

**FOR YOUR GOOD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**  
**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COURSE**

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*THE DAY'S PROGRAM: -*

<i>10-00am to 11-15am</i>	<i>Teaching 1.</i>
<i>11-15am to 11-30am</i>	<i>Tea, Coffee, Side Snack.</i>
<i>11-30am to 12-30pm</i>	<i>Teaching 2.</i>
<i>12-30pm to 13-15pm</i>	<i>Lunch.</i>
<i>13-15pm to 14-15pm</i>	<i>Teaching 3.</i>
<i>14-15pm to 14-30pm</i>	<i>Tea, Coffee, Side Snack.</i>
<i>14-30pm to 15-30pm</i>	<i>Teaching 4.</i>

# MARRIAGE and FAMILY Manual

Presented and taught by Abraham Vos of -



## **1) Introduction: - [[Use Manual in conjunction with Recordings]]**

Welcome to the For Your Good Ministries International Marriage and Family Course. My name is Abraham Vos, and it is my great delight to teach from the Word of God; IE Scripture, in the area of Marriage, Family, and Parenting.

I have the privilege of leading, and am the founder of, For Your Good Ministries International, and our various extended Ministry expressions.

**- The founding verse for our Ministry is - *Romans 1v11 – “For I long to be with you that I may impart some good gift ‘for your good’.***

We fully believe that this Course will be ‘for your good’ and therefore will greatly benefit you and those that your life touches.

**This Marriage Course will minister to: -**

- Those who are to be married (IE, single persons).
- Those who are currently married.
- Those who wish to enrich their marriages.
- Those whose marriages may be in trouble.
- Hurting, abusive, or broken marriages.
- Divorced persons.
- Those considering a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> etc marriage.
- Blended marriages, (children from two or more previous marriages).
- Parenthood – Fatherhood.
- And most every expression, representation, circumstance, or situation in marriage.
  
- Those who wish to example a healthy marriage to others.
- This Course will also equip persons who seek to do Marriage Teaching and/or Counselling.

### **You may wish to: -**

- Teach this course in a Church/Life Group/Small Group expression.
- You are welcome to send these teachings and notes on to anyone who you believe may benefit from them.
- All these teachings are free of charge and are used or dispersed with the express understanding that none will be altered, or charged for on your part!
  - (A fee is only charged for those who attend a FYG live teaching context. These persons will receive a certificate for having successfully completed the Course. These persons will too be eligible for the direct receipt of other resources and teachings free of charge from For Your Good Ministries International).
- The entire course teachings will be available on our Website and Social Platforms for free download. Source these under the Marriage and Family tab on our Website – [foryourgood.net](http://foryourgood.net) - Like, and especially Share these teachings.

### **Our Ministry Partners: -**

We fondly and warmly thank our precious Partners throughout the world for making all we do possible. It would be impossible for us to reach the world without our Partners. Our Partners enable us to offer the vast majority of our teachings and resources free of charge. (We too wish to host many of our Conferences free of charge in the future.)

Together we are impacting the world by making disciples of all people's, training Pastors and Leaders, impacting the Educational, Schooling, and Business Sectors, responding to invites to teach and train into various contexts. We gratefully thank you!

Should this Marriage Course impact you, and should you wish to support all we are doing across the world may we encourage you to prayerfully consider Partnering with ourselves. Our Partnership detail options and Banking details can be found on our Website [www.foryourgood.net](http://www.foryourgood.net) or on Page 28 of this Manual.

### **PAL BC Students: -**

We too welcome all our PAL BC Students (Pastors and Leaders Bible College Students) across the world. Mail us at [pastors@foryourgood.net](mailto:pastors@foryourgood.net)

- The Marriage Course is the first in the PAL BC Curriculum and rightly so.
- As we go through the teachings of the Marriage and Family Course so we will see the high importance of a healthy Marriage and Family in Ministry.

**All in attendance: -**

We too welcome each and every person who is attending the Marriage and Family Course in a live FYG context – Or in a Church or Small Group setting.

