# Pastors Manual on Marriage Matters

NIYI MAKINDE

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#### First edition

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#### Preface

In the year 2017, I pastored a church in the city of Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria. One day, a member came to me to inform me about his marriage plan and it suddenly occurred to me that such needed to go through some procedures. I remember that my dad had once been the chairman for the marriage committee of their church district many years ago. During those years, I saw how many came to our house for marriage counseling, and sometimes, some engaged partners met in our house to have their talk. Those years, our sitting room was the meeting point for some engaged partners. In fact, some would be in the sitting room for more than two hours discussing various matters as it related to their marriage. What I didn't know and actually forgot to ask my daddy was if he used to allot minutes or hours to those discussions. I should add that those years my siblings and I used to know those who were in a relationship ahead of the church. The moment we saw a guy and a lady visit our house, we instantly knew they were in a relationship. Permit me to

better use "brother" instead of "guy" and "sister" instead of "lady." I recalled these experiences in our house and instantly knew that I needed to be well equipped about marriage matters in relation to my pastoral duties.

This reality that enveloped me triggered my learning in this area in that particular year. I began to read in this area and asked questions from mature minds. It took me more than two months to really get the full and practical insights needed for this matter in relation to pastoral duties. Recently, a dear man of God requested something from me in this area and I had to bring out my various notes so as to come up with the answer. While compiling the answer, I remember a prophetic word from the Lord to me that I am "a foundation- and pillar-builder that the foundations and pillars—structures and systems—of many ministries and churches shall be built through." Instantly, I knew that I was reminded of that prophetic word so I could provide the answers to questions in the hearts of many pastors concerning marriage matters. I had to take on the responsibility to put this into writing for many pastors - current and future ones - to be blessed by it.

I believe that as pastors, especially young pastors, read this book, they will know what to do in regards to marriage matters. I need to humbly say that

all I have written in this book is not the end of marriage matters in relation to pastoral duties, but the details in this book thus solve over 85% of marriage matters in relation to pastoral duties. With all humility, I have read many books and different church operational manuals, and I can tell you that the details found in this book are incomparable. Let me tell you that reading this book is like reading over ten different church operational manuals at once. I am sure that if some pastors access the details of this book, they will either update their modus operandi for marriage matters or directly apply certain things written here in their dealings with engaged partners.

I intended to write just a few pages, not more than 30, but I ended up writing more. In fact, I intended to complete writing this book within few days but ended up spending more than two weeks to complete this. I believe this book is really worth the whole effort because the details herein would really be helpful to all pastors. The fact is that engaged partners who aren't even pastors can read this book and get insights into certain things they should be aware of in regards to their marriage. There are two questionnaires in this book that engaged partners need to fill. The first is needed by the marriage committee while the second is needed by the counselor. This book is highly recommended to all pastors who desire to be well

equipped concerning marriage matters.

## **Basic Information**

A pastor should set a two-month marriage counseling procedures for the church. It was formally three months and some denominations even use six months, but it has been discovered that the approach has to change so as to avoid complaints and embrace effectiveness.

The counseling procedures for two months should have six sessions. It could be online or on-site. It should be online if an intending spouse isn't in the country. Two weeks for each month. A total of four weeks. You must be careful not to put the intending couple under intense stress of meeting. Make it easy for them.

The pastor should set up a marriage committee for the church. In a situation that the church is newly started with few people, a number of two are enough to constitute the marriage committee with the pastor as the head of the committee. But as the members keep increasing, mature people with proven integrity should be brought on board.

# I

The Marriage Committee

1

# Teach the Spirituals

The purpose of this is to get the intending couple to understand certain dictates as stated in scriptures. Scriptures stated here should be read or the intending couples are encouraged to read those scriptures at home.

#### Teach about Each Person's Life

- Have faith in God: Lay holds on God's promises to you. Each person should have promises from God that can be seen in scriptures as received.
- 2. Have a vision for your life: What is the vision each person has. Promises from scriptures need visions to have fulfilment.
- 3. Have a plan for your life (Proverbs 19:21)
- 4. Speak right (Proverbs 18:21): Never speak death into your life. Don't speak what is

happening, speak what God said or what is revealed. Your revelation is superior to your situation.

- 5. Refuse to be lazy (Proverbs 13:4, 12:27, 24): Deliver yourself from laziness.
- 6. Be willing to be corrected (Proverbs 29:1): To be corrected is to be assisted.
- 7. Have a work before you have a home (Proverbs 24:27): Never attempt to marry when you have no income. Income come through works.
- 8. Avoid oversleeping (Proverbs 24:33-34): Those who sleep too much lose too much. Laziness cause oversleeping (Proverbs 19:15)
- 9. Be kind (Proverbs 19:22, 12:2): Be kind if you want to be liked.

## Scriptural Instruction to Wives (1 Peter 3:1-6)

A wife need to know that submitting to one another isn't about marriage. Ephesians 5:21 isn't about marriage. The dictate of scripture is for the wife to submit to her husband. Scripture never commands that a husband should submit to his wife. Note the following:

- 1. Submit to your husband Ephesians 5:22-24
- 2. Love your husband Titus 2:4
- 3. Love your children Titus 2:4

- 4. Be discreet, homemakers, good, obedient to your husband Titus 2:5
- 5. Respect your husband Ephesian 5:33

## Scriptural Instruction to Husbands

- Live with your wife with understanding 1
   Peter 3:7
- 2. Give honor to your wife 1 Peter 3:7.
- 3. Love your wife Ephesian 5:25,28-29. Scripture says he who loves his wife loves himself. You are expected to nourish and cherish your body (wife).

## Special Warning to Men

Proverbs 5:15-20, 6:20-29

#### To Both Parties

- 1. You are one flesh Ephesian 5:31
- 2. Both of you are builders: You are both responsible for building the home. The work isn't for one person. In fact, scripture identify a wise woman as the builder of her home Proverbs 14:1
- 3. Both of you are providers: The wife isn't the provider for the husband, the husband is the

- provider for the home. But the wife also is a provider for the children.
- 4. Both of you are trainers of your children.
- 5. Both of you are to honor each other.

#### Practical Insights for Both Parties

- 1. Be the cheerleader of your spouse. Celebrate with your mouth not just in your heart. Verbalize celebration.
- 2. Practice forbearance over forgiveness. Learn to forbear with your spouse. Come to a point that your spouse will never offend you.
- 3. Engage neatness and excellence. Proverbs 31:29, 12:4. Always seek to do things perfectly. As a man, wear a roll on, a new boxer, nice under wear, sit attractively before your laptop, be sweet and handsome even when at home. Let your wife walk around the house feeling like kissing something. Don't look sweaty, dirty, rough, disorganized all in the name of 'I am not going out.' You don't just smell good for outsiders; you smell good for the insider (your wife). Wives too must be neat and excellent always at home. A woman shouldn't only smell nice when she wants to go out. Smell nice always.
- 4. Marry a person who truly love you and value

- you as a person.
- 5. Never marry anyone marrying you for money, influence, affluence, etc.
- 6. Never communicate lack of trust. Avoid asking too much questions. Avoid demanding explanations for everything.
- 7. Never permit misunderstanding go unsettled.
- 8. Avoid involvement or over involvement of third party
- 9. Avoid blaming your spouse in public
- 10. Avoid comparing your spouse.
- 11. Never use your spouse past to abuse, mock or insult him or her.
- 12. Never keep attractions to external party as secret.
- 13. Never hinder your spouse from relating or giving to his or her parents. Remember you will be a parent and become father or mother in law one day. Sow what you want to reap
- 14. Never expect your spouse to do all you want or request.
- 15. Never fail to communicate love. Celebrate his or her birthday. Never be tired of saying "I love you."

## Wedding and Marriage Prerequisites

Marriage is a sacred institution that was created by God to reflect the relationship of Christ to the Church (Eph. 5:25-32). God is concerned about every marriage relationship and the ultimate success of each marriage. We must also remember that the marriage decision is, apart from our decision to accept Christ in our lives, the most important and consequential decision that anyone makes because people must live with the consequences of that decision for the rest of their lives. How a couple starts out is very important if they are to have a rewarding life and a peaceful home. For this reason, the leadership of the church takes every marriage seriously and strives to represent Christ and His word to every couple that seeks their involvement in their wedding.

In order for the pastoral staff of the local church to be officially involved in the wedding of any couple, the following prerequisites must be met:

A. The couple must be Christian and must be willing to submit to the biblical standards for a Christian throughout their courtship. This means that:

1. Both parties in the relationship must be bornagain Christians. It is advisable that both be baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit as well.

- 2. Both parties must be biblically free to marry.
- a. They are of legal age.
- b. They are not already married.
- c. If they have been previously married, they are biblically released to remarry (Mt. 19:1-10; Mark 10:1-12; I Cor. 7:10-16).
- 3. The couple must not be involved in fornication which is a sexual relationship outside of marriage (I Th. 4:3-8). If they have been involved in this way, they must cease immediately.
- 4. The couple must not be living together. If they are, they must separate immediately.
- B. The couple must be willing to follow the prescribed premarital track set forth by the leadership of the church.
- 1. At least one of the parties must have been a regular attender of this local church for at least 3 months.
- 2. The parents of the couple must be in approval of the relationship and the wedding. Note: Under certain conditions, an exception may be made.
- 3. The couple must be willing to complete the Pre-Marriage Questionnaire.
- 4. The couple must be willing to submit to three to four months of pre-marriage counseling with a leader of the church assigned by the pastoral staff.
  - 5. The couple must be willing to complete any

homework that is given as an assignment by their counselor.

