedding.

Key Takeaways

God's timing is always better than your timeline.

Don't panic—prepare. Let God write the story.

What God authors, He also sustains.

Trusting God leads to peace, clarity, and divine alignment.

God is not late. He's just being intentional.

Let go of your pen—and place your love story in the Author's hands.
He writes with grace. He writes with purpose. And His endings are always glorious.

Discuss

49. How can trust and action work together?
50. What helps someone make a wise choice without demanding certainty about the future?

Practice

Name one step of preparation you can take now and one pressure you can release.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 20

A Message to Those Who Feel Left Out: You Are Not Forgotten—You Are Being Formed

Online unit U24 | Module 10: Timing and belonging

Learning focus

A person's value is not reduced by singleness, loneliness, or a different life timeline.

Bible reading

Psalm 34:18 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."
— Psalm 34:18 (ESV)

You've attended the weddings.
You've celebrated the engagements.
You've scrolled past the date night posts and happy anniversary photos.
And somewhere deep inside, you've whispered:
"Lord, what about me?"

If you've ever felt excluded, neglected, or forgotten in the realm of relationships or marriage—this chapter is for you. God sees you. He hears you. And He has not overlooked you.

The Silent Pain of Being "The One Still Waiting"

You may not say it out loud, but:

You feel like you're falling behind.

You wonder if something's wrong with you.

You wrestle with jealousy even though you love your friends.

You're tired of hearing "just wait" or "your time will come."

God is not blind to your ache.
But your waiting is not wasted—it's working something deep within you.

What God Might Be Doing in Your Waiting

Strengthening your identity in Him
Before He gives you a partner, He anchors your worth in Christ alone.

Maturing your character
Marriage requires more than desire—it requires emotional and spiritual maturity.

Preparing your assignment
There are things God wants to birth in you before joining you with someone else.

Shielding you from premature pain
Sometimes delay is God's mercy, protecting you from a mistake you can't yet see.

You're Not Behind—You're on God's Clock

Comparison will always make you feel like you're late.
But God's timing is not measured by calendars—it's aligned with destiny.

"He has made everything beautiful in its time." — Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)

Just because it hasn't happened yet doesn't mean it won't.
Delay is not denial. Silence is not absence.

God's Heart for You

He says:

"I know the plans I have for you. I know what you need. I see what you don't. And I will not withhold My best from you. Be still. Trust Me. I am doing more than you know."

You Are Not Disqualified

Not by your age

Not by your past

Not by your mistakes

Not by your timeline

You are not overlooked. You are deeply known and deliberately loved.

Key Takeaways

Feeling left out is real—but it's not the truth of your value.

God is working even when you feel stuck.

You're not behind; you're being refined.

Your story may be different—but it will still be beautiful.

God's "no for now" is often preparing you for a greater "yes."

Take courage. You're not invisible. You're important. You're loved.
And when God unfolds your story, it will be worth every tear, every lonely night, and every whispered prayer.

Discuss

51. What does the chapter say to someone who feels left out?
52. How can a church include single adults without treating marriage as the only goal?

Practice

Plan one supportive connection and one meaningful activity beyond relationship status.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Practice Lab 5

Chapters 17 to 20

Review these four chapter ideas and choose one principle to practice in your current season. Your assignment may use a hypothetical situation.

- Chapter 17: Warning signs in a relationship should be taken seriously rather than explained away.
- Chapter 18: Friendship provides a foundation of trust, respect, and shared life for lasting relationships.
- Chapter 19: Trusting God includes patient preparation and wise action rather than forcing a relationship.
- Chapter 20: A person's value is not reduced by singleness, loneliness, or a different life timeline.

Discuss

53. Where do these chapters reinforce one another, and where do they speak to different situations?
54. Which teaching is most useful for your current season?
55. What question would you take to a trusted mentor or instructor?

