

The Redeemed Christian Church of God Netherlands.

TOD Singles & Youth training

Module 1: How to choose your marriage partner

- Marriage is ordained by God – Gen 2:18 – 25
- God is actively involved in the process of choice
- Choice is your responsibility – Prov 18 : 22
 - Choice means deciding between possibilities
 - Life time decision, not to be taken arbitrarily/hastily
 - Basic foundation for any marriage
 - Determines whether the house stands or falls – Matt 7:24 – 29
 - Should be sentiments free – lust, pity, selfish motives etc
 - There is a God chosen partner for you

Facts you must know about choice

- Choice is a must in life
 - It is unavoidable - career, business, partner to marry, call to fulfill, location to dwell
- It is important to make the right Choice
 - For every choice made, there is an alternative forgone
 - Only one choice for life partner, divorce cannot correct wrong choice
- Knowledge Guides Choice
 - What you know guides your choice
 - Good choice goes beyond human knowledge – Gen 13: 9-11
- Nourishment Guides Choice
 - A poorly nourished Child of God (wrong doctrines) will make costly mistakes
 - “butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good”- Isaiah 7: 15

The Partner you cannot marry

- Never choose to marry an unbeliever – 2 Cor 6:14-18
 - If you marry an unbeliever, you have chosen the devil as your in-law and grand Father to your children.
- Never choose to marry a backslider – Prov 14:14
 - Be not deceived, he/she knows the kingdom language
- Never choose to marry a divorcee – Matt 19:3-9
 - Whosoever marries a divorcee is living in the sin of adultery because he/she is married to another person's spouse
 - If you are in this situation, see your pastor for clarity. If you are planning to, also see your pastor
- Never choose to marry someone already engaged
 - Marriage already consummated once bride price given & accepted. Depends on tradition
- Never choose to marry a lukewarm Christian
 - What is he doing in the vineyard?

Requirements to knowing God's choice

- Physical maturity
 - Both parties must be physically matured
 - Suggested ages are 25 for brothers, 21 for sisters
- Spiritual maturity
 - Salvation of the souls & holiness
 - Ability to discern what God is saying, not spiritual babies
 - Responsible in His vineyard
- Emotional maturity – Matt 19.5
 - Marriage not for boys and girls
 - Ability to handle issues and challenges amicably.
- Readiness and Preparedness
 - Financial readiness – ability to provide for own household, accommodation
 - Social readiness – father/mother roles, tolerance and forbearance

Reality checks when choosing a life partner

- Do we share a common life purpose?
 - You either grow together or grow apart
 - Love, Beauty, Education, Compatibility
- Do I feel safe expressing my feelings and thoughts with this person?
 - Trust, basis of good communication
- Is he/she focused?
 - Dedicated to personal growth/seeking personal comfort
 - Family background, Age, Money, Profession
- How does he/she treat other people?
 - Parents and siblings, waiters, taxi drivers, less privileged people
 - Ethnicity/race – Gal. 3:27 - 28
- Is there anything I'm hoping to change about this person after we're married?
 - You can't take someone to the altar to alter them

Reality checks cont'd

There are some people in your life that need to be loved from a distance. Pay attention:

- Which ones lift and which ones lean?
 - *Do you compliment and compromise with each other, or do you compete, compare and control*
- Which ones encourage and which ones discourage?
 - *Do you bring out the best in each other?*
- Which ones are on a path of growth uphill and which ones are going downhill?
- When you leave certain people do you feel better or feel worse?
- Which ones always have drama or don't really understand, know, or appreciate you?
 - *Do you bring past relationships, past hurt, past mistrust, past pain?*

How do I know my partner?

- Seek – Matt 7:7-8, Deut. 4:29
 - *careful, diligent, earnest and persistence in prayer*
- Look – Heb 10:25
- Wait – 1 Sam 16:6-7
- Listen – Ps.25:9
 - *Inner witness – 1 kg 19:12-13, Prov20:27*
 - *Audible voice – 1 Sam. 3:1-4, 11-14*
 - *Word of Knowledge – Ps. 119:105*
 - *Dreams – Joel2:28, Matt. 1:20*
 - *Vision or revelation – Acts 10:1-6*
 - *Godly counsels – Prov. 12:15, 111:14*
 - *Prophecy – Luke 1:70*



The place of conviction

- Conviction means
 - To prove adequately
 - A strong believe
 - To be fully persuaded
 - That there is no fear
 - To have inner satisfaction
 - To have peace of mind about your choice
- Marriage is “till death do us part”. Be sure before you take the step
 - Faith and agreement are necessary
 - Conviction and love are fundamental
 - Peace is confirmatory



Approach: Proposals & Responses in RCCG

- Pastor's roles
 - Investigate, pray, counsel, guide
- Your role
 - Be soft, polite but resolute
 - Be natural – avoid saying “thus saith the Lord”
 - Be patient with the sister – do not rush her for an answer
 - Do not play “hard to get”. Respond to the brother once you are convinced
 - Do not be snobbish, take every proposal seriously and to God
 - Leave room for refusal, but be persistent when very sure
 - Pray and act
- Ultimate responsibility is yours but let God have final say in your choice of partner

Conclusion

Proverbs 3: 6

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Reference Materials

- To Have & To Hold Forever – RCCG Marriage Counseling handbook
- Marriage Pilgrimage – Pastor Mathias Akhideno’s presentation at RCCG National Youth Aflame Conference in Amsterdam, Nov. 2010
- How to choose the right life partner – Dov Heller
- It’s Not Rocket Science: How to Choose Your Life Partner - Gail Brenner