C. The couple needs to be aware that there are other things that could be a factor when it comes to the involvement of the leadership of the church in their wedding.

In asking for the participation of the pastoral staff of the church in their wedding, each couple is acknowledging the fact that they are Christian, that they want to live their married life as Christians and that they want God to be honored in all that they do in conjunction with their wedding experience. A Christian is someone who is more concerned about pleasing God than pleasing man. A Christian is a Christian at all times whether they are in a church service, on the job or at play.

If God is to be honored in what is done, the wedding plans should not include elements that clearly violate the spirit of the Word of God. If there is a desire for God is to be honored, the wedding atmosphere should be in keeping with his holy nature. Remember that your wedding ceremony should be a Christian witness to the world. This position could affect several things:

#### Gowns

While the leadership of the church has no desire to speak to issues of dress, the Bible does hold up a standard of dress that reflects God's heart in this area. Christian apparel is to be modest at all times. This includes wedding ceremonies. No one who attends a wedding should be struggling with impure thoughts due to the immodest dress of the participants in the wedding party (I Tim. 2:9-10). Brides and bridesmaids are encouraged to be discrete when selecting the official garments to be worn for the ceremony.

#### **Bachelor Parties**

Many bachelor parties are totally unchristian in their atmosphere and activities including such things as intoxication, strippers, and other clearly sinful behaviors. If the leadership of the church becomes aware of any such activity, they may refuse to perform the ceremony. It is the responsibility of the groom to inform the wedding party and friends that a Christian party is the only acceptable party. Note: This standard applies to the bride as well.

## Wedding Reception

Because of the varying standards among Christians and the normal abuse of alcohol in relation to many wedding receptions, the leadership of the church would prefer that no alcoholic beverages be served at the official wedding reception. However, if they are served, they should be served in moderation to ensure that drinking does not lead to the sin of drunkenness (Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:21).

Maintaining a Christian atmosphere at the reception may also have a bearing on other activities included in the program, such as music selection, dancing and entertainment. The following questions should be asked when doing all planning:

- Is it to the glory of God? Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. I Corinthians 10:31
  - It is a stumbling block to others?

Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. I Corinthians 10:32-33

• Has it the appearance of evil? I Thessalonians 5:22 says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (KJV). The Knox translation says "all that has a look of evil about it."

• Is its atmosphere good? Could you enjoy communion with God when engaging in this activity or would God be out of place? Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? II Corinthians 6:14.

# Pastors Guide on Performing Weddings

# 1. Do everything you can to promote the sanctity of marriage in the life of the church.

- It is a covenant made before man and before God.
- It is a public witness of their covenant love.
- It is symbolic of Christ's relationship to the church (Eph. 5:23-32).
- It is part of God's eternal purpose for the man and the woman (Gen. 1:28).

# 2. Be sure a proper foundation is laid in the local church for successful marriages.

• Public teaching of dating and courtship princi-

ples.

- Premarital counseling of marriage candidates.
- Working in close association with the parents in the engagement process.
- Possibly training a wedding coordinator in the church to help couples through the process.

# 3. Settle for yourself those whom you will marry and those whom you will not marry.

Develop a written policy so that your decisions in these matters will not seem personal or arbitrary with a particular couple (See: Wedding Guidelines under its own title).

As a pastor, you must be able to answer the following questions:

- Would you marry people who were previously married but are now divorced? If so, under what circumstances?
- Would you marry an unsaved couple? Why have you come to this decision?
- Would you marry anyone who came to you?
   Does a pastor have any responsibility before God for his or her function in the ceremony?
- Would you marry mixed situations?—Denominational differences, racial differences, faith differences (believing and unbelieving),

#### charismatic/non-charismatic weddings?

# 4. Be familiar with the laws in your area so you can guide the couple on the proper timeline.

- · Physical exam?
- Registry
- Marriage license or certificate?
- Waiting period?

# 5. Be a resource to the couple as they make wedding plans.

- Help them remain balanced in their perspectives—in finances, extravagances, length of ceremony, wedding participants, venue options.
- Help them have realistic expectations as the day approaches—in their budget, in their relationship.
- Help them make decisions concerning the ceremony itself—attendants, involvement of parents, singers and songs, musicians, vows, officiant(s), reception, date and time, other elements in the service, congregational concerns, pictures, taping (audio or video).
- Help them develop an order of service to their

liking (Note: when disagreements occur, encourage the groom to let the bride have her preference.)

# 6. Schedule a rehearsal a day or two before the wedding.

- Be punctual in all of your duties.
- Make sure all audio-visual personnel are present.
- Meet and be prepared to minister to relatives and other participants.
- Double check that all of the legal documents are in order.
- Keep the rehearsal flowing smoothly and efficiently.

#### 7. Make the ceremony as meaningful as possible.

- Spend time getting your part down well.
- Be punctual in everything that you do.
- Be prepared for the unusual.
- Do your best to keep everyone relaxed.
- · Make your exhortations meaningful, but brief.
- Be sure to say their names properly.
- Make sure all legal documents are properly

signed and registered.

# Marriage Committee Matters

Marriage is the consummation of a relationship in holy wedlock between two believers of the opposite sex.

#### For a local assembly:

- 1. The pastor should set up a marriage committee
- 2. The pastor should appoint a wedding coordinator to help intending couples through the process.

#### For a church with few branches:

If the branches are not more than ten within same or close geopolitical zones in a country,

1. The church leadership should set up a marriage

- that coordinates and govern marital activities in the church at the central level. All marriage matters in each branch should be directed to the headquarters or central church.
- 2. The church leadership should set up a wedding coordinator at the central level with many assistants. The assistant wedding coordinator should be appointed in each branch. The assistant wedding coordinator will relate with intending couples in each branch and give report to the central church wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator and assistants must be part of the marriage committee. In a church with ten branches, there will be one wedding coordinator with ten assistants. Each branch must have an assistant wedding coordinator to help the intending couples through the process in his assembly.

#### For a church with large number of branches:

If the branches of the church are many spread across different states and countries,

1. The church leadership should create a system that permits each districts, area or zones to have their marriage committee. Since the church structure will definitely have creation

of areas, districts or zones, it is essential that the marriage committee are created for each of these quarters. It is advisable that the committee should be formed from combinations of local assembly. If four assemblies make up an area or district, then, a marriage committee should be formed for such. The members should be selected from each local assembly under the area and approved by the area or district pastor. The easiest way to do this that the Area or District Pastor should request that each Pastor in charge of a local church should submit names of two people that are qualified to be part of the Area or District Marriage Committee. After the names are submitted by each local assembly Pastor, the Area or District Pastor should then appoint one of the branch pastor in his Area or District as the Chairman or Coordinator for the Marriage Committee. The Area or District Pastor should appoint one of the names submitted by the branch pastors to be the secretary of the committee. This way, all weddings will be done at the Area or District headquarters except in a situations approved by the Area or Districts Pastor for it to be held in a branch or another headquarters. Whoever will be appointed as the chairman or coordinator for marriage committee must

be mature and have integrity. Such must be a person whose home is Godly and in peace. A male or female can be the Chairman or Coordinator. The chairman or coordinator for the marriage committee should have a meeting with the committee members to decide the dates of their meetings.

2. The Area or District Pastor should also appoint the wedding coordinator who will be a member of the marriage committee for the Area or District. And also ask each branch pastor to recommend an assistant wedding coordinator for their branch. It therefore means that each branch pastor will recommend three people to be part of the marriage committee.

## The Marriage Committee

For the purpose of space, we will use the local assembly as the focus for our discuss. The reader can now use the central level, area or district in place of the local assembly as its applies to you.

#### Introduction

 A marriage committee shall be established in a local assembly which shall be appointed by the Pastoral head (lead pastor).

- 2. A marriage committee shall be made up of between four to seven members who are mature, have integrity and have good marital testimony. The number depends on the size of the church. A church with more than one thousand members will need more than seven members to be part of the marriage committee. The pastor should use his discretion and divine guidance to increase the numbers of members.
- 3. A marriage committee shall be headed by a chairman or coordinator. This shall be appointed by the Pastoral head (lead pastor). The chairman or coordinator shall be answerable and give report to the Pastoral head (lead pastor).
- 4. A marriage committee shall have as its members those selected from the pastoral team or church workers. A member who isn't a worker in the church shouldn't be included in the committee except where not available.
- 5. The marriage committee members must be highly mature people. Medical experts and legal practitioners must be included in the committee except where not available.
- 6. A marriage committee shall have a secretary and PRO for documentation and passing of information to the committee members. The secretary and PRO can be voted or selected by

the committee members.