Application assignment

Write 150–250 words or give a short oral response: identify one principle, one Bible passage to study in context, and one realistic action to take within 30 days. Do not include another person’s confidential information or details of sexual activity or trauma. Local instructors review the assignment separately from the online completion record.

Chapter 21

Do Not Marry an Unbeliever: When Love Defies God's Word, It Becomes a Trap

Online unit U26 | Module 11: Shared faith and honor

Learning focus

The author urges Christian readers to consider shared faith before choosing a spouse.

Bible reading

2 Corinthians 6:14 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?"
— 2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV)

Love is powerful—but it's not enough if it contradicts God's truth.
No matter how kind, attractive, or charming someone may be, if they do not share your faith in Christ, marriage to them is outside of God's will.

This chapter may sound hard—but it's written with urgency and love.
God's boundaries are not punishments—they are protection.

Why You Should Never Marry an Unbeliever

Your foundation will be divided.
A house divided against itself cannot stand (Mark 3:25). If one person walks by the Spirit and the other by the flesh, there will be spiritual warfare within your home.

Your values will constantly clash.
You'll disagree on priorities like prayer, finances, children, church, morality, and purpose.

Your intimacy with God will suffer.
It's difficult to walk in unity with Christ while being one flesh with someone who rejects Him.

You will carry the spiritual weight alone.
Instead of growing together, you'll feel torn between loving your spouse and obeying your Savior.

Common Excuses People Make

"They're a good person."
But are they saved? Morality isn't salvation.

"I can lead them to Christ after marriage."
That's not marriage—it's missionary dating. The Bible never tells you to save someone through a covenant they don't believe in.

"God understands."
Yes, He understands—but He still says no.

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me." — John 14:21

Real-Life Consequences

Marrying an unbeliever often leads to:

Spiritual dryness and frustration

Emotional loneliness despite physical closeness

Raising children in confusion about faith

Constant compromise to avoid conflict

Delayed or forfeited purpose

Many who marry outside the faith spend years praying for peace they could have had by obeying from the start.

God's Standard Is Clear

"Only in the Lord." — 1 Corinthians 7:39
If you belong to Christ, your covenant must reflect His Lordship. Marriage is not just about compatibility—it's about kingdom alignment.

Choose someone who:

Loves Jesus more than they love you

Fears God and walks in truth

Is submitted to biblical authority

Prays with you, for you, and over your future

If You're Already in a Mixed Marriage

If you are already married to an unbeliever, God can still use your life to minister to your spouse.
You're not called to condemn them but to love them with truth and patience—while remaining faithful to Christ.

"For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband?" — 1 Corinthians 7:16

But if you're not yet married—don't step into something God is telling you to avoid.

Key Takeaways

Don't marry potential. Marry faith.

Attraction without spiritual agreement leads to spiritual warfare.

Love that disregards God's Word is not true love—it's rebellion.

Marry someone who is already chasing God, not someone you hope will catch up.

God will never lead you into a relationship that pulls you away from Him.
Trust His Word, obey His voice, and wait for a partner who walks in the light—not just someone who wants to stand in your life.

Discuss

56. Why does shared faith matter to the author?
57. How can this teaching be discussed respectfully with people already in mixed-faith marriages?

Practice

Write a private list of core convictions and questions you would discuss with a prospective partner.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 22

The Glory of a Wife Is Her Husband

Online unit U27 | Module 11: Shared faith and honor

Learning focus

The chapter calls for honor within marriage and ends by affirming that honor should flow both ways.

Bible reading

1 Corinthians 11:7 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

The glory of a wife is reflected through her husband. This is not just a poetic idea—it is a spiritual principle rooted in divine order. When a woman honors and uplifts her husband, she, in turn, shines. However, when she disrespects or dishonors him, she diminishes her own light. Your elevation as a wife is linked to how you treat the one whom God has placed as your head. If you want to go far in life, respect your glory. If you want to shine, protect the vessel through which that shine reflects.

As 1 Corinthians 11:7 says:

"For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man."