- Great to have you with us, and looking forward to the wonderful testimonies you will be sharing with us as a result of doing the Marriage and Family Course.
- All testimonies can be mailed to [testimonies@foryourgood.net](mailto:testimonies@foryourgood.net)

**Be encouraged not to rush through the Course.**

- Listen to each teaching as often as may be possible so as to ensure your Marriage and Family are enriched thereby.
- *Romans 10v17 “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing By the Word of God!”*
- Continual, or repeated, hearing deposits a depth that cannot be lost.
- Be sure to make your own personal notes as the Course speaks to you.
- Be sure to focus on the value ‘you’ will get out of the Course and ‘not’ that of your spouse; IE listen for yourself.

**Reach out to us: -**

Should you wish to reach out to us for any reason through, or after, the Marriage Course; please mail us at [marriage@foryourgood.net](mailto:marriage@foryourgood.net)

We have the full course notes available in PDF soft copy to you free of charge: -

Mail us at [marriage@foryourgood.net](mailto:marriage@foryourgood.net) and we will send you the notes for the entire Course. (With this in mind please make notes on this hard copy).

A Certificate of Completion will be given out to all who have attended a live FYG context before you leave today. Other Group contexts are to receive same from their Group Co-ordinator.

You could also receive a Certificate of Graduation for the Marriage Course by writing a test on the teachings of this Course. We will mail these tests to you within 7 days should you request same by e mail [marriage@foryourgood.net](mailto:marriage@foryourgood.net) . The tests are based on ‘true or false’, as well as ‘multiple choice options.’ The pass mark is 70%. The tests are open book, and open scriptures permitted.

- Included in your Graduation will be a free access to a range of the other teachings we have; including Parenting amongst others.

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## 2) The Foundation and the High Value of the Word: -

**(This Course has its full focus on The Word of God = Marriage God's way.)**

### Starting Point or primary initial Decision: -

Mark 7v13

<sup>13</sup>“*Making The Word of God of **no effect by** your traditions and doctrines which you have handed down/passed down to you by your ancestors.*”

- When we hold onto our traditions and doctrines (often referred to as our cultures) we nullify the powerful transforming effectiveness of the Word of God.

Proverbs 14v12

*There is a way that 'seems right' to a man, but its 'end/or outcome' is destruction.*

Jeremiah 10v23

*Oh Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.*

Romans 12v1-2

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that** you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- Progression to experiencing the Good, Acceptable, Perfect Will of God: -
  1. Sacrificing our way of doing things – This is a primary first, and starting, step.
  2. No longer being conformed to the failing patterns/ways of the world.
  3. Renewing our minds 'by' the Word of God – God's way of doing things.

Luke 6v46-49- Jesus speaking: -

<sup>46</sup>“*But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not the things which I say? <sup>47</sup> Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup> He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>49</sup> But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”*

- The Only Sure Word we have is the Word of God; nothing less and nothing more. We can, and should, trust the Word of God.

**The HIGH Value of the Word: -**

*Hosea 4v6*

*My people perish 'because' of a lack of knowledge.*

*John 1v1*

*In the 'beginning' was the Word.*

In the beginning of any situation, circumstance, decision, new thing we are doing, new season, struggle we are engaging, we should always go to The Word first.

*Genesis 1v1-3 conveys the same point: -*

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

*<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

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*Psalm 119v105*

*Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light unto my path.*

- God's Word GPS's, re-routes our present, and leads and directs us into a prosperous and abundant future.
- The Word always shows us the present steps we need to take to reach the destination of God's success for us in any area, and especially in the areas of Marriage and Family.

*John 8v31-32*

*If you continue in my Word, then you are my disciples, 'and' you will know the truth, 'and' the **truth 'will' set you 'free'**.*

- Any struggle, lack, deficiency, or failure is the result, outcome, fruit, of a Word knowledge and/or application deficiency.