#### Duties of a Marriage Committee

- 1. A marriage committee is to examine the intending couple in alignment with scriptural standards for marriage.
- A marriage committee is to organize counseling sessions and marriage seminars for intending couples. They may involve couples with good testimony to share experience and wisdom with intending couples.
- 3. A marriage committee is to examine the health status of an intending couple. They must confirm the genotypes of the intending couple.
- 4. A marriage committee must receive written consent from the intending couple's families.
- 5. A marriage committee must give and receive references in a situation where one of the parties involved is not a member of the church.
- A marriage committee shall present the intending couple to the pastoral head (lead pastor) for approval before the final counseling or seminar.
- 7. The marriage committee must see to visit the house of the intending couple (groom's house) to confirm their accommodation. The intending couple must have a modest accommodation

- in readiness for their marriage life. Where they noticed the accommodation isn't conducive, they should advise the intending couple to be patient and have a good accommodation.
- 8. A marriage committee shall give annual reports to the pastoral head.
- 9. The marriage committee shall organize a wedding rehearsal for intending couple a week to their wedding. This should be coordinated by the wedding coordinator and his assistant.
- 10. A marriage committee shall have a three years' renewable tenure only once except in a situation that appointment isn't tenure based.
- 11. When Pastors are transferred, they are expected to work with the existing marriage committee till the tenure of the committee expires. The only exceptions is where the pastor see the need for change and transitioning.

## Intending Couples and the Marriage Committee

This session explains the process intending couples and marriage committee must engage for effectiveness and success.

1. It is expected that the intending couple must be in relationship for nothing less than three months before informing the marriage commit-

- tee. The whole process of relationship and marital process shouldn't be less than six months. If they are already in relationship for three months, they will use extra two months with the marriage committee and use one month or more for preparation for their wedding. These months altogether make six months.
- 2. It is expected of the intending couple to write a letter to the church through the marriage committee about their marriage at least three months to the proposed date of their marriage.
- 3. In a situation where the intending couple attend different denomination, the pastor of the groom shall write a letter to the pastor of the bride where they intend to wed immediately the marriage process commence. The groom receives the letter and take it to the pastor of the bride through the marriage committee of the bride's church.
- 4. It is expected of the intending couple to fill the marriage questionnaire form presented by the marriage committee to get the details of the couple.
- 5. It is expected that the intending couple have full attendance by attending all meetings schedule by the committee.
- 6. Wedding preparation can only commence after the committee have gotten the approval of both

parents, attended all counseling meetings and have wedding date approved by the church leadership. Marriage invitation should not be printed until the marriage committee approves it.

- 7. The intending couple should be presented to the church three or two Sundays before actual wedding date.
- 8. In a situation that the intending couple are in different countries, the marriage committee may organize a virtual session.

#### Documents to be Reviewed

- 1. Parental Consent forms
- 2. Medical test results
- 3. Marriage Registry Notification / Certificate
- 4. Reference letter by the pastor (where couple don't attend the same church)

#### Details of Meetings

The whole marriage process is to take place within two months. The marriage committee and counselor is to meet with intending couple six times—three times per month, the marriage committee, twice, and the counselor, once. An exception of a special meeting session may be made

by the counselor in order to address specific matters that requires time. This special meeting should not hold more than twice.

# Order of First Meeting with the Marriage Committee

- 1. Opening prayers 5 mins
- 2. Welcome charge by the chairman 10 mins
- 3. Introduction of the intending couples in the house 10 mins
- 4. Reading of application letter from intending couple to the committee 5 mins
- 5. Verbal introduction of the intending couple by themselves 10 mins
- 6. Marriage seminars 1 hour
- 7. Assigning a counselor to each intending spouse5 mins
- 8. Special prayers for all intending couples present at the meeting 10 mins
- 9. Announcement of next meeting 5 mins
- 10. Benediction 2 mins

#### **Notes:**

1. The chairman with the secretary should have assigned and attach members of the committee who are to serve as counselors to intending

- spouses. This should be done before they attend the meeting.
- 2. The intending spouses should meet their counselors same day. The counselor can fix his or her house for the counseling. Aside their house, they may use the church premise or have it online too.
- 3. The marriage seminars shall be two topics to be taken by two different members of the committee. Each topic is for 30 minutes.
- 4. It should be announced that the 2nd meeting will hold between the intending spouse and a counselor. So, the committee won't meet for the 2nd meeting.

# Order of 3rd and 5th Meeting with the Marriage Committee

- 1. Opening prayers 5 mins
- 2. Welcome charge by the chairman 10 mins
- 3. Intending couples should share how they have been helped through counseling and seminars10 mins
- 4. Brief reports from the counselors 10 mins
- 5. Marriage seminars 1 hour
- 6. Special prayers for all intending couples present at the meeting 10 mins
- 7. Announcement of next meeting 5 mins

#### 8. Benediction – 2 mins

#### Notes:

- 1. The brief reports from counselors isn't to disclose confidential matters but to state wisely areas his or her counselee need to improve. The counselor must be careful of criticism.
- 2. It is expected that all confidential matters should be handled by the counselor but when the counselor find it difficult to handle a situation, he can relate with the chairman of the marriage committee or refer to intending spouse to a professional.
- 3. Announcement should be made that the 4th meeting shall be between the intending spouse and the counselor.

#### Order of Last Meeting with Marriage Committee

- 1. Opening prayers 5 mins
- 2. Welcome charge by the chairman 10 mins
- 3. Feedbacks from counselors 10 mins
- 4. Marriage seminars 1 hour
- 5. Intending couples appreciation 10 mins
- 6. Announcements 10 mins
- 7. Special prayers for all intending couples present at the meeting 10 mins

#### 8. Benediction – 2 mins

#### **Notes:**

- 1. The announcement should carry the wedding date
- 2. The announcement should state the date for wedding rehearsal

## Marriage Seminar

Since there shall be six meetings within two months, two of the meetings shall be between intending spouse and a counselor. A female counselor is attached to a fiancée while a male counselor is attached to the fiancé. The counselors and intending couple meet twice out of the six meetings.

The other four meetings shall be between the marriage committee and the intending couple. In a situation that there are many intending couples in the church, they should be divided into batches and all intending couples in a batch should assemble for four meetings with the marriage committee.

For all the meeting with the marriage committee, there shall be seminars. The seminars shall have eight sessions for two months.

### Marriage Seminar Topics

These shall be taken for 30 minutes each by members of the marriage committee.

#### Week One

- 1. God's plans and purposes for marriage
- 2. Home setting and Parenting

#### Week Three

- 1. Relationship with in-laws
- 2. Finance in Home

#### Week Five

- 1. Sex in Marriage
- 2. Family Management

#### Week Six

- 1. Communication in the Home
- 2. Question and Answer

#### On Health Issues

If both parties are not medically compatible, they should not wedded. however, after counseling them, if they insist that their faith will see them through, then, marriage can be conducted.

The committee must ensure that a written undertaking must be obtained from the intending couple of their intention to continue with the marriage after being counseled.

### Wedding Policy

This part should be read to the intending couple at the first meeting with the marriage committee. The intending couple are expected to be aware of the church wedding policy. A copy of this wedding policy should be made available for intending couple to read. I will counsel a pastor to make this wedding policy available to the youths of the church.

#### Note:

The wedding policy should be read and explained by the wedding coordinator or his assistant.

# Rebirth Global Church Wedding Policy

"For this cause, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

"Let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner." 1 Corinthians 14:40

Dear Bride and Groom,

CONGRATULATIONS! You are now engaged and planning your wedding day. We at Rebirth Global Church are rejoicing with you and thankful to God that He has brought you together to share the joys and blessings of Christian marriage. Be assured of our prayers on your behalf as you eagerly anticipate and make arrangements for your "special day".

Our dear Pastor and the congregation of Rebirth Global Church (Location) are committed to your lifetime success as husband and wife. Experience has taught us that certain principles and guidelines, when followed, will contribute to the success of your wedding and marriage. Our excellent premarital counseling program, based on God's Word, and the able assistance of our experienced Wedding Coordinator in planning your ceremony will be of great benefit to you.

The "WEDDING POLICY" shows the details of

the steps necessary to ensure that your wedding ceremony will be conducted in a Christ-like, orderly, and edifying manner.

Thank you for carefully reading these guidelines and complying with them. It is our distinct privilege and joy to serve you through the personnel and facilities of Rebirth Global Church.

You are blessed forever.

Yours indeed, Niyi Makinde (Name of Pastor)

### 1. The Wedding

The Christian marriage ceremony is one of the most sacred and beautiful of all the services offered by the church. More than a social occasion, this ceremony is a worship service where God is glorified and people are edified. Two persons, in the supportive company of their loved ones and friends, enter into a covenant of faith and love with God and each other. "Two become one" through their union in Jesus Christ.

Our church strives to make every wedding a meaningful and memorable event. In order for you to experience a worshipful, spiritually focused, scripturally ordered ceremony, you are encouraged to make thorough preparations. Planning and preparation are vital elements to the success of one of the most significant moments of your life —your wedding day!

With these goals in mind, the following procedures have been established and will be followed in arranging weddings at Rebirth Global Church.

#### 1a. Membership Requirement

Weddings will be performed only when either the bride or the groom or parents or legal guardians of the bride or groom are members in good standing of the Church (except when otherwise decided by the lead pastor.)

#### 1b. Pre-Marriage Counseling Requirement

Everyone who has met the membership requirement and who is officially engaged will write an application letter to the marriage committee and be prepared to meet the committee. The marriage committee then connect the intending couple with counselors and wedding coordinators. The intending couple are expected to attend the meeting of the committee and also meet with their respective counselors.

The purpose of this procedures and process is to

become acquainted, discuss personal background, family history, life experience, discern motivation for the marriage, share the biblical basis for Christian marriage, and to lay out the expectations and requirements for the six weeks marital and counseling sessions.

