

Preparation For Godly Marriage

Part 3

Now a day the world had certain opinions and concepts that man and woman can chose and get marry.

- 1- Some they believe in dating: That the man and woman should meet one another and sit alone in a private place and decide about their lives. If they agree then they go to marry and if not they will try another option.
- 2- Some believe in court love and marriage: That speaks the man should chose what he like, and the woman should agree about him then they will start to court and love one another, and later on they will get married.

The bible does not agree and speak about all that above. From the life of the marriage of Adam with Eve, the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah, and the marriage of Jacob and Leah there was no dating, court and love between them. The word of God does not ordain that man and woman should meet and decide about their marriage. They may know whom they are going to marry but not to meet and be in private before the day of wedding. Let us read the following scripture to depict how marriages was arranged and ordained in Israel

¹³ If a man takes a wife and, after lying with her, dislikes her ¹⁴ and slanders her and gives her a bad name, saying, "I married this woman, but when I approached her, I did not find proof of her virginity," ¹⁵ then the girl's father and mother shall bring proof that she was a virgin to the town elders at the gate. ¹⁶ The girl's father will say to the elders, "I gave my daughter in marriage to this man, but he dislikes her. ¹⁷ Now he has slandered her and said, 'I did not find your daughter to be a virgin.' But here is the proof of my daughter's virginity." Then her parents shall display the cloth before the elders of the town, ¹⁸ and the elders shall take the man and punish him. ¹⁹ They shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver and give them to the girl's father, because this man has given an Israelite virgin a bad name. She shall continue to be his wife; he must not divorce her as long as he lives. ²⁰ If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the girl's virginity can be found, ²¹ she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you." (Deuteronomy 22:13-21)

From the above Scripture we understand the importance of the virginity of the girl and she is required to prove her virginity in the day of her wedding. The part of the Scripture that we read speaks about the possibility that the man who get the woman and married her may slander her being non virgin. In such circumstances, the father and mother **shall display the cloth before the elders of the town**. So here the parents, the family, the men of the town, the elders all are expecting from the married girl to keep her virginity.

Now the question here, if there is a possibility that the man after marriage will slander the girl being non virgin, do we still think that the man was allowed to go out with the girl alone and be in private before marriage? The answer is 'No.' If there is a possibility that he will accuse the girl then certainly the practice at that time that the boy and the girl shall not be allowed to meet each other till the day of wedding. In such circumstances if the girl is

non virgin then someone else have done disgraceful thing with her before, and not the current husband.

Moreover if the woman is proven to be non virgin then the following will be done: *²¹ she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you.*" If that is the word of God for the Israelites and that what they will be going to do if they found the girl non virgin then we can conclude the following:

- 1- No father or mother or any family will allow their daughter to go outside and be in private with any man and for any circumstances. Who will be happy that his daughter will be stoned in front of his eyes at his house' door?
- 2- The men and the elder of the city will not allow any man to be with any girl in private. Because they know very well that they will be the people who will be the first to stone that particular girl who is non virgin. Therefore they will be so diligent not to allow any boy to be with any girl in private to avoid being involved in stoning that particular girl in the future.

The day of wedding in Israel was as the following: The man will leave his house and his family will accompany him and they will go to the house of the girl. Then they will take the girl to his house and when they are in his house he will lay with her as his wife and she is required to prove her virginity.

Some people they ask, 'Then which time the man will love the girl?' Love will be after marriage. Let us read the law of God in regard to that, *"If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married." (Deuteronomy 24:5)* The bible does not speak about one month honey moon but the bible speaks about one year love celebration between the man and woman who are newly married. So love is not before wedding but after the wedding. The New Testament also tells us the same; love is after marriage: *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." (Ephesians 5:25)*

My Dear and Beloved: God's word teaches us God's ways and will. The bible tells us *² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)* So if you want to follow God and enjoy his good, pleasing and perfect will, then no more following the pattern of this world by following the principle of dating, and the principle of love and court and marriage, or the principle of having girl friend and boy friend. But follow the word of God and the ways of God as you agree to commit your life, ways and will unto God and agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to apply your word in my life and in the life of my children and disciples and in the life of your church. Lord give me the strength and provide for me to do your will, and raise up people who are willing to abide with your word and will in regard to marriage and family life. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.