### 3) God's View, or Estimation of, Marriage: -

There are two primary laws of Bible Interpretation. These are to be adhered to, or applied, in all scripture interpretation. You could say that all scripture will refer to these two laws above all other laws of biblical interpretation firstly and foremostly.

- **LAW ONE - The Law of First Reference.**

*Genesis 1v1*

*In the beginning God!*

All things with good results start and end with God. When we trust God, His Word, His Ways, we will live in abundance and good success. There is no other outcome for it is a LAW.

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- **LAW TWO - The Law of First Institution.**

*Genesis 2v21-22*

*<sup>21</sup> But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man...*

- **Marriage is the first thing God instituted on earth.** Marriage is, and always will be, God's first and foremost institution!
- The entire success of a person, a family, a church, a nation, the world, rises or falls based on the institution of marriage.

God will never dishonour His Word – When He institutes something He always begins it from His Laws of First Reference and of First Institution!

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- **The first thing, the current, the perpetual, and the future number one thing, the enemy attacks is, and always will be, marriage and family!**



- **When Jesus instituted the church, He emphasised that it is to start from what he instituted firstly = Marriage. – See below scriptures.**

Paul writing to Timothy as he was experiencing growing challenges in the church in Ephesus.

Paul brings Timothy back to the Law of First Institution; IE the first and founding reason for why he is experiencing so many problems in the church.

*1 Timothy 3v1-13*

*Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires (not perspires/conspires) to be an overseer desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup> Now the overseer **is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,** <sup>3</sup> not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> **He must manage his own family well and see (witness) that his children obey him (his example as above), and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.** <sup>5</sup> **If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church!?***

<sup>6</sup> *He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

<sup>8</sup> **In the same way**, *deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup> They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup> They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.*

<sup>11</sup> *In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.*

<sup>12</sup> **A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well.** <sup>13</sup> *Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and **great assurance** in their faith in Christ Jesus.*

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(The above scriptures also apply to every area of life including Business, Institutions, Governments etc for all things should be regarded as callings of God.)

Jesus fulfilled ALL scripture – Jesus is the personification of 1 Timothy 3 – He is faithful to His bride (the church) and He manages His household//church very well.

He/Jesus, is therefore ‘qualified’ to fulfil any office, or calling, in the ‘ministry’.

Jesus will never compromise His marriage to us, His bride, to fulfil any ‘secondary’ call. He did all He did firstly and foremostly for His bride, His family.

All other things we do in life are to ‘serve’ God and our ‘wife/husband and family’ firstly and foremostly. We should never compromise serving God and our families for anything else.

Jesus always honoured the law of first reference and the law of first institution. This is why Jesus was so very, very successful. He honoured the Father, and came for His bride and family.

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Joshua was very aware of ensuring that his great conquests; all that he achieved, were not to get in the way of his wife/spouse and family.

*Joshua 24v14-16*

*<sup>14</sup> “Now therefore, fear/(revere) the LORD, serve Him in **sincerity and in truth**, and **put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!** <sup>15</sup> And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the **gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River**, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**”*

- First declaration Joshua made was that he was not going to compromise his family for any reason! He referred to this as **serving other gods/or ways of doing things.**
  - We are unable to have a successful marriage, family, or ministry when serving other gods; holding onto traditions and doctrines; other ways of doing something; of doing our marriage. - We are to serve our marriage and family.
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#### 4) The Ideal Road to Marriage: -

##### STATISTICAL FACTS: -

1. Statistics indicate that 50%+ of Marriages end up in divorce. This percentage is over 60% in the case of second time marriages.
2. The average person studies at a School, or Varsity, for 12-17 years to get an education – In essence to start a career and earn an income.
3. The average Marriage couple has 1-2, one hour, sessions of counselling before they get married, and these sessions focus primarily on the wedding day. – Marriage is not primarily about a wedding day; it is about the decades of years after the wedding day.
4. Marriage is the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest decision we make in our lives. (1<sup>st</sup> Jesus; 3<sup>rd</sup> children, 4<sup>th</sup> other things of God, - then money, career etc) – Money and Career are ‘servants’; they are there to serve the first four primaries in our lives. – If money or career are our masters we will sacrifice the things of God, our spouse, our children, and even God Himself.