At the conclusion of the whole marital procedures, the marriage committee will give report to the pastor and the pastor will either approve or disapprove the couple's request for wedding at the Church.

The marriage committee determines the schedules of meetings.

All couples desiring to be married at the Church must successfully go through and complete the process stated by the marriage committee before the pastor can conduct the wedding ceremony.

## 2. Selection of Wedding Date and Time

Upon approval by the marriage committee and the Pastor, then, and only then, may the intending couple request a date and time. The request will be submitted to the marriage committee secretary who will check with the Wedding Coordinator to see if the date is available.

All arrangement for the wedding rehearsal, marriage ceremony, and reception should be scheduled as far in advance as possible. No date will be made

that conflict with regularly scheduled services or activities of the Church.

Weddings will not be scheduled on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, Good Friday through Easter, or on national holidays or holiday weekends. These holidays include Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and New Year's.

Regarding Saturday weddings:

- Cannot conflict with the Church's master calendar of events.
- No weddings will be conducted on recognized holidays.
- Weddings and receptions must conclude no later than 8:00 pm.

# 3. Wedding Rehearsal

A week to the wedding, the proposed couple should be taken through a session of wedding rehearsal which should include briefings by a member of the committee on aspects of the ceremony such as where to sit before and after joining, unveiling the bride, repeating the marriage vows, parents handing over daughter to groom.

This should be coordinated by the wedding Coordinator and his or her assistant.

# Marriage Questionnaire for Intending Couples

- 1. Three passport photographs each
- 2. Pre-marriage medical test results
- 3. Each intending couple parental consent.
- 4. Submission of reference letter (where they don't attend the same church).

#### Note:

- 1. Each of the intending couple should fill the marriage committee questionnaire form below. It should be noted that this form is by the committee. There is another form that the intending couple wlll fill which will be given by each counselor to intending spouse.
- 2. Two photocopies of this form should be done

after it is filled. The original form should be with the marriage committee probably with the secretary. While the first photocopy should be with the chairman marriage committee and the other should be sent to the Pastor's office for filing.

\* \* \*

# REBIRTH GLOBAL CHURCH MARRIAGE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BACHELORS & SPINSTERS BY THE MARRIAGE COMMITTEE

Name:

T (diffe:
Today's Date:
Date of Birth:
Age:
Address:
Phone Numbers (Land & Mobile):
Email Address:
Nationality: State of Ori-
gin:
Visa Status (if applicable):
Location/Area:
Denomination:
Local Pastor:
Present work in the Church:
Present Occupation:
Testimony of salvation (where you got saved with
date):
Have you ever been married?
If so, what is the present status?
No. of Children (if applicable):
What physical preparations have you made con-
cerning marriage?
1
2

3
Has God spoken to you of His will for you in
marriage?
If so complete rest of Section 12:
a. Give testimony of your leading:
b. Name of the person:
c. Location/Area:
d. Have you informed your Leader about this?
e. Have you informed the person?
If so, when?
f. Who else have you informed?
g. What has linked you with the person before (e.g.
lived in same area/town, attended the same school,
etc.)?
***
Medicals
a. Blood Group (A+, A-, B+, B-, AB+, AB-, etc):
b. Rhesus factor 'D' (Positive or Negative):
c. Genotype (AS, AA, SS, etc):
d. HIV 1 / 2 (Negative or Positive):
e. Hepatitis B (Negative or Positive):
Signature:

# Preparing for the Wedding

This should be presented and taught to the intending couple.

- 1. In preparation for the marriage, intending couples are admonished to create time for prayers and fasting towards their marriage.
- 2. The marriage committee must approve the traditional or engagement ceremony before the intending couple proceed to do that.
- 3. The intending couple must be conscious of their dressing during their wedding. All dressing must be modest. The committee should state the don'ts of dressing
- 4. The intending couple are expected to attend the wedding rehearsal which shall be organized by the marriage committee a week to the wedding.
- 5. The intending couple should be mandated by

the marriage committee not to borrow money to do wedding. They should plan their wedding within their means. They should be careful not to be pressured to do what will lure them into debts.

- 6. The intending couple should have a befitting accommodation in readiness for their marriage.
- 7. Anything sexual immorality must be far from the intending couple. They should abstain from all form of sexual activity until formally declared married in the church.

#### Books to be Recommended for Reviews

#### Two perspectives are here:

- 1. The leadership of a ministry should identify six books all intending couple must read before wedding. A church with multiple branches should ensure all Areas or Districts follow the dictate of the church leadership in this area. The counselor should tell each to read three books in a month.
- 2. For a church that is newly started, the counselors can be mandated to recommend six books that will be used for reviews. For a newly started ministry, it is advised that the lead pastor and his wife become the counselors

to intending couple, except when there are others mature people who are married and can handle such responsibilities.

## **Duration of Counseling**

Counseling is for two months. There should be at least two sessions of counseling. At least two hours should be dedicated to each.

## A Main Part of the Counseling

The counselor should freely discuss sexual matters with the intending spouse. If both are both virgins, certain orientation should be given to them on how to go about their sexual activities. In other words, sex education is an essential part of the counseling. The counselor should be able to freely share experience with the intending spouse.

# Outcome of the Counseling

At the end of the pre-marital counseling sessions with each intending couple, a letter of recommendation for marriage should be written to the Pastoral Head (lead pastor). The letter should be a good report and include details of how the counseling went. The letter should state area(s) of emphasis of

the counseling, observation made about the couple and how they were helped along those area(s).

## Marriage Counseling

The moment the marriage application is submitted to the marriage committee, each of the intending couple should be assigned to a specific counselor for pre-marital counseling. The secretary of the committee should inform each of the intending couple the counselor each will meet.

Note: A female counselor should be assigned to the female intending spouse while a male counselor should be assigned to the male intending spouse.

The counselor should first serve the questionnaire in the following chapter.

# Pre-Marriage Questionnaire Served by the Counselor

Note: The counselor serves this questionnaire so as to have an overview and basic information about his or her counselee. The form must be given days ahead to be filled before the first counseling meeting. The counselor may send a copy of this questionnaire to be printed or photocopied so that the counselee may fill it ahead before the first meeting.

\* \* \*

# COUNSELOR'S PRE-MARRIAGE QUESTIONNAIRE

# I. ARE YOU QUALIFIED TO MARRY?

A. Are you on the same level spiritually (II Corinthi-
ans 6:14-16)?
1. Born again? For how
long?
2. Baptized in the Spirit?
When?
3. Baptized in water?
When?
4. Living a life committed to Christ and the service
of others?
5. Committed to a local church?
Where?
B. Give three reasons why you want to get married:  1
C. Are you qualified to get married?
1. Do you have a past marriage relationship that
is not biblically resolved?
2. Any children from a past relationship?

5. Is there a past marriage and divorce:	
4. If yes, was the divorce biblical?	
5. If yes, am I biblically free to marry?	
If unsure, explain your situation:	
D. What are the individual stands of your parents and spiritual leaders about your relationship and potential marriage? Check all that apply.  Mother (Eager / Reserved / Against)	
Father (Eager / Reserved / Against)	
Pastor / Elder (Eager / Reserved / Against)	
If any authority has reservations about the relationship, what are their concerns?	
E. Is it God's will for you to marry? (Comment on answers)	
1. Do you have the gift of singleness? (I Corinthi-	
ans 7:1-9, 17-40)	
2. Do you have the same long-term goals? (Amos	
3:3)?	
3. Does God have an active part in your relation-	
ship?	
4. Have you prayed sincerely about this relationship? What has God said?	
sinp: what has God sald?	

5. Would marriage hinder or help your usefulnes
to the Lord and fulfillment of His word? (Help/Hir
der)
If "hinder," in what way?
II. ARE YOU MATURE ENOUGH TO MARRY
A. Have you been able to solve problems biblically
1. What problems or disagreements have you had
during your courtship?
2. How did you resolve them?
3. Do you think that they are completely settled
now?
4. Do you think that either of you ever uses wrong
means to get your own way?
a. Is one a bully? Which
one?
b. Does one manipulate?
Which one?
c. Does one avoid facing problems?
Which one?
d. Do you let things slide until forgotten
e. Do you store up resentments?
f Does one of you sulk?

Which one?
g. Does one blameshift or make excuses?Which one?
5. Do you use biblical skills to solve problems?
a. Do you bring things up and talk them through?
b. Do you find it easy to express your true feelings to your partner?
c. Do you go to Christ for help?
d. Do you ask forgiveness for your failures?
e. Do you offer forgiveness to the other?
f. Do you pray together?
g. Do you keep lines of communication open?
B. Have you attained maturity in your relationship?
1. Does either manifest patterns of sin in their life?
2. Is one tempting the other sexually?
Which one?
3. Is one critical toward the other in a verbal or
physical way? Which one?
4. Do you lie to the other in this relationship?

Never/Occasionally/Often	
5. Does one spend money impulsively?	
Which one?	
6. Do you have a good relationship with your	
parents?	
7. Do you have any extreme fears?	
8. Do you detect strong feelings of jealousy in your	
partner? Is this a problem	
for you?	
·	
III. ARE YOU WILLING AND READY TO	
"LEAVE" OTHER ATTACHMENTS?	
A. Are you willing to emotionally break away from	
your parents?	
B. Are you able to financially break away from your	
parents?	
C. Are you willing to put the relationship before all	
other possessions?	
D. Are you willing to give up the right to make	
independent decisions?	
E. Are you willing to adjust your relation-	
ship with other singles of the opposite sex?	

