



4th October 2024

Topic: Love, Marriage, and Money Series 1

Text: Ephesians 5: 32-33 *-This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (NKJV)*

Introduction

We begin the teaching and series today on love, marriage, and money. It is a dimension I am trusting God to help us to check and see how we will be helped to have a fulfilled home and glorious home that will bring glory to God; especially in a world like ours where divorce is common and fake

love is rampant. We want to look at what will help you as a family, an individual, and as a single to become that which God wants you to be.

There is a great mystery that is between the church and Christ. If a relationship will be glorious, one of the things, you must focus on is Christ and the church. It is until you pay attention with the eyes of revelation that this mystery will be unveiled to you to launch an understanding of the 'mystery' of marriage.

When we talk about love, we must understand that marriage is instituted by God. There is no one who will enjoy marriage and will not understand the mystery that happened between Christ and the church. Hence, if you are believing God for a glorious home or are already married and trusting God that your marriage will be a great one then you must pay attention to this teaching as we follow tenaciously so our lives can be better.

"If your home will be glorious or your relationship as a single will be great, then you must begin to search the mystery that binds Christ and the church together."

Unfortunately, in our generation, at this end time, many people believe that love is fake. In fact, because of their experiences, failed trust in people, and disappointment they assume that there is no love anywhere. But that it is all a lie, there is love. The love they have not discovered is that which exists between Christ and the church which the Bible records as "great mystery."

It is important God for you to know that God instituted marriage for you to have peace, and joy and never to manage. He did so for you to experience a great and better life than singlehood. *However, sometimes, many people lack a discerning spirit and mistake experiences as regret.*

Two different things should not be mistaken. When you search the scripture, you discover that when Pharaoh asked Jacob his age in Genesis, his reply was that of regret rather than experience.

Genesis 47:8-9

Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?" And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."? (NKJV)

So I tell you, some experiences are not experiences, they are regret. People who share their regret as experiences tend to confuse you that there is no love. I repeat, there is love.

This is what we want to look at today as I lay a serious foundation of this teaching because if you get married without love, you are done for. Love is so essential as we build a glorious home.

"We build a solid foundation on love for a marriage to be glorious."

Things To Know About Love.

1. Love is not a feeling

If it is because of feeling, you married your spouse, whatever you are doing right now will be management because feelings disappear.

"Love is not a feeling, it is a person."

If you understand this concept, then the mystery that is tied up between Christ and the church will become tangible to you. Your understanding of this will allow you to get enough patience as regards entering a marriage. *Let's check a beautiful story in Genesis 29.*

When you read the story from verse 10 of that chapter, you will see how Jacob came to love Rachel, a shepherdess, at first sight. The Bible records that Jacob seeing Rachel for the first time was spurred by feelings that he kissed her.

Feelings will make you do irrational things. It is only feeling that you call love that makes you misbehave to authority. Your parent is calling your attention to detach from a person because of certain things you haven't seen and you claim you are in love. See those feelings that have blinded your eyes, will be cleared in the working of marriage. Indeed, you can claim to have conviction from God about your spouse but it is not a warranty for you to misbehave. There are ways and patterns to go about it to be accepted because we are not moved by feelings but by conviction.

Now, back to the scripture, you will see afterward that Racheal introduced Jacob to the family as a way of initiating friendship. **Know that friendship is not something that should be proposed in a relationship, it grows naturally.** The story continued by differentiating the physical features of Leah and Rachel and it was noted how the form of Rachel was more beautiful than that of Leah. This is what Jacob saw that culminated to a point that in verse 31, God closed Rachel's womb and opened Leah's because she was unloved. Feelings make you look at the peripheral and do not allow you to see deeply.

"Love is not a feeling because, in the face of reality, feelings disappear."

2. Love is not obsession

I have found o that many people call obsession love, which is wrong. When you are in a relationship or marriage and each time, your spouse is suspicious of you, then that is an obsession.