Genesis 2v18-20

<sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

<sup>19</sup> Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

**But for Adam no suitable helper was found.** <sup>21</sup> **So** the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> **Then the LORD God made** a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called ‘woman,’  
for she was taken out of man.”

<sup>24</sup> **That is why** a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup> Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

- Mankind was firstly created as a Spirit, with a Soul – This Spirit and Soul were created in/inside of the Godhead; inside of Christ. One with and inside of Christ.

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Genesis 1v26-28

*26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

- God then formed the physical/the body of man to 'house' the most primary and vital components of man; IE Spirit first; and then Soul.

Genesis 2v7-8

*7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.*

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## **Spirit, Soul, Body.**

*1 Thessalonians 5v23*

*<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.*

- Marriage is and inside out experience; it's Spirit, through Soul, and to Body. Marriage is therefore primarily a 'spiritual' experience.
- When we are united in the Spirit we are functioning from and in Christ.
- The world's way of doing marriage is the opposite way around. They function from the body/the physical. Their focus is sexual. Their 'love/lust' is based on a sexual relationship as the be all and end all. - (Lust and not Love).

*John 4v24*

*<sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship (relate to Him in intimacy) in spirit and truth."*

## **Do not be unequally yoked.**

*2 Corinthians 6v14-15*

*<sup>14</sup> Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?*

- In that marriage begins with, and is sustained and grown from, the spirit-man so being equally yoked is vital.

### **■ - If you are not yet married; or if you are considering re-marriage, be sure the below is in place "before" you get married!!**

- A man is firstly to have divorced the previous man he was married to.
- A woman is firstly to have divorced the previous man she was married to.
- A man is to marry a woman who is currently married to another Man!
- A woman is to marry a man who is currently married to another Man!
- (Unless both the man and the woman are not currently 'married to another Man' it would be most unwise to get married.)
- They too should both be married to the same Man.
- This Man is Jesus; He is the Groom and we are His bride the church. Ephesians 5 teaches this well – We will refer to this in the next segment of the Manual.

## 5) Husbands and Wives: -

Marriage is a Covenant and not a Contract: -

Contract - In a contract you protect your rights. - A contract serves you.

Covenant – In a covenant you give up your rights. – A covenant serves another.

*Ephesians 5v22-33*

*<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, **as also Christ** is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup> Therefore, **just as** the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.*

*<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church **and gave Himself for her**, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

- Wives are to submit to their husbands ‘as to the Lord’. A wife is not to submit to things that are not ‘as to the Lord’.
- The husband is the ‘head’ of the wife ‘as’ Christ is the head of the church; His bride.
- A study of the ‘head’ reveals 4 primary senses; See as below: -
  - Sense of sight = Vision and looking out for.
  - Sense of hearing = Hearing from God and listening out for family and matters that can affect.
  - Sense of smell = Discernment, ‘smelling out’ matters.
  - Sense of taste = Tasting of God/The Word, and tasting out situations as to whether the family are to ‘swallow’ them or not.
  - A ‘head’ makes decisions in consideration of the body.
  - Head and/or leadership is to set the first example. *1 Cor 11v1 – “Follow me, ‘as’ I follow Christ.”*

- A husband has a delegated small 's' 'saviour' function.
- A husband is to wash/lather his wife with the Word (not scrub or hard-brush).
- All things in marriage are verbs; things we do. These are not titles or noun – (Abraham example here – biological vs functional).
- The wife is to be subject to her husband in everything 'just as', and only as, the church is subject to Christ.
- The wife is to respect and support her husband to help him 'benefit' her and the children. – As we the church do i.r.o. Jesus our Groom.
- A wife's respect and support are vital to the success of the husband and father. - As we the church do i.r.o. Jesus our Groom.
- The wife is to ensure she does not have a contrary or undermining attitude towards her husband and father of the children.