# IV. ARE YOU READY TO "CLEAVE" TO EACH OTHER?

other?
B. Are your lives going in the same direction?  1. What are my career goals?
2. What are my ministry goals?
3. What are the ministry goals of your desired
spouse?
C. What basic lifestyle are you expecting? Summa-
rize in a brief paragraph
1. What income level are you expecting?
2. What work hours are you expecting?
3. What television habits are you expecting?
4. What types of entertainment are you expecting?
5. What types of recreation are you expecting?
6. What kind of church life/commitment are you

expecting?
7. What church do you plan to attend?
D. Do vou ognoombiloombigolly?
D. Do you agree philosophically?
1. Do you have any theological differences?
If no, in what areas?
2. Do you agree on male/female roles in the home?
3. Do you both plan on working outside the home?
4. What will be your financial priorities?
5. Do you want to have children?
6. What are your views on contraceptives and
which partner should use them?
7. Do you agree on styles of child discipline?
O TATE 4: 1 1: 1 : 2
8. What is your attitude toward credit buying?
9. How do you envision your relationship with
relatives?
10. Are there any factors that might make the
relationship difficult?

## V. ARE YOU READY TO ACCEPT EACH OTHER

<b>JUST AS YOU ARE?</b>	
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# VI. DETAILS ABOUT YOU POTENTIAL SPOUSE

Answer "Always," "Sometimes," or "Rarely" Answer "Always," "Sometimes," or "Rarely"

1.	Has a strong Christian character
2.	Fully trustworthy
3.	Brings out the best in others
4.	Has a servant spirit
5.	Is a hard worker
6.	Is self-sacrificing for others
7.	Is financially responsible
8.	Plans ahead
9.	Has a good self-image
10.	Is generous
11.	Is courteous to others
12.	Builds others up
13.	Is fun to be around
14.	Is generally optimistic
15.	Is complimentary
16.	Is easy to talk to
17.	Is faithful on the job
18.	Respects authority
19.	Not easily/quickly angered
20.	Is calm under pressure
21.	Is sexually driven

#### VII. DETAILS ABOUT YOU

Answer "Always," "Sometimes," or "Rarely"

1.	Has a strong Christian character
2.	Fully trustworthy
3.	Brings out the best in others
4.	Has a servant spirit
5.	Is a hard worker
6.	Is self-sacrificing for others
7.	Is financially responsible
8.	Plans ahead
9.	Has a good self-image
10.	Is generous
11.	Is courteous to others
12.	Builds others up
13.	Is fun to be around
14.	Is generally optimistic
15.	Is complimentary
16.	Is easy to talk to
17.	Is faithful on the job
18.	Respects authority
19.	Not easily/quickly angered
20.	Is calm under pressure
21.	Is sexually driven

B. If your intended spouse never changes, are you willing to accept them as they presently are?

\_\_\_\_\_

C.	A	re	y	ou	C	onf	ide	nt	that	-	this	is	the	right
tim	ıe	fo	r	yοι	1	to	be	C	onte	m	plati	ng	mar	riage?
								A	Antic	iŗ	ated	we	ddin	g date:

\* \* \*

Based on the details filled in the questionnaire, the counselor should do the following:

- 1. Discuss issues related to background, socioeconomic level, maturity, character and communication, etc.
- Teach the intending spouse about communication skill. The counselor should teach intending spouse about the benefit of listening skills. A spouse should listen to his or her spouse.
- 3. Teach the challenges that come with adjustments when two people of different background, family, education, exposure come together to have a home.
- 4. Recommend books and messages that will help the intending spouse. Recommend professionals like doctors and lawyers who can provide detailed professional advice if need be.

- 5. Enlighten the intending spouse about the dangers of borrowing for wedding.
- 6. Review a minimum of six books within the two months. The intending spouse should have been told to read the book ahead and review chapters with rich points.
- 7. Answer troubling questions in the heart of intending spouse.

# II

# Orders of Services for Weddings

There are three orders of programs in this book. You can always choose a preferred one.

# Order of Service for Marriage 1

- 1. Arrival of the Groom
- 2. Opening Prayer 3 mins
- 3. Praises 7 mins
- 4. Processional Hymn for Bridal Train and the Bride 5 mins
- 5. Welcome Charge by a Delegated Pastor 5 mins
- 6. Bible Reading 3 mins
- 7. Declaration 10 mins
- 8. Joining & Blessing 5 mins
- 9. Choir Special Number 12 mins
- 10. Sermon 20 mins
- 11. Signing of The Marriage Register 10 mins
- 12. Blessing The Bride & Bridegroom 5 mins
- 13. Announcements 3 mins
- 14. Recessional Hymn (The newly wedded will move out first while the congregation will wait

to share the grace) - 7 mins

# 15. Photographs

Note: The time above shows 1 hr, 35 mins. We must not use beyond 1 hr, 45 mins.

# Bible Reading

You may choose any of the following for the Bible reading. The Bible reading is just for 3 minutes.

- 1. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- 2. Genesis 2:23-25

#### Declaration

Before sealing the marriage, the officiating pastor shall declare:

Dear	ly bel	oved,	we	are gat	here	ed he	re today	
before	God	and	His	people	to	join	Brother	
and Sister								
in Holy Matrimony.								

Marriage is an honorable status ordained by God Himself before the fall of Man and it symbolizes the Union between Christ and the Church. That Christ sanctions Marriage is evidenced by the fact that He honored an invitation to a wedding in Canaan of Galilee and He performed His first Miracle there. Also, Apostle Paul pointed out that marriage is an honorable thing between a man and a woman and should be kept pure. Therefore, marriage should not be rushed into to satisfy the carnal lust. It has to be approached with dignity and the fear of the Lord.

Reason for Marriage:

- First, marriage is for mutual fellowship. This is an agreement that these two have reached as they are to be joined together.
- · Second, marriage is to check the sinful life of adultery so that those not gifted to be continent may marry and thus keep themselves holy as the body of Christ.
- Third, marriage is ordained for the purpose of procreating and having children that will fear the Lord, abide with the teachings of His words and glorify His Holy name.

Therefore, if anyone has any reason(s) why these two should not be joined in holy matrimony, such a person should mention it now. If there is none, let everybody remain silent on this marriage forever.

The officiating priest shall question the couple-to-be:

Now both of you should know that you cannot be joined contrary to the will of God. Therefore, does anyone of you have reason(s) why you should not be joined together in matrimony? *The pastor should pause for their answers.* 

The man's pledge to the officiating minister. The minister
shall ask thus:
Brother, do you take
this woman in marriage? Will you love her, honor
her; counsel her, as long as you both shall live? Will
you leave other women and cleave to her alone as
long as both of you shall live?
If the man agrees he should pledge thus: Yes, I do
you leave other women and cleave to her alone as long as both of you shall live?

Likewise the minister shall seek the woman's pledge thus:

Sister \_\_\_\_\_\_, do you take this man to be your husband so that both of you will live together according to the will of God concerning marriage? Will you love him, honor him, and cherish him throughout your life? Will you reject other men and cleave to him alone as long as you both shall live?

If the woman accepts she should pledge thus: Yes, I do

After this the officiating minister should ask the congregation:

Who gave away this woman in marriage?

The father or mother or any person chosen for the purpose comes forward to give the right hand of the lady to the officiating minister who in turn hands the lady over to the man.

# Making Arrangements

Holding the right hand of	f the woman, the man pledges
thus, saying after the min	ister:
I, Brother	, accept you,
Sister	, as my wife today, to
have and to hold, for be-	tter, in plenty, in health and
in all circumstances. I w	ill love you and cherish you
according to the will of	God, for the rest of my life,
in the name of the fathe	r, son and the Holy Spirit.
After this the woman h	olds the man's right hand and

After this the woman holds the man's right hand and declares, saying after the minister:

I, Sister \_\_\_\_\_\_, today accept you, Brother \_\_\_\_\_, as my husband, to have and to hold, for better, in plenty, in health and in all circumstances. I will cherish and obey you according to the will of God, for the rest of my life, in the name of the Father, son and the Holy Spirit.

Then the man gives the woman a new copy of the Holy Bible and both hold it together during which the husband shall repeat the following after the minister.

With this Holy Bible, which is the word of God, I marry you. I surrender myself to you and I will cherish you with all my love and possessions in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The minister then lays both hands on the new couple together and says:

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh, so they are no longer two but one flesh (Matthew 19:5-6). What therefore God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

As Brother \_\_\_\_\_\_ and Sister \_\_\_\_\_ have agreed to be joined in holy matrimony, even as they have confessed this before God and man and backed it up with the giving and receiving of the Holy Bible as an everlasting testament, I declare they should both live together as husband and wife as from today, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Note: Exchange of the wedding rings isn't included in the above section. This will take place in the next section of the program.

# Joining and Blessing

The priest conducting this should pray from his heart to God on behalf of the couple and release blessings on them as granted utterances. This should be very short as the time is just for 5 minutes.

