

# Finishing WELL

LOVE, MARRIAGE & MONEY

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## Topic: Finishing Well in Your Marriage

**Text: Ecclesiastes 7:8** - *"The end of a thing is better than its beginning; The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit."* (NKJV)

## Introduction

Today's teaching concludes the series on Love, Marriage and Money. We started by looking at various dimensions and several things about the family. We dealt extensively on love, how we can revive the wine in our homes, and how we can win the battle of marriages. God has helped us to look at and dissect salient things that we must do to finish strong. Last teaching on Sunday we checked 4 F's in finishing strong viz **Fight, Finish, Faith, and Fragrance Gift.**

You must fight for marriage, children, and everything God has given to you by bending your knees. We understood that it is the dimension of faith that helps you finish. If you must finish, your faith level must be increased and standing. Also, when you fight and finish with faith, we establish that there is going to be a reward (fragrance gift).

There is a difference between finishing strong and finishing well; which is what we are discussing today. Finishing strong doesn't mean you will finish well. The ending of every marriage is the most important thing, not the beginning. It is not enough to have big number of years in marriage, what is key is how you finish. Therefore God is willing to see your end better. In John 2, they brought good wine at the end of the wedding.

***"Your end must be better than your beginning."***

If your end is not better than your beginning, you have missed it. How can you lock down a city on your wedding and in the end, you can't lock down nations?  
*My prayer for you is that you will end well.*

The Lord said according to our scripture that if your end will be better than your beginning, there are two Ps you must pay attention to

- **Patience**

If your marriage will end well, you have patience as a spirit not as a fruit. Hence it is not what you have toward your spouse only but towards all men.

- **Pride**

Subdue pride so that patience can increase. Pride is one of the things that kills marriages in our present generation. A lot of spouses claim to insist on their right which is nothing but pride. So if your family will be great, then you must get rid of pride and allow patience to increase.

Notice that both patience and pride is a spirit. Every source of pride is not physical but spiritual. It is not in the way the person speaks nor is it in their physical appearance but rather a salient issue inside of you that no one can trace but you.

***"Subject pride and increase the level of patience, this is what makes you finish well."***

**Everyone who would be great in marriage must also have the understanding that marriage is a covenant, not a contract.** Therefore if marriage is broken, there are drastic consequences. This is what we established in the last teaching. The process of saying "I do" on the altar marks the first covenant and then the process of intimacy as partners marks another covenant made.

***"Marriage is a covenant, you can't just arise one day and break it abruptly."***

In the olden days, a covenant is made in the presence of a priest who pierced each participant of the covenant with a sharp object (e.g. blade) saturated with all kinds of diabolical things. They bind participants with their blood such that when broken, its consequences are tragic. In the same manner, a man and woman are bonded into a covenant mediated by a priest using a Bible during a matrimonial ceremony in the church. A covenant bound by a Bible is the greatest covenant that should not be broken because a covenant bound by blood can be canceled using the Blood of Jesus. What can cancel the Bible? So you can't just wake up one day and say because of troubles you will break the covenant of marriage. The day you do so, you begin to bear the consequences.

**In the last teaching, we also discussed the first Terms and Conditions that govern marriage, Responsibilities, and Commitment.** Every correct man makes a provision for their home and every woman is a homemaker, not a homekeeper. Let's proceed on the remaining terms and conditions

Let's proceed with the Terms and Conditions:

## 2. You do not own yourself and your body anymore

### Mark 10:8-9

"and the two shall become one flesh"; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." (NKJV)

The moment you say "I do" you have given your spouse the right over your body literally. You handed over everything that is yours to your spouse and your spouse has done likewise at that moment. The reason why some marriages are not standing is that spouses deny their counterpart everything

### 1 Corinthians 7:2 - 6

*Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. [3] Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. [4] The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. [5] Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. [6] But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment.* (NKJV)

I have to be blunt with the married, even your sexual desire is subjected to your spouse and vice versa. The scripture above states that your time of intimacy is only broken during fasting, therefore if you must fast it is a must you revive consent from your partner. If you do so without appropriate consent from your spouse, the purpose of your fasting will be compromised.

***"Marriage is not a place to stand up for your right, it is a decision to serve the other."***

Do you remember Vashti in the scriptures, she was called to serve but she was eventually replaced by Esther. I wish the singles would think before saying 'yes.'

### **3. You must be faithful and stay faithful**

#### **Matthew 19: 8-9**

*He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." (NKJV)*

Moses advised because of their hardened heart. You must not have any other person apart from your spouse. If you have another pulling you emotionally, it is called Emotional Infidelity. The moment you are unfaithful, you are breaking the covenant.

### **4. No violence in marriage.**

There are three things God hates, unfortunately, we majored on the first and second keeping silent on the third.

#### **Malachi 2: 15-16**

*But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. "For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously." (NKJV)*

The Lord hates divorce, separation, and violence. We are only vocal on divorce and separation but very silent on violence which is quite rampant in this time. Several types of violence are going on in Christendom because men lack this understanding. For no reason should a man raise his hand on his wife. Violence is not only to the man, I beg to differ it is also to the women. Some women can beat and some are best at instigating violence and being dramatic. "God hates violence."

## ➤ When can the marriage covenant be broken?

### 1. When you marry an unbeliever and he/she is no longer interested

#### 1 Corinthians 7:12-15

*But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. [13] And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. [14] For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. [15] But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. (NKJV)*

Don't just marry anybody even if the person has a Christian name. As a believer, you can't initiate separation even if the challenges are overwhelming. Unless the unbeliever who is your spouse breaks it you can't.

### 2. Unrepentant infidelity

#### Matthew 19:9

*And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." (NKJV)*

There are some infidelity that are by mistake but there are some partners who engage in such acts without being repentant no matter what. Therefore if you must dissolve a marriage after trying, there are processes to do so; it is not only about court. If you are joined in church you must inform the pastor who joined you to dissolve it after applying all corrective measures possible.

### **3. Marriage based on deception**

**Amos 3:3**

*"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?" (NKJV)*

If a person comes to you with a proposal of courtship, ask basic questions. Don't fall into the trap of deceitful partners.

### **4. Death**

This is another very important reason one can break the marriage covenant.

## **➤ 5 ways to finish well**

We will pick wisdom from the story of Isaac and Rebekah:

### **1. Praying together**

**Genesis 25:21**

*"Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived." (NKJV)*

When you begin to pray together, you will finish well. There's a key God hands over to a couple when they kneel to pray at that. They begin to see things and share dreams and visions together. This brings about serious miracles for such households. Even as an engaged, when last have you prayed together with your partner? Stop doing cooler ministry up and down.

### **2. Connect together**

**Genesis 24:63-64**

*And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; (NKJV)*

Both Isaac and Rebekah lifted their eyes to meet. Connection is in looking eyeball to eyeball. The "field" in your context can be an eatery or joint. Try to be friends and lovers at the same time. Gist, communicate, and bond.

### **3. Love your children together**

#### **Genesis 25:28**

*"And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob." (NKJV)*

One of the terrible mistakes Isaac and Rebekah made was that they didn't love their children equally. Love your children together and in loving, you will discipline them together.

### **4. No replacement**

#### **Genesis 24:67**

*"Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death." (NKJV)*

Don't your spouses with anything in this life whether it is ministry, career, or children.

## **Prayer Points**

- Lord help me to end well.
- Make my end better than my beginning.