*Matthew 19v6*

*“So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, whatever God has joined together, let no man tear asunder/break apart/separate.”*

- Guard that nothing comes between your marriage – Including your Parents!
- You now have a new primary family – Your past family is a 'distant' secondary family from the day you are married!
- We are to honour our new family/spouse above our secondary past family.

*Genesis 2v21-22*

*21 But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

- The primary 'function' of the wife is to be the 'helper'. The wife is to help, come alongside, the husband to fulfil the vision of marriage and family.
- As the Holy Spirit is Helper to Jesus: -

There is a sense in which the Wife/Helper is to be to her Husband as the Holy Spirit is to Jesus/the Word.

As Jesus, who is the Word, works together with the Holy Spirit so the husband and wife are to work together in unity. – The Holy Spirit points to Jesus (John 16).

The Word is 'ineffective' without the Holy Spirit, as the Holy Spirit is 'ineffective' without the Word/Jesus. – The same with husband and wife – We are only effective as one!

Marriage is a Union – Two equally fulfilling their part/role. (Like Jesus and Holy Spirit).

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**6) If you have an Unbelieving Spouse – A Marriage under duress: -**

**What if my Marriage is under Duress/Stress – Even failing?**

- **NO Marriage is beyond restoration and healing.**

*Psalm 107v20*

*He sent His Word 'and' healed them, 'and' delivered them from 'all' of their destructions.*

*Isaiah 40v29-31*

*He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.  
<sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall,  
<sup>31</sup> But those who wait on the LORD 'Shall' renew their strength; They 'shall' mount up with wings like eagles, They 'shall' run and not be weary, They 'shall' walk and not faint.*

**Trust the Word!!**

*Genesis 1v1-4*

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.***

*<sup>3</sup> Then **God said, "Let there be light";** and there **was** light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.*

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**Renew your mind to God’s good and blessed way of ‘doing marriage’.**

Romans 12v1-2

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Proverbs 23v7

“As a man thinks in his heart ‘so’ is he.” – Change your thinking - Change your world.

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**-- Restoring a struggling or broken marriage.**

1 Peter 3v1-12

*Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. <sup>3</sup> Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— <sup>4</sup> rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. <sup>5</sup> For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup> as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.*

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## 7) LOVE = Never Fails! -

1 Corinthians 13v4-8

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

**<sup>8</sup> Love never fails.**

### What is Love - or - What is the Action of Love?

John 3v16

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world 'that' **He GAVE** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- The fruit/result/outcome of Giving is believing! A Marriage where two people exist to give/benefit the other is a Marriage that will be believed in.

Matthew 20v28

*"The Son of Man/Jesus did not come to be served; BUT to serve."*

Galatians 5v6

*"...Faith works **BY** love."*

– Easy to have faith in your spouse, and your spouse in you, if both exist to give to, benefit, serve, add advantage to the other.

- Love Gives.
- Love Serves.
- Love exists and makes decisions for the Benefit of another/others.

### **Difference between Lust and Love: -**

- Lust is all about self – Meeting, or fulfilling my needs. Lust is based on 'feelings'.
  - Love is all about another – Meeting, or fulfilling another's needs. A decision.
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## 8) Forgiveness: -

Matthew 18v21-23a

*21 Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”*

*22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like...*

Luke 23v34

*“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” – Jesus on the cross.*

Acts 7v59-60

*59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

- Forgiveness is a spiritual thing/action. (Verse 59bb)
- Forgiveness brings rest. (Verse 60bb)

Acts 8v1

*“Now Saul was consenting to his/Stephen’s death.”*

Stephen’s forgiving heart planted the Seed that resulted in Paul turning to Jesus, and writing 65% of the New Testament!!

FORGIVENESS: -

- Forgiveness is never given because one is deserving – However, forgiveness extends the opportunity for one to become deserving.
- Extended Forgiveness takes us to a new starting line from which the new journey of trust can begin. – Trust is earned; especially after it has been broken.

