

# **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