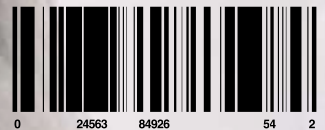




LADIES OF RUBIES INTERNATIONAL

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2.



Discovering

YOUR PURPOSE
AS A LADY

PILLARS OF MARRIAGE

CO-
HABITING
& IT'S NEGATIVE
EFFECTS ON
RELATIONSHIPS

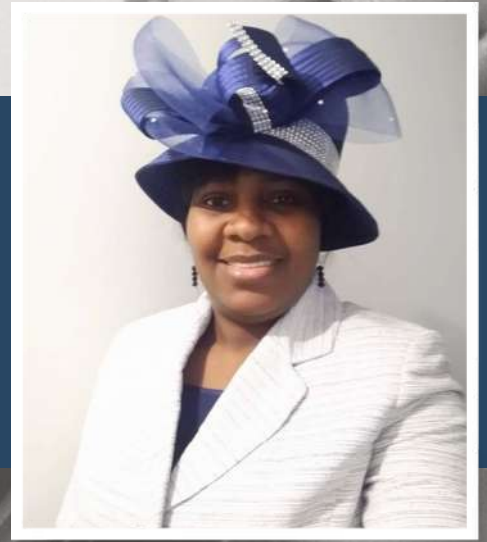
HOW TO HANDLE

CHILDREN DELAY
IN MARRIAGE

THE IMPORTANCE

OF A ROUTINE CHECKUP

COORDINATOR'S DESK



"Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 106:1.

What shall I render to you, oh Lord, for making it possible for Ladies of Rubies International to produce another Spirit-filled magazine? It is only you that can make this happen, Lord!

To the one who loves us even while we are yet to know Him, who gave us His only-begotten son as a ransom for our salvation, I have brought my special thanks to you for making LORI's magazine one of the end-time tools to correct foundational errors in many marriages. All glory be to our Lord Jesus Christ!

Marriage, like other institutions, requires an investment of time, commitment, nurturing, good communication, and frequent learning. This magazine is set to provide you with the adequate knowledge needed to fulfill your dream marriage.

Hidden inside each article in the magazine are precious nuggets that will transform your homes. So, I implore you to spend time reading this magazine with readiness to gain valuable insight that will change your life and your perspective on marriage.

I want to seize this opportunity to thank all my sisters in the faith who have made themselves available to make this work easy to participate in. I pray that God, in His infinite mercies, will continually be your fountain of knowledge in Jesus' name. Amen.

To the editorial team, headed by sister Abisola Adeoye, I say a big well done, and thank you for all your selfless effort in getting the articles ready on time.

To all our readers, continue to enjoy God's in-depth knowledge in this magazine, and remember to share your testimony with us at ladiesofrubiesintl20@gmail.com to encourage all our team. Also, please help us make it a point of duty to share it with your family and friends, as the magazine is free.

ENJOY YOUR READING, AND GOD BLESS YOU

MRS. OLANREWAJU OSINEYE
LORI'S COORDINATOR

EDITOR'S DESK

I AM LORI, YOU ARE LORI.

The word LORI sounds fancy, right? I didn't know it was an acronym at first; I thought it was the name of a person. I checked the meaning online and found out it was coined from the French Laurel tree, which symbolizes honor and is bestowed upon people who hold great significance and achievement.

Wow! Such a mighty name!

LORI, to us though, means Ladies of Rubies International, and it was founded by a woman who wanted to start a program for women. This passion was borne out of how the original purpose of marriage has been diluted by the satanic agenda of separation and divorce by society.

According to the founder, she said that the ministry of LORI was given to her by God as a result of His love for His institution called marriage and the young ladies entering into it.

She made up her mind one day to start one, as she had just finished a retreat program organized by another ministry. The program really encouraged her to stop procrastinating on whatever she had in mind to do for the Lord. So, she decided to seek God's face before starting. She engaged in prayers, but she was not getting anything about women. A voice kept telling her in the spirit to go for ladies.