Two Kinds of Forgiveness: -

1. Perpetual Forgiveness – Keeps you Free.
2. Extended Forgiveness – Sets your Oppressor Free. (As Jesus forgave me.)

## 9) Hinderances to a healthy Marriage and Family: -

3 John 2-6

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

<sup>3</sup> For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the **truth that is in you**, just as **you walk in the truth**. <sup>4</sup> I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. <sup>5</sup> Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, <sup>6</sup> who have borne witness of **your love** before the church.

- **The Truth is to know 'you' are loved by God.**
- **We prosper proportionate to the status/condition of our souls!**

Psalm 107v20

*He sent His word and healed them,  
And delivered them from their destructions.*

Healing precedes deliverance. - The Word heals firstly, and deliverance follows.

Psalm 147v2-3

*The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.  
<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted  
And binds up their wounds.*

Romans 12v1-2 (Good, Acceptable, Perfect Will of God).

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

1. Proverbs 13v10  
“Only by pride comes contention.” Pride regards self – Pride; doing it my way.
2. James 3v16  
“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”
3. *Di-Vision* – Di means two; IE two visions/goals/objectives, ways of doing.

## 10) Understanding our differences – Male and Female: -

Genesis 1v27

*27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

- Picture of the Cross.
- Picture of a Compass.
  - North to South = Male.
  - East to West = Female.

God's image is full compass – IE Male and Female.

1 Peter 3v7

*7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Generally: -

- Men see things vertically – long term – visionary.
- Women see things more laterally – short term – the here and now.
- Men and Women 'think' differently. – That's a good thing.
- Men are more robust than women – Men are like a solid glass mug – Women are like fine cut glass, or porcelain.
- Women are more emotionally inclined than men.

Male and Female compliment and complete one another – We do not compete with one another. We need each other to be complete/whole.

When we are combined/completing one another we make up the likeness of God.

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## **11) Blended Marriages – Some helpful considerations: -**

- a) Be sure your 'heart' is healed from any past hurts! – Be sure you have forgiven!
- b) If not yet married, walk the road 'slowly.' – Watch for rebound approach. - (Abraham Example of a too quick a marriage.)
- c) Be sure you have gone to The Word 'In the Beginning stages'. – *John 1v1*.
- d) Talk and work through your past. Be sure your respective pasts have been resolved.
- e) It is imperative that you 'adopt' your spouse's children 'in your hearts' as if they were your own – You are marrying your spouse 'full package'. – NB - They will be hurting.
- f) Include the children in the 'before marriage' journey – Their 'consent' is vital.
- g) Wherever possible – Include the ex-spouse/s in how you will function with the respective children before you get married.
- h) Wherever possible keep the parents informed. Their support/buy-in will be helpful.
- i) Other than matters that 'come with your past' you need to leave the past behind you. (Children come with your 'past.' They are never in your past.)
- j) Never use, or refer to, your past to make your point in your new marriage.
- k) DO NOT run your ex/or present spouse down before the children, or others.
- l) Positively defend/side with your new spouse.  
- Do not defend your spouse against your children, but for your spouse and children.
- m) Know that it will take time to 'earn' the trust of the new children.
- n) Speak life! Proverbs 18v21.
- o) Be sure you are walking with God as a family – Church attendance is vital.
- p) Keep God, and the Word, in the centre of your Marriage.