# Suggested Hymns:

- 1. Great is thy faithfulness
- 2. To God be the glory
- 3. Blessed Assurance
- 4. Christ is our Cornerstone
- 5. The Solid Rock
- 6. Praise my soul the King of Heaven

#### Notes:

- 1. This program should not take more than 1 hr, 45 mins. The minister, bride and groom should arrive early to ensure a prompt start.
- 2. The wedding coordinator should hold a rehearsal with the people within a week to the ceremony. If available and accessible prior to the ceremony, the venue of the ceremony should be made for the rehearsal.
- 3. Seating arrangements of the relations of the bride and groom and their guest should be concluded prior to ceremony. Consultations should be held with the head usher (if possible) to ensure proper seating. (Seat the families & friends of the bride and groom on opposite sides of the sanctuary.)
- 4. Location of the signing of the register should be so identified.

- 5. When photograph and video could be taken should be so predetermined and announced just before the ceremony starts.
- 6. Announcements should be brief. This ceremony is not a regular church service. If possible restrict item to issues pertaining to the event such as photographs, receptions etc.
- 7. Parent of the bride and groom should be given special seating.
- 8. Groom enter the sanctuary before the bride, signifying that he is the covenant initiator.

It is the policy of the Church that the Pastor or the District Superintendent perform all weddings. The pastor should make invitations to other clergy persons.

The Church's Wedding Coordinator will assist in planning the ceremony, attend the rehearsal, wedding and reception to assure the smooth facilitation of the wedding. A meeting with the wedding coordinator should be scheduled no later than two (2) months prior to the wedding.

#### Order of Service in Detail

Praise and Worship should start 15 minutes before the commencement of the program.

The Bridegroom should have been on seat at least

15 minutes before the commencement of the service.

The Bride should be within the Church premises at least 15 minutes before the commencement of the service.

Processional Hymn: The new couple-to-be and the entire church should be educated that the father of the bride, or whoever is standing in his position, and the bride should begin to walk in from the beginning of the first stanza of the hymn.

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer should be for about 3 minutes.

Reading: This should be read by a very good reader in whatever language to be used.

Announcement: This should be done within 5 minutes.

Joining: This should take about 10 minutes

# Notes:

- 1. Unveiling the bride should be at the commencement of the solemnization before the declaration starts. The priest in charge of the declaration should tell the groom to unveil the face of the woman to confirm if she is the one.
- 2. During commitments to each other, the Couple should face each other but not the Pastor.
- 3. During commitments, the Couple should hold each other at the wrist but not at the Palm.

- 4. During the declaration of oath of marriage, only the voice of the Couple should be heard.
- 5. Immediately after the sealing of the couple's agreement with the Holy Bible, the Minister then prays intensely and sincerely for the Couple, while the Couple kneels down.
- 6. After getting up from their knees, the officiating Minister holds the Couple's right hands together, raising them up and say "For this cause shall a man leave his Father and Mother. and cleave to his Wife; And they two shall be one flesh; So then, they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. As Brother Sister and—(the Minister shall now use the Bridegroom's surname for both of them)—have agreed to be joined in holy matrimony, even as they have confessed this before God and man and backed it up with the giving and receiving of the Holy Bible as an everlasting testament, I say they should both live together as husband and wife in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

# Officiating Ministers

The presiding pastor shall decide ministers that will officiate at the event.

The intending couple shall submit the names of external ministers that will be officiating at the event.

The presiding or lead pastor shall delegate responsibility to each of the officiating ministers.

The presiding or lead pastor decide who will preach except in a situation where the intending couple humbly request the pastor to permit their preferred preacher to minister. In a situation that the intending couple request that an external minister be permitted to take the sermon, the presiding or lead pastor should permit that since it is their day.

However, in a church where multiple weddings take place at the same time, a preferred pastor can't be recommended to officiate.

# List of officiating ministers:

- Pastor in charge of the branch
- Pastor in charge of area
- Pastor in charge of zone
- · Pastor in charge of province
- Pastor in charge of region
- External or invited ministers

# The Printing of the Program Booklet

- 1. This should be bold.
- 2. The names of the couple should be written in full, that is, the first, second and last names of the bride and bridegroom.
- 3. There are churches that don't permit printing of the declaration of marriage content in the wedding program. Only the order of program is permitted to be printed. In such case, the order of program for that church or a book like this is used for reading the declaration content. However, there are other churches that permit printing of the content of the declaration. The decision is up to the leadership.

# Wedding Dress

Clothes that do not expose the nakedness of the couple (particularly that of the bride) should be worn. In other words, only clothes that will glorify God, whether native or foreign, should be worn. Moderation should be our watchword. (The wedding clothes should be certified okay by the pastor at least two weeks before the wedding). Also, the dressing of the best man and chief bridesmaid must be moderate and decent and must not expose the nakedness of either of them. Whoever defies this standard will be

disciplined.

# Pregnancy Test

The bride should go for a pregnancy test, at most, a week before the wedding.

# Who Does the Joining?

The joining should be done by an ordained pastor in the church. Any ordained pastor formally dressed may do the joining.

#### Sermon

This should be between 15 minutes and 20 minutes.

# Signing of the Register

The church has a marriage register.

Those to sign the register are as follows:

- 1. The bride and groom
- 2. The minister who performed the joining
- 3. Two representatives from the bride's family
- 4. Two representatives from the bridegroom's family

# Certificate of Marriage

All information about the wedding of the couple should get to the church headquarters two months before the wedding day.

The certificate of marriage should always come from the headquarters of the church and have the General Overseer as the superior authority signatory.

The Certificate is officially presented to the couple by the Pastor, on behalf of the General Overseer / President of Rebirth Global church before the end of the service.

Read the Part C of this book for more pastoral details.

Wedding Rehearsals:

The purpose of the wedding rehearsal is to be familiar with the Order of Service for wedding in Rebirth Global Church. This should be done at least one week before the wedding day.

# Carrying and Kissing

The bridegroom and bride are not allowed to carry or kiss each other during the church service. They may do that at the reception after church.

# Concerning Giving

There shall be no collection of offerings during the wedding ceremony. Offerings should not be taken during weddings.

However, you may take a special offering for the church building project. This way, the people know they are giving towards a project.

If you have no building project, then, you can't take such offerings. In this case, you may only take a thanksgiving offering. Now, unlike a naming ceremony where the offerings taken belong to the new born baby, the thanksgiving offering received during the wedding belongs to the church.

# Officiating Ministers' Honorarium

One of the reasons the thanksgiving offering is permitted to be received is to give honorarium to officiating ministers. However, this is not compulsory. But it is expected, if a thanksgiving offering is received, that a certain amount should be given to each officiating minister to cater for their transport expense. Some may receive it while some may give it back to the church. The honorarium is presented as a token for fueling and transport. The pastor may divide the whole thanksgiving offering into two – give 50% to the church and distribute the other 50%

as honorarium for all officiating ministers.

# The Sitting Arrangement for the Couple

Many ministers don't know this. Before joining the couple, the bride sits on the right side of the groom. Immediately, after they are joined, they change their seating positions. The bride moves to the left side of the groom—the former seat of the groom.

There are churches that say the sitting arrangement remains unchanged after joining, that is, the bride sits on the left side of the groom before and after joining. Well, I don't think there is an issue with that. But in our church, Rebirth Global Church, the sitting arrangement should change after joining. Before joining, the bride sits on the right and the groom, on the left. After joining, the bride sits on the left while the groom sits at the right.

# Order of Service for Marriage 2

for the
Solemenization of Christian Marriage

between
Brother <Full Name>
and
Sister <Full Name>

at <place and full address>
on Saturday, <date>
 at <time>

Name of preacher
Name of pastor-in-charge
Name of the general overseer
Name of each officiating minister

#### Introduction

The marriage union is the closest relationship that can exist between two human beings.

The uniting of two people in holy wedlock is a sacred event, therefore, the tendency to make it a time of hilarity and frivolity dishonors God. For this reason, everyone present will do all he or she can to make the ceremony impressive, sacred, dignified and solemn.

When two born-again believers know it is God's will for them to marry, they come together before God, before a minister and before witnesses to join their hearts and lives for as long as they shall live. They are united by God and become as one in His sight. They are joined together as Jesus is joined to the Church.

The world has the idea that marriage is simply a legal contract. Marriage is indeed a legal contract, but it is also a spiritual contract. There is an actual miracle that takes place when two born-again believers speak the words of faith and vow according to the word of God.

We welcome you to this solemn celebration.

May the miracle of God's love bring you into a place of union with the Father, union with the Son,

union with the Holy Spirit, and union with Christ's Body, the Church, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

# Program

- 1. Prelude: Organ or Piano Music
  - 2. Opening Prayer
  - 3. Congregational Hymn
  - 4. Scriptural Pronouncement
  - 5. Scripture Reading
  - 6. The Ceremony:
  - a. Giving of Bride
  - b. Scriptural Vows
  - c. Pronouncement
  - 7. Special Number
  - 8. Sermon
  - 9. Blessing of the Union
  - 10. Prayer
  - 11. Presentation of the Couple
  - 12. Announcements
  - 13. Recessional Hymn

#### 1. Prelude

### 2. Prayer

# 3. Congregational Hymn

(The bride shall be brought in when the last stanza of the congregational hymn is being sung)

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness (or Couple's Choice)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
 As Thou hast been Thou for ever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
- 3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
  Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
  Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
  Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

# 4. Scriptural Pronouncement

The couple to be united in marriage and the attendants will take their places before the minister, the bridegroom on the left, and the bride on the right of the minister, who then will say:

We are gathered here to join this couple in holy wedlock; and since we know that Almighty God is the Author of the institution of marriage, that by His word this holy relationship between man and woman was brought into existence, we do not hesitate to proceed according to the instructions given us in His Holy Bible and in accordance with the law of our country.