She discarded it at first because she intended to start something for women. After hearing this word in her spirit two times, she went to her husband to tell him her struggles, and he said that she should go for ladies then. Immediately he said that, she remembered what she had been hearing concerning ladies, and she was surprised.

Psalm 62:11 says, "God hath spoken once; Twice have I heard this; That power belongeth unto God." She had her plans, but God's agenda was different for His ministry.

So, the next time she went to God in prayer was to ask about His confirmation from His word, and He gave her the words from Psalm 87:5 which says, "And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her."

For the people familiar with LORI's anthem, you will know that the bible verse above is part of it.

Gradually, LORI grew from being a thought or passion and became a kingdom ministry. As we know, one tree does not make a forest. Mrs. Lanre Osineye knew she needed to work with like-minded people to hold on to this mandate for God. The search began!!! Who will hold the mantle? Many are called, but few are chosen. Who are the chosen few? She went back to God, and their names and assignments dropped in her mind. She asked some of them to go and pray about 1 – 3 departments and tell her the one they are led to do, while she went direct with some.

This assured us of the fact that whatever we place in the hands of God is safe. With God backing LORI up, we have an amazing coordinator and wonderful executives.

WHAT DO WE DO IN LORI?

WE PRAY

Philippians 4:6 says, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."

Our Prayer coordinator saw LORI as an opportunity to serve God in her own capacity, and the experience has been awesome for her.

Nothing beats being among other ladies and hearing God's word together, praying together, and relating with one another. We love every bit of it.

Her assistant said that she joined LORI because its mission is about raising kingdom ladies that will become mothers, shaping future generations in Christ's stead. She also said that It was a delightful opportunity to join the ministry as a prayer member

Do you know? Having people to pray with energizes us on a different level.

WE STUDY THE WORD

Joshua 1:8 says, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

LORI was growing, and our bible study coordinator saw LORI as a privilege to be part of God's work and to grow spirituality.

The words the Lord has been dishing to us through different ministers go a long way in shaping our thoughts and perspectives in desiring Godly homes.

WE CARE ABOUT OURSELVES AND THE PEOPLE AROUND US

Philippians 2:3 says, "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

Our welfare coordinator says that she came across LORI when she was in need of a message on how to build a Godly home, and ever since then, LORI has been impacting her life positively.

Nothing about LORI is a joke, because it is involved in every single activity. This was the main reason why we decided to be part of LORI.

Her assistant said that she was given an option, and after praying about it, she was led to work in the welfare department.

Are you aware that to be in LORI is to grow in all aspects?

WE READ, WE WRITE AND WE LEARN

Psalm 32:8 says, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

Our editor-in-chief came across LORI when she was not even aware that she needed a family like that. When she joined LORI, everything clicked into place. LORI was like a missing piece of a puzzle at that time.

We have grown to embody LORI. Now, LORI is not just an organization; we make up LORI. Therefore, I am LORI, and you are LORI.

Our mission in LORI is to take ladies through the stages of becoming the Proverbs 31 woman, build homes and transform nations through the biblical principles of marriage.

Our vision is to help single ladies see the possibility of nurturing godly homes, regardless of the numerous bad examples present in the world.

We desire to see single ladies become proud home builders where the Bible is loved and taught; where the father is genuine and authentic; where the mother is caring and generous, and where the Lord is an honored guest.

Can you now see that, together, we need to work hand in hand to make things better? LORI is a family; I need you to build this family – you need me to build this family.

Our God is a promise keeper. To date, He has succeeded in what He promised us in the scripture He gave our coordinator and also in the other scriptures he opened her eyes to, like Genesis 2:18 and Proverbs 31.

With this knowledge in your heart, when someone asks you for your name, say you are LORI. That's because you are!

Abisola Adeoye.

Exclusive Interview with Mrs. Rachael Efunwole

1. Can we meet you?

My name is Bosede Rachael Efunwole. I work as a nurse at Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital. I am married to Rev. Dr. Sanjo Efunwole and the union is blessed with 2 lovely daughters

2. Tell us the story of how you met your husband and your first impression of him?

I met my husband in Ile - Ife, in August 2007. When I returned from work one evening, my uncle's wife, who I happened to be living with, asked me to follow her to her friend's house, which I did. There I met my husband, we exchanged pleasantries and we started talking. I did not like him at first because he had short stature.