*Deuteronomy 30v19*

*"I set before you life and death, blessings and curses – Choose life THAT you and your descendants might live".*

*Proverbs 4v23*

*"Above ALL else, Guard your heart, for everything you do will flow from it."*



## 12) Parenthood: -

Proverbs 22v6

*“Train UP a child in the way they should go, and when they are old, they WILL NOT depart from it!!”*

Ephesians 6v1-4

*“Children, obey your parents ‘in the Lord’, for this is right.<sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:<sup>3</sup> “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”<sup>4</sup> And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”*

- The Number One Parental function is to raise UP, not Down, a child. We train a child UP by teaching them of the Person and ways of God!
  - When both Father and Mother are serving God, setting a godly example, and together attending church, the child will flourish.
  - Children do not do as we say – They do as we do – They become who we are.
  - (Abraham counselling example of expelled teenager here).
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- The greatest, and most securing, gift you can give your child is to love their Mother – Or love their Father!
- Consistency, and unity, a vital key.
- Never discipline in emotions, screaming – Quiet affirmative. Discipline for the child; not against the child – Do not discipline for you. (Disciple-in.)
- Have loving boundaries – Like a river. A river only gets to the sea if it has banks to lead it there. (Boundaries are not to be harsh and imposing – If Parents live the boundaries children will embrace these boundaries).

Fathers: -

Fathers have four of the 5 senses as the head. Accordingly, Father’s need to see, hear, smell, taste, what their children are involved in, or exposed to: -

- Attend the School Meetings.
- Meet the Teachers/Educators.
- (Be cautious of sleep over invites – Fathers assess transparently.)
- Attend the sporting, dancing, occasions -
- (Abraham’s example of going to most all his daughter’s dance shows.)
- Assess matters relating to decisions.

Mothers are to support/help/come alongside, reaffirm, reinforce when parenting.

### 13) Fatherhood: -

- Fatherhood is one of the very highest privileges we as men/males have!
- The enemy is after our children and he gains legal access to them if we are not fathering. Fathers cover/protect their children – Fathers are the ‘canopy’.

Let’s look at the enemy’s very first, and perpetual attack, from Genesis onwards: -

*Genesis 3v1*

*“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “**Has God** (a father) **indeed said**...”*

#### The enemy sort to achieve two vital, history/destiny re-defining, things here –

1. To cut off children from their Father - To sever relationship from the Father.
  2. To cut off the guiding, protecting, providing, directing voice of the Father.
- It is said that 70% of all children go home to a fatherless environment. These fathers are either absent, or abdicating - Not fulfilling their roles as fathers.
  - It too is said that approximately only 15% of children have active and constructive father participation in their lives.

The very last scriptures in the Old Testament – And then 400 silent years!! It’s as if God was saying – “Get this right, or else!”

*Malachi 4v5-6*

*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*

*<sup>6</sup> And he will turn*

*The hearts of the **fathers** to the children,  
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”*

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*Ephesians 6v4*

*“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; ‘instead’, bring them ‘up’ in the training and instruction of the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath by the way you treat them, but nurture them in the way of the Lord.”*



## **15) Invite – Join us / Partner with us: -**

If you have been blessed by the Marriage and Family Course and would like to 'join the Team' by Partnering with us so that together we can fulfil the great Vision God has given us, then please visit our Website and follow the Partner prompts.

[www.foryourgood.net](http://www.foryourgood.net)

As a Partner you become an eternal co-inheritor of ALL the fruit that the Ministry attains. Let's impact the world together in partnership...

Our banking details are: -

ABSA Bank

Account number 4041891486

Branch code 632005

Type account – Cheque

### **[Our Vision]**

"Go into all the world to make disciples of all nations, as the waters cover the seas."

**[Our Mission]** – What we do to fulfil the Vision God has given us: -

1. We teach the Word on multiple Platforms.
2. We train Pastors and Leaders, including in the Business, and Educational Sectors.
3. We host multiple context Conferences, including Marriage and Family.
4. We minister into Local Churches, train their Leaders, and assist in Church matters of governance and/or conflict.
5. We establish Bible Colleges.
6. We have a Trans-Local Apostolic Team that is being trained to go into the World.

### **[Our Heart]**

Our founding Scripture - Romans 1v11

"For I long to be with you 'that' I may impart some good gift, for 'your' good."

God bless; our fond love to you, yours, all those dear to you, and all those you influence. - Team 'For Your Good Ministries International'.