Obedience to the law of God always brings blessing even though we may be in temporal adversity and sorrow. Disobedience brings the displeasure of God, even in times of seeming prosperity and happiness. Therefore, our conduct before each other either as husbands, wives or unmarried individuals, must be regulated by God's law if we are to enjoy the supreme blessing of God upon our lives while we live here on earth.

Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, also endorsed the institution of marriage by attending and taking part in the marriage at Cana of Galilee. He further gave His approval to marriage, reminding us of some of its obligations and privileges when He said: "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

The Holy Spirit has also blessed marriage and has used its bond of love as an illustration of the much closer tie that binds the Church of Christ to her Bridegroom and Master, Jesus Christ. Speaking through the Apostle Paul and terming it one of the great mysteries of life, the Holy Spirit said, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord ... Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it ... For no man ever yet hateth his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the Church, for we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones."

### 5. Scripture Reading

The bible reading can be taken from any of the following:

- 1. Ephesians 5:22-32
- 2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-11
- 3. Genesis 2:23-25

# 6. The Ceremony

# 6a. Giving the Bride

The minister will then address himself to the Father who is giving the bride away and say:

*To Father:* Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Response: I do.

After this, the Father who gave the bride away will retire.

#### 6b. Vows

To Groom: **<First name>**, have you been born again and made a new creature by faith in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ?

Response: I have.

*To Bride:* **<First name>**, have you been born again and made a new creature by faith in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ?

Response: I have.

The minister will then place the right hand of the bride in the right hand of the bridegroom and turning to the bridegroom shall say:

To Groom: **<Groom's first name>**, do you take **<bride's first name>**, whose right hand you now hold, to be your lawfully wedded wife, and solemnly promise, God helping you, that you will be a true

and devoted husband to her; that you will love her even as Christ loves the Church, and honor, cherish protect and care for her, and to take her alone until God, by death, shall separate you?

Response: I do.

*Minister:* Then turn to her and make this profession of your faith:

I, **<groom's full name>**, according to the Word of God, leave my father and mother and join myself to you to be a husband to you. From this moment forward, we shall be one.

The minister turning to the bride shall say:

To Bride: **<Bride's first name>**, do you take **<groom's first name>**, whose right hand you now hold, to be your lawfully wedded husband, and solemnly promise, God helping you, that you will be a true and devoted wife to him; that you will submit yourself to him as unto the Lord, showing reverence to him as the head of this union; that you will love, honour, cherish and comfort him for the rest of your lives, and that you will keep yourself to him, and to him alone, until God, by death, shall separate you?

Response: I do.

*Minister:* Then turn to him and make this profession of your faith:

I, <Bride's full name>, according to the Word of God, submit myself to you, to be a wife to you. From this moment forward, we shall be one.

To Witnesses: Jesus said in the 18th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them OF my Father which is in heaven."

You are not here just because of tradition. You are here for a serious purpose to bear witness forever of the mystery of the union that takes place this day and to add your agreement before God to that which takes place.

Do not ever, ever, tamper with that agreement. From this day forward, regardless of what comes, you are in agreement with this union. Do not ever attempt in any way to cause it to be anything other than a happy union.

#### 6c. Pronouncement

To Groom and Bride: Join your right hands please.

A miracle took place when you made Jesus Christ your Lord and Saviour. The same power of God that raised Jesus Christ from the dead joined you to Jesus. I want you to understand that this day you are joined together and become one. The same power that joined you with Jesus when you made Him your Lord and Saviour has, this day, has joined you together.

Do not ever tamper with that union. Do not ever tamper with that miracle. You are one, never to be separated or divorced.

As a representative of Jesus Christ, before Almighty God and in the name of the Father, of His Son Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit of God, I now pronounce you as one together. You are now husband and wife.

From today, when you agree on things, they will come to pass. You have an awesome power at your disposal. You are going to notice a new realm of your life beginning because of a spiritual law that says one of you shall chase a thousand, and two of you shall put ten thousand to flight. From this time forward, your everyday life will be ten times more powerful spiritually than ever before.

To Congregation: In as much then as **<groom's first** name> and **<bri>believe** with all their hearts that it is the perfect will of God for them to be joined together in the holy bond of matrimony, have borne witness of this fact before God and this company, and have pledged their fidelity and love to each other, I, by virtue of the authority vested in me as a minister of the Gospel

of Jesus Christ, and by the laws of our country, now pronounce them husband and wife, in the name of the FATHER and of the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST.

# "WHAT THEREFORE GOD HATH JOINED TO-GETHER, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER"

- 7. Special Number by the Choir
- 8. Sermon

# 9. Blessing of the Union

Galatians Chapter 3 says that Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us, so that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, that we might be heirs of the promise of the Spirit.

First Peter Chapter 3 says a man and his wife are heirs together of the grace of life.

According to Deuteronomy Chapter 28,

"All these blessings will come on you and overtake you, if you will hearken unto the voice of the Lord your God: Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest

in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face; they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto: and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he has sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them."

#### 10. Prayer

### 11. Presentation to the Congregation

To Congregation: Ladies and Gentlemen, I present to you **Brother and Sister <family name>** 

- 12. Announcements
- 13. Recessional Hymn

# The Solid Rock (or Couple's Choice)

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

- When darkness seems to hide His face,
   I rest on His unchanging grace;
   In every high and stormy gale,
   My anchor holds within the vale.
- 3. His oath, His covenant, His blood,

Support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne.

# Order of Service for Marriage 3

- 1. Arrival of the Groom
  - 2. Opening Prayer 3 mins
  - 3. Praises 7 mins
- 4. Processional Hymn for Bridal Train and the Bride 5 mins
  - 5. Welcome Charge by a Delegated Pastor 5 mins
  - 6. Marriage Solemnization 20 mins:
  - a. Giving of the Bride
  - b. Charge to the Bride and Groom
  - c. Charge to the Congregation
  - d. Profession of Vows
  - e. Exchange of Rings
  - f. Pronouncement
  - g. Communion
  - h. Pastoral Blessing of the Union
  - 7. Choir Ministration 10 mins
  - 8. Sermon 20 mins

- 9. Signing of The Marriage Register 10 mins
- 10. Thanksgiving
- 11. Announcements 3 mins
- 12. Recessional Hymn (The newly wedded will move out first while the congregation will wait to share the grace) 7 mins
  - 13. Photographs

Details of marriage solemnization are stated below:

# 6. Marriage Solemnization

# 6a. Giving of the Bride:

(The minister instruct the father of the bride or his representative to stand before his daughter)

To the father of the bride: Who gives this bride in marriage?

Response: I do

Minister to the father of the bride: Please take the bride, your daughter, by the right hand and hand her over to the groom.

To the father: Please go back to your seat.

# To the congregation:

May I request the congregation to stand up as we go before the Lord in prayer:

Our most gracious heavenly father, we thank You

for all the privileges of being in the body of Christ. We have come together to watch the miracle of Your love and the power of Your Spirit in the lives of these people. We give you the praise, the honor and the glory for the power of the Holy in our lives to bring us into a place of union with the Holy Spirit and union with one another. We thank You for it in Jesus name. Amen.

The congregation may please take their seats.

### 6b. Charge to the bride and groom

As I read the scripture from the book of Ephesians 5:22-32. I want you to both (all of you) to pay very close attention to the words stated there.

They are God's word that the Holy Spirit will honor as we stand on them in faith. The world has the idea that marriage is simply a legal contract (we do not make light of that); but at the same time, it is a spiritual contract. When the word of God between two believers is spoken, the power of God goes into operation. There is an actual miracle that takes place when the faith of these two (precious) people is released in God's power. God honors their faith and brings them into union together.

With these thoughts in mind, listen very careful to these words.

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

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.

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

# 6c. Charge to the Congregation

In the eyes of Almighty God, these (two) precious people are washed by the blood of the Lamb - Jesus Christ. They have prayed and before the Lord God Himself, they believe with all their hearts that it is the perfect will of God for them to be joined in marriage. They have made their decision, so from now until the end of the age, I charge you to do everything in your power to see they this union remains solid, strong, happy and prosperous.

### 6d. Profession of Vows

*To Groom:* Do you take the bride as your wife, as your own flesh, to love her even as Christ loves the church, to protect her, care for her the rest of your lives? (If you do, say, Yes, I do)

Response: Yes, I do

(Then turn to her, take her by the right hand and make this profession of faith)

The groom:

I \_\_\_\_\_ according to the word of God, leave my father and my mother, and I join myself to you, to love you and to be husband to you, from this moment forward, we shall be one.

To the bride: Do you take the groom as your husband,

submitting yourself to him as unto the Lord showing reverence to him as the head of this union for the rest of your lives? (If you do, say Yes, I do)

Response: Yes, I do

(Then turn to him and make this profession of your faith)

The bride:

I \_\_\_\_\_ according to the word of God, submit myself to you, to be wife to you. From this moment forward, we shall be one.

# 6e. Exchange of Rings

The minister requests for the rings and offers the following prayers:

Heavenly Father, I sanctify these rings in your holy name and declare Your blessings upon them for endless experience of love between the couple in Jesus name.