2 Samuel 13: 1-2

David's son Absalom had a beautiful unmarried sister named Tamar. Amnon, another of David's sons, fell in love with her. He was so much in love with her that he became sick because it seemed impossible for him to have her; as a virgin, she was kept from meeting men. (GNT)

See how the Bible recorded the Ammon's actions towards Tamar: "...was so much in love with her that he became sick." How can you be in love and still be sick? This is nothing but obsession, not love. In fact, the Message version records his action explicitly as obsession. **You must have a discerning spirit to differentiate obsession from love.** Allow add this, some of you tag obsession as attention which is wrong. This is killing, let's check verses 14 and 15.

Verse 14: *But he would not listen to her; and since he was stronger than she was, he overpowered her and raped her. (GNT)*

Verse 15: *Then Amnon was filled with a deep hatred for her; he hated her now even more than he had loved her before. He said to her, "Get out!" (GNT)*

This is nothing short of obsession. An obsessed person will forever be insecure no matter where you are.

3. Love is not lust

I implore you to study Genesis 34 which explains the story of Dinah who was raped by Shechem. The funny thing was that he raped before falling in love with her.

When you are in love with somebody and you are involved in fornicating, it is not love but lust. Many times, a lot of couples end up together because of their previous sexual engagement during courtship and then lose out on the main thing (love) in their marriage. This ends up in a lack of trust in the marriage.

"The moment you say you are in love with somebody and you are defiling yourself, it has turned to lust."

No marriage built on lust will last. My advice to you young women and men, is that you keep yourself. **Anyone who cannot wait till after marriage is not worthy of you.** You must learn to honor and respect yourself; irrespective of the spiritual manifestation (such as speaking in tongues) of your spouse.

4. Love is pure and outgoing

5. Love guides.

Six Tests of Love

A true love in any relationship that will work must be tested with the following:

1. Love nourishes

Look at Jacob in the Bible, his feelings turned completely into love and remained all through. His love was ready to care, help, and nourish. *What does it mean to nourish? To make grow.*

Most of the time, we don't know the implications of love, we just use it without realizing its meaning. Love makes grow, which is nourish. Whatever relationship you are in or marriage you are in and you are not growing, there is no love present.

"If your spouse is not in a good condition, you have failed the test of nourishment."

The dictionary defines it as *an action word, that is to provide food or other substances necessary for growth, health, and good condition.* It is synonymous with maintaining, sustaining, and nutrifying.

All these qualities make you do a serious work of nurturing. So when you say, *"I am in love"*, test it by asking yourself *"Am I growing?"*

2. Love cherishes

This is the second test to determine if a love is true. *"Do you cherish me?"*

Some men lack the understanding of cherishing their women especially when it is in the context of family gatherings and celebrations. They would proudly send their wives ahead of those functions to do chores all in the

name of keeping their reputation in the family. May you not end with the wrong man.

To cherish is to protect and care for (someone) lovingly.

Ephesians 5 : 28-29 - *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. (NKJV)*

3. Love nurtures

It means to care for and protect (someone or something) while they are growing.

4. Love Protect

Every true test of love protects. You must protect each other. One of the terrible I have found in marriage now is that a lot of people expose their partner because they don't want to be blamed. This is wrong. You take the whole blame together, that is love.

Love tells you affirmatively, that I am here to protect and preserve you. It is foolishness for a man to expose his wife and children to darkness (physical and spiritual). To test love, check for protection. It is not jealousy, there is a balance to it.

Protection is the meaning of love.

5. Love Provides.

One of the true tests of love is provision. A true partner must provide for the other.

6. Love persevere

- True love is not found on social media. Please be careful about people you talk to online or are linked with. A lot of them cannot show true love.*

How can you find true love?

True love is not found by matchmaking, except you pray and you are sure God is in it.

1. Friendship: A genuine one will lead to true love. If you have time, study Jonathan and David's friendship. It is one that moved from friendship to covenant.

2. Service: It is through your service life in church and outside that draw true love. A responsible partner in marriage must learn to serve. please be prayerful about this.

3. Fellowship

Prayer:

- Father give me grace to be discerning.
- May I not miss it in life.