3. How did you know things were getting serious?

Initially, I did not take him seriously because he did not meet my specifications (someone that is tall and extremely rich), but he is God-fearing. Because of his perseverance and refusal to take no for an answer, I decided to pray about his request, and I had the conviction that he was meant for me

4. What has been the most challenging time during your marriage?

There is no marriage without its own challenges. The most challenging situation that I have experienced so far was when my husband was having his Ph.D. program. He was neither available at home during the day nor at night. It was indeed a difficult time for me because I was the only one bearing the burden at home. But God saw me through it.

5. What did you learn about each other during that time?

I learned that everybody in a relationship is important. I also learned that no one is completely perfect without the other.



6. How have these experiences strengthened your marriage?

It has opened our eyes to our strengths, weaknesses, likes, dislikes, etc. This has boosted the strength of the union.

7. How do you deal with conflict in your marriage?

When disagreement ensues, we talk it out at times. Other times, we try to ignore and we often use the magic word - I am sorry.

8. What has been the best part of your marriage so far?

The best part of my marriage has been the love towards each other and the togetherness that we share.

9. What are you proudest of in your marriage?

I am so happy about the gift, I mean the man God gave me to marry because he has been a good compliment to me and the adorable daughters.

10. How have you maintained an excellent work-life balance in your marriage?

It has not been easy, but it's an obligation for me to maintain the balance. I try as much as possible to create time for my family by setting limits. I ensure that we discuss what each person encounters each day before going to bed.

11. How do you feel being a pastor's wife? Is there any time you were tired of serving as a pastor's wife?

I must confess it is not what I bargained for. I had many pastors around me when I was in school, but I told them I couldn't marry a pastor. However, when fate would have it, the man I married heard the call, and he had to answer it. Then, I became a pastor's wife. I was afraid, considering the responsibilities attached, but as time went by and with the help of the Holy Spirit, I was able to cope. Honestly, it is highly demanding and tiring.

12. If number 11 is yes, please tell us more. What specific steps are you taking to make things happen positively?

As I said earlier, being a pastor's wife demands that you go a bit higher above the level of the women you are leading in every regard. The Holy Spirit has been my help. The Holy Spirit has helped me to mentor some people who I can delegate to carry out some tasks on my behalf, which has made things much easier.

13. How have you been able to manage family finances in the home?

Finance has been a big issue causing family disputes, but for me, it is not an issue because I believe that nobody is the owner of any resource. We make our budget and work according to the budget. If there is going to be a project, we source the resources together. Even in taking care of our parents, we do it together.

14. Describe a time when you were both faced with stressful or difficult situations and how you dealt with them.

There was a time a family issue came up against me from his family. One of his sisters came to live with us. Unknown to us, she was feeding other family members with wrong information, and it generated a big issue. My husband stood by me against them and they were not happy. The whole family deserted us. We kept praying, had vigils and we even went to the eldest son to explain the truth, begged, and even asked some people to beg them, all to no avail. Then we followed the instruction in the bible. We left them, but we kept on praying. It was later they realized the truth and everything became normal.

15a. What do you both have in common?

We are of the same faith, born again. We both believe in the efficacy of the name and blood of Jesus, and also that nothing is impossible for God to do.

15b. Are there any dissimilarities?

My husband is sociable and an extrovert, but I am an introvert.

16. Are there a couple of goals you'd like to achieve in the next five years or so together that you want us to know about?

Yes, we would like to go back to school, as there's no end to learning.

17. Who is more of a risk-taker - you or your husband?

My husband

18. What is the best part of being married to your husband?

He is able to keep my relationship with my friends, families, and colleagues at work. He is also caring and loving.

19. Amidst responsibilities, how have you kept the romance and fun in your marriage?

My husband has been the one doing that by always teasing me.

20. What is the best piece of relationship advice you have ever been given, and who gave the advice?

During our courtship, a man of God said something which I kept in my left hand. He said, "You cannot know your husband's family more than your husband, so only step where your husband asked you to step and only associate with people he asks you to associate with."