The ring stands as a symbol of marital identity. May this ring therefore link you to the covenant blessings of holy matrimony.

To be said by the Bride and Groom one after the other while the ring is placed at the tip of the fourth finger of the left hand:

This is a token of my love and the sign of the vows we have made today in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Now slide the ring fully into the finger.

#### 6f. Pronouncement

To bride and groom: Join your right hands, please.

As a representative of God the Father, His Son Jesus and of the Holy Spirit of God. I now pronounce you One - together as husband and wife.

You can remove your wife's veil.

#### 6g. Communion

At this point, the minister stands by the communion table and blesses the communion.

It is important that in these first moments together you honor the Lord at His table. Jesus said, This is my body, broken for you, eat of it.

His precious body bore your sickness and carried your disease. Each of you in the name of Jesus Christ has the God-given faith and power to ward-off sickness and diseases. Through His broken body, you have received into your life the awesome power of the Almighty God.

(Gives the bread to couple.)

Jesus also said this is my blood that ratifies the covenant. Drink of my blood and as often as you drink it, do it in remembrance of me.

(Gives the cup to the couple.)

#### 6h. Pastoral Blessings of the Union

The Pastor steps forward and pronounces the covenant blessings of Deuteronomy 28:1-14 on the couple and he lays his right hand on them without any further pronouncement.

## 6i. Presentation to the Congregation

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the newly wedded couple, Mr and Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ (mention the husband's surname).

# III Vital Details

# **Essential Details for Pastors**

#### 1. Encourage the Couple to Go to the Registry

This will grant them access to being married legally and acknowledged by the government as a wedded couple.

#### 2. Create a Church Marriage Certificate

A church should be registered with the government of the nation. For example, a church in Nigeria should register with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

The moment the church is registered, the church's authority has the legal right to create a marriage certificate that will be presented to couples at their weddings. Let me just share the insight here. I shouldn't share it, but I believe that someone in months or years ahead will read this and praise the Lord and pray for me for writing this book. Here is

it. To create a church marriage certificate, do one of these two.

You may seek out other churches' marriage certificates and copy their styles. You may ask married people who received a marriage certificate from their church to show you their certificate and get a picture of how yours should be designed too. You should note that the marriage certificate of your church must bear the church's registration number as given by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). You have to understand that there are couples who won't bother to go to the registry but will only come to the church. As long as your church is registered with the government, your church has the right to present a marriage certificate. I counsel couples to take the marriage certificates given them by their church seriously. The only church that doesn't have the right to create and present a marriage certificate is such that isn't registered with the government.

The second way through which you may create a marriage certificate is to get the certificate presented by the government at the registry and copy their style. You should replace the government's details with the church's name, address and registration number as received by the Corporate Affairs Commission. I believe with these two insights, a pastor should be able to know what to do.

The marriage certificate should be presented to the couple before the congregation after they sign the marriage register. Many churches don't give marriage certificates but only ensure couples sign the marriage register. In a way, I believe the church marriage activities aren't complete without the presentation of a marriage certificate. Many don't present marriage certificate because they believe that the couple should have received it at the registry. Well, maybe because I am highly gifted with church administration, my view is different. Well, I believe an effective church administration should present marriage certificate.

You see, in Africa, both the marriage certificate and register made available in the church were copied from the government. Governments started it before the church adopted it. In the Jewish system, Moses was enlightened by God to create all these procedures. In the Bible, you will see the mention of the certificate of divorce (Deut. 24:1, 3, Isaiah 50:1, Matthew 5:31). So, if there is a certificate of divorce, that shows there is a certificate of marriage. You see that the issuing of certificates is even found in the Old Testament and in the life of the Israelites.

The certificate given at the registry is a proof that the governmental authorities wed them. The certificate given at the church is a proof that spiritual authorities wed them. Well, there is nothing wrong in having one, but the couple can have the two, it will be very good.

# 3. The Church Should Have a Marriage Register

The marriage register should be one in a country, except if the church will break it into regions. In that case, each regional headquarters will have a marriage register that capture the details of everyone that wed in that church.

The Marriage register should capture the name and signature of the following:

- 1. The groom
- 2. The bride
- 3. The groom's parents father and mother (or representatives)
- 4. The bride's parents father and mother (or representatives)
- 5. The officiating pastor (the senior or lead pastor)
- 6. The chairman of the marriage committee

In all, six people are expected to sign the marriage register as a proof that the wedding was done in the church on the day stated.

The church marriage register should contain spaces for the people listed above. A space for their name and signature should be created.

### 4. Presentation of the Marriage Certificate

After the marriage register has been filled, the marriage certificate should be presented by the pastor to the couple before the congregation.



# About the Author

Niyi Makinde is an apostle, author and crusader. He is the author of hundreds of books on multiple subjects. He writes with high inspiration and creative wisdom. Great leaders recommend his books. As a minister, he is widely known for healings and miracles.

Apostle Niyi Makinde is the pioneer and president of Rebirth Global Church, a network of churches across the globe. He is also the pioneer of Connect Global, a larger body of churches and ministries across the globe. He hosts the annual Connect Confluence, a global gathering of many believers, various churches and ministries.

Niyi Makinde is highly esteemed and respected by great leaders. He is known for simplicity, integrity and uncommon wisdom. Many great leaders consider him one of the wisest and greatest among men. He is a father figure and oversight over many churches, ministries and Christian networks.

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• https://niyimakinde.com

# Also by Niyi Makinde

Apostle Niyi Makinde has written many other insightful and powerful books, among which are:

- 1. Divine Instructions
- 2. 12 Laws of Divine Instructions
- 3. Breaking Life Code
- 4. The Revolutionary Apostle
- 5. The Power to Prosper
- 6. The Power to Become
- 7. 53 Laws of Excellence
- 8. Church Shift
- 9. Business Sense
- 10. Dealing with Human Enemies
- 11. Wisdom for All-Round
- 12. Wisdom Power
- 13. Prayer Force (1)
- 14. Multiply
- 15. Tithing
- 16. You Are Different
- 17. Phronesis for Dating
- 18. Dating, Marriage and Sex
- 19. Managing Divine People
- 20. The Power to Get Wealth
- 21. Spiritual Fatherhood
- 22. Understanding Honor
- 23. Flourish And Grow (1)

- 24. Faith Dimension (1)
- 25. Ministry Laws (1)
- 26. Secrets to Supernatural (Financial) Abundance
- 27. Running like the Deer
- 28. Prayer Force (2)
- 29. Making Things Happen
- 30. You Are a Seer
- 31. 79 Insights Into Favor
- 32. New Creation
- 33. Prayer Education
- 34. 20 Facts about the Human Spirit
- 35. Supernatural Visions
- 36. Understanding Church Systems
- 37. 11 Facts about the Human Mind
- 38. The Holy Spirit
- 39. Dominion in the Realm of Abundance
- 40. Soul Winning Manual
- 41. Maintaining Sound Health
- 42. Faith for Abundance
- 43. New Levels
- 44. Wisdom for Abundance
- 45. The Power of Meditation
- 46. Understanding Supernatural Dreams
- 47. Stop Multiplying in Affliction
- 48. Communication Ethics in Ministry
- 49. Ministry Ethics (1)
- 50. Warfare for Honor
- 51. Wave of Increase

- 52. Praise for Favor
- 53. Ministers Training Manual
- 54. Breaking Joy Code
- 55. The Power of His Name
- 56. You Are a wonder
- 57. Roar and Soar
- 58. The Minister and the Ministry
- 59. Grace Factor
- 60. Subdue and Dominate
- 61. Flourish and Grow (2)
- 62. Overtake
- 63. Victory over Afflictions
- 64. The Power of Patience
- 65. Stand out to Step out
- 66. Shining like the Sun
- 67. 30 Channels of Wealth
- 68. Breaking into Laughter
- 69. The Power to Dominate
- 70. Enjoying Health
- 71. Stronger than the stronger
- 72. Battle for Wealth
- 73. Wealth Transfer
- 74. Maximum Protection
- 75. The Power to Be on Time
- 76. Power Activators
- 77. The Essence of Obedience
- 78. The Power of words
- 79. Planting a Branch Church

- 80. Power Dimensions (1)
- 81. The Power to Live Long
- 82. The Power to Deliver
- 83. The Power to Bless
- 84. Raising the Dead
- 85. The Power to Heal
- 86. The Power to Separate
- 87. The Power of Diligence
- 88. Financial Prosperity
- 89. Business Success
- 90. On Top
- 91. How to Live Long
- 92. Warfare for Long Life
- 93. The Hand of God
- 94. On Pornography
- 95. 11 Streams of Healing
- 96. Fresh Insight
- 97. Money Sense
- 98. The Power of Prophecies
- 99. High Fliers
- 100. Be Creative
- 101. No Limit
- 102. Understanding
- 103. Dealing with Impossibility
- 104. Highly Favored
- 105. You Can Prophesy
- 106. Expand
- 107. Entering into Fullness

- 108. 8 Kinds of Men
- 109. The Headship Anointing
- 110. God is with You
- 111. Church Formation
- 112. Ministers' Personal Development
- 113. Time-Planning
- 114. Manifesting Excellence
- 115. Decoding the Blessing of Tithing
- 116. Pastors Manual on Marriage Matters
- 117. Your Reality Today (Yoreto)