This Scripture reveals a profound spiritual dynamic: the woman is the glory of man. Glory, by its very nature, is not meant to be hidden or destroyed; it is intended to be preserved, honored, and displayed to the world. It enhances, beautifies, and draws admiration—not only from people, but from God as well.

Glory Is Not to Be Fought—It's to Be Embraced

One of the biggest mistakes many women make today is fighting against or showing disrespect to their "glory"—their husbands. Instead of viewing their husband as a source of protection and blessing, they see him as competition, or worse, as a burden. In doing so, they unknowingly hinder their growth, peace, and influence.

A wise woman understands that her blessings are intricately tied to how she treats her husband. The way she speaks to him, honors him, prays for him, and supports him reflects how she values her own glory. The more she builds him up, the more she will rise as well. Glory is relational—how one treats it determines whether it lifts or hinders them.

Consider Sarah, Abraham's wife. She became a mother of nations not only because of Abraham's calling but also because she honored him. Her obedience and reverence positioned her to receive God's promises. Her relationship with her husband was essential to her destiny.

Even in Imperfection, Honor

What if your husband isn't perfect? What if he falls short in finances, faith, or character? Even so, honor him. Not because he earns it every day, but because God has placed him in that role. Your attitude and actions reflect your obedience to God's order—not a reward system based on your husband's performance.

He may not earn as much as you. He may have struggles, even addictions, or emotional immaturity. But he remains your glory. And when you treat your glory with care, you invite God's blessing to intervene and transform what seems unchangeable.

This mirrors the same principle for men: a man is called to honor God, because God is his glory. When a man reverences God—acknowledges Him, serves Him, lives by His Word—he is lifted, favored, and promoted. But when he dishonors God, he forfeits the very favor meant to establish him.

Likewise, as a woman, how you honor your husband speaks to your reverence for God's design.

Choose Whom You Can Honor

Before marriage, this principle is just as important. If you find it difficult to respect a man during courtship, do not proceed into marriage hoping things will magically change. If he does not carry the character, integrity, or vision you can respect, then marriage will only magnify your internal conflict.

Marry someone you deeply respect. Submit to someone you can follow—not by force, but by conviction and trust. Marriage is not about who is more successful, but about who you're willing to follow and build with in love and honor.

A Final Blessing

May the Lord give you wisdom and grace to grasp these truths deeply. May He open your eyes to understand your place in the marriage covenant—not as a lesser partner, but as one carrying divine purpose. When both husband and wife honor their God-ordained roles, marriage becomes a place of peace, joy, and shared destiny.

Let us build marriages where honor flows both ways, where glory is not abused, but nourished. And where both man and woman shine together, as one flesh, for the glory of God.

Discuss

58. How does reciprocal honor differ from control?
59. What boundaries protect dignity while couples discuss roles and responsibilities?

Practice

Write two ways to show respect and two boundaries that preserve each person's dignity.

Care note

Keep intimate and traumatic details private. Seek qualified help if a relationship involves coercion, threats, or danger. An instructor should not pressure a learner to disclose or reconcile in an unsafe situation.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 23

Don't Wait for Her in a Dream

Online unit U28 | Module 12: Practical pursuit and final counsel

Learning focus

Prayer for a spouse should be joined to real-world discernment, initiative, and mutual consent.

Bible reading

Genesis 24:12-14 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

If you are a young man praying for a wife, understand this important truth: God does not assign wives through dreams alone. He is a practical God who works in both the spiritual and physical realms—but when it comes to marriage, He leads you to take visible, relational steps in the physical world. Sadly, many have become trapped in spiritual passivity, expecting to meet their wives only through divine dreams and visions while ignoring the real-world relationships and opportunities around them.

Marriage is not a mystical lottery or a fantasy encounter in the night. It is a divinely ordered relationship built on spiritual discernment, practical wisdom, and active obedience. God will answer your prayer for a wife—but He will do so in a way that requires your participation, faith, and initiative in the real world.