21. What advice can you give singles out there who have been waiting too long for that perfect man or woman to emerge?

They must not lose hope and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Many people have standards or specifications for themselves that are not from God. They must align their will, standard, and specification to that of God. They should not make money their standard. They should not despise days of little beginning

DISCOVERING YOUR PURPOSE AS A LADY

DEBORAH IBUKUNOLUWA ADEROGBA
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Have you ever pondered on what the essence of life is? Or you have deeply thought about why you are here in the world? Better still, you know that there is more to life, but you haven't figured it out yet. Or in your case, you know what you have been called for it, but you need to know what next step to take. Then, this article is just for you. This piece will take you on a smooth ride on what purpose means, the reasons for it, its myth, how to discover it, and how to walk in it.

The purpose is what gives life meaning and fulfillment. It is the reason for which you were created. I love the definition by Pastor Emmanuel Iren which is: "Purpose is that one thing for which you were created and at which you must succeed, otherwise nothing else you succeed at will count."

Furthermore, there is nothing in existence without a notion or reason behind it. So, was our creation. We were born to fulfill a mandate. The Bible says in Colossians 1: 16b (MSG) that "Everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him." You must know that you are special and God created you uniquely to bring solutions to the problems of this world. So, you're God's representative in whichever area of influence He has committed you to be.

Many are idle because they do not know what they were created for. If you think you were just born like any other person, to live a comfortable life, have a good job, and family, and die, you've not gotten it right. You are unique, and so is your purpose. The journey of purpose is also not competition. It is you doing what God has called you to do. Asides from this, getting to know your purpose saves you from identity crises, jealousy, and strife. It also helps to identify, and appreciate, the gifting in others.



I know that the next question is: "how do I find purpose?" Ephesians 1:11 (MSG) says: "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for..." As you cannot know the use of a product without asking for the intentions of the manufacturer, so is your purpose. So, the first and surest way to know what you have been made for is by asking God through prayers and the study of His word. It is expedient that you also know how God speaks to you.

On the other hand, there are indicators in and around us that God uses to show us what we are made for. These include our skills, gifts, passion, and abilities. So, have a self-reflection and ask yourself some questions. This is a serious step. So, write them in a journal. What am I passionate about? What is that special gift that I have? Where am I more relevant in? What makes me stand out from the crowd?

You may need to ask your friends or family members too. Other questions include: What is that thing that if I am not paid for, I will still do happily? What is that thing that will give me life fulfillment? What is that legacy you want to leave for generations after you to remember you for? Write these things down. Now that you are still single is the best time to discover this and plan your vision. It will also affect many decisions you make, including marriage.

For me, I had a strong passion for languages since childhood. I was fortunate to have known that my life has more significance and that I'm a special child. Thanks to my parents who have also instilled the zeal in me. As much as I was an intelligent child and many thought I should have gone for medicine, I knew God wanted me to study French. I was just 13 and in Grade 9.

Even though I did not have the knowledge I do now, I knew there was more I could contribute to the world with languages. I prayed too and got my parents' support. With that, I did French in all my O'levels and external examinations. I got admitted and combined Portuguese, also with God's leading. Amazingly, the Holy Spirit told me to pick a particular course in my 6th semester, and He spoke to me during one of my classes about why He brought me into the Language space. This is why God is at the centre of it all.

Apart from this, I started beading, same at age 13, and I became an artist in 2019, a gift I realised in myself. Via my art, I founded a project – Art as a Healing Therapy, which has helped lots of patients and individuals recover well and balance their health.

Once you get a light on the path you have been called to serve, take a step and start working. You may need to get trained, get a mentor, or even write down your plans. Clarity comes on the way. Will the journey be easy? No! But it will be fulfilling. At times, you may even feel that your mates are achieving and gaining more than you are. What you should do is ask yourself whether you are on your path and whether you are doing your best excellently. With this, you have no problem.

You may be a fashion designer, but your purpose is to represent God in the fashion industry and promote beautiful and godly dressings. You might be a government administrator, but your purpose is to ensure that favourable policies to make the lives of citizens better are passed and implemented. I would always define myself as a visionary who is called to the language and art industry to solve life problems and bring the Kingdom of God to earth. Who are you and what value are you to the world?



COHABITING

And its negative effects on relationships.

Mrs. Lanre Osineye

Cohabiting is a practice whereby a brother and sister live together and have a regular sexual relationship without being legally married.

Many of our sisters have adopted this way of life without recourse, remorse, or regard for what God thinks about the violation of their bodies sexually.

They intentionally shun the godly advice from the Holy Scripture because they believe they have a right to live their life the way they want, whereas it is not! Ultimately, we are all accountable to God. The Bible makes us understand that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19: 20

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

Cohabiting with a man you are not legally married to is dishonoring God's word and defiling the matrimonial bed. Cohabitation is a sin, and it attracts divine judgment. Hebrews 13:4 says "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

Let's consider some of these common reasons why some sisters cohabit.

- The family problem from your parents: When there are issues in the home that have brought about separation or divorce in a marriage, it is likely for a lady from such a family background to end up cohabiting with a man she finds in her life, to find comfort and false love validation. Unknowingly, she has just begun the same journey where her parents ended their lives.
- Lost self-esteem: When a lady lacks self-worth, she will treat any man that comes her way as a king, and she will be ready to give him everything he desires in that relationship because she doesn't want to lose him. Sex will be frequent, and moving into his house will be another great option in her view, which will serve as the great mistake she has ever made when regrets begin to set in later.

Psalm 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

- Unwanted pregnancy: When you don't keep yourself pure in a relationship, there is a probability of you finding yourself with an unwanted pregnancy, and you end up cohabiting with the brother even if he isn't ready for Marriage.
- Because of financial commitments: Some sisters believe having an adequately planned Marriage can be financially draining and time-consuming. In contrast, a godly wedding doesn't have to be flamboyant. You can do it in such a way that it will suit your budget and that of your fiancé. I have heard of some couples calculating the dowry list and paying it off, perhaps because of stress or because they don't want the crowd together because of them, and afterward, they go to church with just their immediate family.
- Short-sightedness: Some ladies cohabit because they lack foresight; they don't know what the future holds for them, so they gullibly give in to the man.
- Timing: Many of our cohabiting sisters are in such relationships because they cannot wait further for their God-ordained suitable spouses. Their faith has died off, and their attention has now shifted to their own speculation rather than God's timing.

Negative Effects of Cohabiting on Relationships

1. It will affect your relationship with God. Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge." Going against God's instructions will hinder how you relate with God, affecting His relationship with you. Psalm 23:3:4 says, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." Only people with clean hands and pure hearts can access the throne of God unhindered; anyone with stained garments can't freely have access, except she repents and stops working in the path of destruction.
2. Your Parents will be disappointed. There is nothing that ruins a parent and daughter relationship as much as getting to know that their daughter cohabitates. Every parent detests it and sees it as a shame that the child they have nurtured and invested so much in cannot make them proud. This tends to bring hostility between the parents and the daughter because it will make them feel like a failure.

When you cohabit with a man, you have simply told him you don't have responsible parents whom you can honor, so he can have you without going to them to seek your hand in Marriage. This is highly disheartening and can bring a curse upon you, which may also affect your generation because of the law of the harvest. Some parents have placed curses on their children for disobeying them, and they may not be able to have a breakthrough in life until they do the needful. Mind you, it can also be a seed you will likely reap from one of your children in the future, so be careful!