Dreams: A Dangerous Misguide for the Undiscerning

There are sincere believers—brothers in the Lord—who have delayed their marriages for years because they are waiting for a divine revelation. They claim to have seen their "God-ordained wife" in a vision or dream. Some even go so far as to approach women and declare, "God showed me in a dream that you are my wife," only to discover that the woman is already married, engaged, or simply not interested.

Such actions bring confusion, hurt, and division within the body of Christ. God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33), and He does not override someone's will or contradict His principles of honor and decency through dreams. A dream might stir your thoughts, but it is not a replacement for prayerful action, character discernment, and mutual agreement.

Often, dreams simply reflect a person's deep desires or subconscious attractions. If you frequently think about someone, it's no surprise they might appear in your dreams. That isn't a divine confirmation—it's human psychology.

The Danger of Flesh-Led Decisions

When desire is not submitted to God, dreams can become tools of deception. The enemy can exploit emotional longing, turning admiration into obsession and dream into delusion. This has led to broken friendships, offended church members, and disillusioned men who feel rejected or betrayed—not because God failed them, but because they misunderstood the process.

If you want a godly marriage, you must pursue it in a godly way. Prayer is vital—but so is stepping out, meeting people, and walking in wisdom and humility.

A Biblical Pattern: Isaac and Rebekah

Let's look at how God worked in the case of Isaac and Rebekah. Abraham's servant didn't wait for a dream. He prayed practically and then positioned himself in the real world—by the well, where women came to draw water. He asked God for guidance through the woman's actions and character—not a mystical vision.

Genesis 24:12–14 (NKJV)
"Then he said, 'O Lord God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. Behold, here I stand by the well of water… Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, "Please let down your pitcher that I may drink," and she says, "Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink"—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac.'"

God answered this prayer quickly and clearly. Rebekah appeared, responded with humility and kindness, and fulfilled the very sign that had been asked for. She was not imagined in a dream—she was seen, spoken to, and tested in real time. This is a model of prayer-backed action, not passive dreaming.

Pray—But Also Position Yourself

Pray for a wife. Ask God for direction. But also put yourself in environments where godly women can be found. Serve faithfully in your church. Join godly communities. Build healthy friendships. And when the time is right, take steps of interest with respect and clarity.

Don't use dreams as an excuse to avoid personal growth, responsibility, or relational skills. God often works "as you go," just like He led Abraham's servant while he was on the journey. Faith without works is dead. And marriage without mutual choice and visible action is merely fantasy.

Final Thought:

God wants you to have a wife who is more than a dream—He wants you to build a godly marriage rooted in reality, not in illusion. He desires your union to be based on shared values, mutual consent, spiritual maturity, and love. Trust Him. But also walk with Him. Don't just sleep and dream. Wake up and take action.

Discuss

60. What practical steps does the chapter recommend alongside prayer?
61. Why must another person's choice and consent remain clear?

Practice

Plan one ordinary, respectful way to build community and relational skills.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Chapter 24

Final Words of Counsel: Walk in Wisdom, Wait in Faith, and Love with Purpose

Online unit U29 | Module 12: Practical pursuit and final counsel

Learning focus

The final chapter gathers the book's call to wisdom, wholeness, faith, and purposeful love.

Bible reading

Ephesians 3:20 — read the full passage in context in your Bible.

From the author's manuscript

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us…"
— Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

As we close this book, let these final words be a compass for your journey. Whether you're single, dating, engaged, or married, you are being called higher—into wisdom, wholeness, and God-centered love.

This isn't just about preparing for a wedding—it's about becoming someone who can steward a kingdom marriage.

1. Seek God First, Always

Before the person, before the proposal, before the wedding plans—seek God.
He is not a consultant for your relationship—He is the Author of it.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." — Matthew 6:33

If you want God's blessing, you must follow God's blueprint.

2. Become What You Hope to Find

Don't just pray for a godly partner—become one.