3. You have laid a bad precedent for your siblings. When you cohabit, you are not only affecting yourself negatively. You indirectly lay bad precedence for your siblings, especially when you are the first child. Most of them may find themselves in a bad relationship because they have no one to look up to, and this is enough for them not to want anything to do with you in the future. Even those who didn't follow your path may find it challenging to get over the disappointment they got from you. I know you will not want to lose your dear siblings for a man that has no plan for you.
4. Loss of dignity: There is no way you will be sleeping in a man's house, and he will not take advantage of you. Research has shown that people who cohabit have sex more frequently than those who get married legally. Why? The reason is that there is no value for the woman because what you are supposed to allow him thousands of miles to get is being made available to him without any stress. This affects and destroys relationships more than you can ever think about. If you think you can hook a man down by providing him sex he does not deserve, he will use it against you sooner or later.
5. You have no entitlement to his property: This will affect your relationship with him one day as you begin to see the handwriting on the wall that you have no entitlement to his property because you are not legally married, and if peradventure he marries another woman outside and performs all the right over that lady, then, you are in for trouble because that person becomes the legal wife. She automatically has the right to her husband's possessions, while you have no right, even under the law. No woman later enjoys this relationship because they are often treated as second-class citizens when they ought to be the house's madam.
6. It complicates your lives: Cohabiting with a man as a lady will injure your future and affect the man. Cohabiting with each other without any plan for your future indicates a blurry vision. All your dreams go down the drain gradually, and you will become the shadow of your authentic self. Having to move in together early and untimely will make you both see no reason to pursue your goals, and this may cause you both to become miserable in life.
7. You are open to health risks: A man who refuses to pay your dowry and legalize your union has more chances of not being faithful to you because nothing has tied both of you together. This will make you live in fear and refuse to allow him to sleep with you sometimes because you're afraid of getting any sexually transmitted disease. This can affect your relationship with him because he will never agree not to sleep with you, and that does not mean he will stop flirting around.

8. Abuse is Inevitable: An adage says, “It is the market we purchase with money that we value.” That is, the one that comes our way free of charge cannot be valued like the one we bought through the money we labour to get. So, in cohabitation, abuse usually will be the order of the day, especially when you have been trapped down with pregnancy or children. The fact that you are keeping your body away from him while you still live together may warrant some measure of abuse, which could be emotional, verbal, or physical, and if care is not taken, you may end up becoming depressed or losing your life.

Conclusion.

A lady who is cohabitating with a man is manifesting the work of the flesh because she is a fornicator, and the Bible says they will have their portion in the lake of fire (Galatians 5:19).



Things To put in place before you say "I Do"

So you are all set to tie the nuptial knot and the excitement is building up, but wait! Have you dotted your i's and crossed your t's?

It is advisable that couples do the last-minute checks, often known as the "tough talks". In reality, these are the actual talks that test the strength of the bond you've built over the entire period of courtship. At this stage, you should be able to stare each other in the face and discuss any topic (No matter how sensitive) lovingly and fearlessly. It is with this understanding that I suggest to you, these 7 aspects of marriage.

1. Faith: It is not enough to just be Christians, there is also the need to conclude on the place of worship after marriage. This may lead to discussions about doctrinal beliefs, church commitments, accepting responsibilities in the house of God, attendance of mid-week services, tithing, and giving to church projects.

2. Living and Livelihood: Will you both work full-time? If yes, will your workplaces be in the same city? If not, have you decided on the city to live in as you build your family? Who is more comfortable traveling distances between work and home? What is the nature of your jobs, and how do they affect family life? Will either of you need to change your current job to suit your marriage, and could this be achieved without feeling insecure, unequal with the other partner, or resentful? You will need to consider each other's opinions and many factors other than your pre-set youthful fantasies when deciding. Other questions like who may or may not live with you, and this includes pets, should not be left out.

3. Finances: Money matters rank very high among the significant causes of divorce today. The irony here is that it is not necessarily the absence of it, but more importantly, the mismanagement or the misappropriation of it causes more damage. In the spirit of financial transparency, couples should be open to discussing topics around individual/total family earnings, loans/debts, joint accounts, role plays in bills and settlements, giving to family and friends, and spending towards family socials. Intending couples should be willing to discuss financial strengths and weaknesses with each other without fear or shame. They should also hold each other's hands in love as they work on their weaknesses.