Want a patient spouse? Grow in patience.

Want someone who prays? Become a person of prayer.

Want someone pure? Walk in purity.

What you attract often reflects who you are becoming.

3. Wait Well

Waiting is not passive—it is powerful. It refines, prepares, and positions you.
Don't fill the silence with counterfeits. Fill it with purpose.

Remember: God is not slow. He is strategic.
And when He finally moves, He often moves suddenly.

4. Don’t Settle

No relationship is better than the wrong relationship.
If you have to lower your standards, silence your convictions, or ignore red flags—it’s not God.

Marriage will not heal what compromise helped create.
Wait for the one who aligns with your calling, not just your cravings.

5. Build with Prayer and the Word

A relationship not rooted in God’s Word is vulnerable to the enemy.
Pray together. Fast together. Study Scripture together.
Make Christ the center—not just a guest at your wedding.

Final Encouragement

To the single: Your worth isn’t tied to your relationship status. You are complete in Christ.

To the dating or engaged: Guard your purity. Build with wisdom. Don’t idolize the wedding—focus on preparing for the covenant.

To the married: Keep growing. Keep praying. Keep choosing love, even when it's hard. Invite God into every part of your union.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” — Psalm 127:1

Key Takeaways

Trust God with every chapter of your love story.

Live in obedience, not just emotion.

Protect your heart with wisdom and guard your destiny with discernment.

Don’t just prepare for marriage—prepare for ministry through marriage.

Let your relationship glorify God, not just gratify you.

God writes the best love stories.
And yours—when surrendered—will testify to His timing, His grace, and His glory.

Thank you for taking this journey through these chapters. May your life, your love, and your legacy be built on Christ, the solid rock.

Discuss

62. Which teaching challenged or helped you most?
63. What specific practice will you continue after the course?

Practice

Prepare a final relationship and discipleship plan with three specific steps and a date to revisit them.

Complete the four-question online review for this chapter. In a local church class, discuss the application only to the extent you choose.

Practice Lab 6

Chapters 21 to 24

Review these four chapter ideas and choose one principle to practice in your current season. Your assignment may use a hypothetical situation.

- Chapter 21: The author urges Christian readers to consider shared faith before choosing a spouse.
- Chapter 22: The chapter calls for honor within marriage and ends by affirming that honor should flow both ways.
- Chapter 23: Prayer for a spouse should be joined to real-world discernment, initiative, and mutual consent.
- Chapter 24: The final chapter gathers the book's call to wisdom, wholeness, faith, and purposeful love.

Discuss

64. Where do these chapters reinforce one another, and where do they speak to different situations?
65. Which teaching is most useful for your current season?
66. What question would you take to a trusted mentor or instructor?

Application assignment

Write 150–250 words or give a short oral response: identify one principle, one Bible passage to study in context, and one realistic action to take within 30 days. Do not include another person’s confidential information or details of sexual activity or trauma. Local instructors review the assignment separately from the online completion record.

About the Author

Lenin O. Were is a devoted husband, loving father, and the lead pastor of Restoration of the Tent of David Church. Called into ministry at a young age, he began his service to the Lord with humility and passion. Over the years, he has faithfully served the church in various capacities—including as a youth usher, intercessory leader, Bible study teacher—and was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel at just twenty-three years old.

At the age of thirty-one, he was officially ordained into the pastoral office, where he now leads with vision, compassion, and dedication. Pastor Lenin is known for his anointed gifts in teaching, healing, leadership development, and spiritual counseling. Through these gifts, he has been a tremendous blessing to many, both within his local community and beyond.

With a burning desire to take the message of the Cross to the nations, he aspires to share the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ on a global scale—impacting lives, restoring hope, and transforming hearts.

Raised in a broken home, Pastor Lenin carries a personal burden for marriages and families. His ministry seeks to bring healing to relationships on the brink of collapse, reconcile children to their parents, and serve as a spiritual father to many who are searching for identity, guidance, and love.