4. Health: Marital vows are sworn to take effect "in sickness and in health...till death..." Therefore, one of the conditions every marriage runs on is the health of each partner, whether good or bad. Intending couples need to confirm their medical compatibility, so they can give birth to healthy babies according to the expectation of God from Christian homes. Pre-existing health challenges should not be kept secret from each other. In discussing health, a partner who cannot handle that in marriage may leave, and they should not be judged. The other partner should believe God for a partner who can run in faith with them in marriage, and ultimately, for perfect healing. This is better than hiding a health condition to keep a spouse. You are better off alone with God than living with a resentful spouse.



5. Parenting: One of the purposes of Christian marriages is to raise children in the knowledge of God and to achieve this, both partners should be in harmony. How many children will you have? How would you respond to challenges like delay in childbearing? Would you be open to IVF, adoption, or surrogacy? Will your children spend holidays with close family and friends? How will you discipline your children? Intending couples should be aware that children are blessings, not seeds of separation. Therefore, even children should be taught that Daddy is Mummy's best friend, and they have one voice.

6. Social life: Humans are social beings, and whatever affects your relationship with others affects your emotions. What are the social activities that your partner enjoys? Are you interested in the same? If not, are you satisfied with being alone while they are away, or do you have some other social activities to keep you engaged? What is your opinion about old friends, new friends, and especially friends of the opposite sex? What boundaries will you both put in place to avoid offending each other because of third-party interference? Will you permit friends and/or family to live with you at some point? How long can you tolerate it? Intending couples need to understand each other's social preferences to avoid excessive distancing or otherwise.

7. Ambitions: What are your future plans that can affect your marriage? Do you intend to build a business, start an NGO, or switch jobs or roles in the current industry? Will your job require lots of traveling in the future? Do you have a call into ministry work as of now? If your partner gets called into ministry work, (e.g., pastoring a church, organizing rural evangelism, etc.) will you be willing to support them? If questions like these are not properly answered, couples may gradually out-grow each other as years go by.

In conclusion, marriage is a continuous responsibility, and new phases unfold as time passes. In other words, no one knows all there is to marriage from the very beginning. One of the last things to agree on is to keep the communication line open, interesting, and effective. Challenges abound, but the ever-present God assures us of victory ALWAYS. Intending couples need to agree to continue submitting to God and cooperating with each other in love.

MRS. RONKE TALABI



PILLARS OF MARRIAGE

Marriage, by definition, is a union between a man (male) and a woman (female), according to Genesis 2:18 and Genesis 2:23. This institution is the Lord's. Since its inception, it has involved God, man, and woman. Not God, man, and man, or woman and woman. There are contemporary revisionist ideologies about marriage that are nothing short of devilish! Such should never be regarded as marriage according to biblical standards.

A pillar is an erected brick built to support a building. It provides a support system to the building, and any attempt to remove it may cause the house to collapse, so it is as essential as the foundation.

Therefore, marriage can be likened to a physical building that requires using original materials from the foundation level to the roofing for a solid establishment to be acquired. It is paramount to take time to identify which building you want to develop and carefully study what it would take to have your dream house. In Luke 14:28, Jesus said, "Which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?"

Your decision on the kind of building you want to build determines how strong your foundation will be and how many pillars will be needed to support the house. Also, in a marriage that will stand the test of time, serious attention has to be given to the foundation because once the foundation is faulty, repairing the house may require that the whole house be demolished before anybody can correct the foundation, which often does more harm to the spouses, children, family members and the church.

When the foundation of a marriage is faulty, it often leads to separation or divorce, and until the foundations' errors are prayerfully and carefully corrected, there won't be restoration.

The following pillars must be in place for marriage with an appropriate foundation.

1. Jesus the Cornerstone: 1 Peter 2:5 says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Jesus Christ is the first and the best pillar everyone should have in marriage. No pillar will serve as the Cornerstone Himself, who owns marriages and everything that can help you have the best marriage on earth. Remember, no one who trusts Him will be put to shame, meaning there is coverage for your marriage from the enemy of this institution.

Jesus, as the cornerstone, will provide vital support to your marriage and build it with you. Psalm 127:1 tells us that Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. He can watch over home affairs and guard them jealously when you allow Him in your home.

2. Commitment: Commitment has 73% of making marriage work. Commitment, as one of the essential pillars of marriage, must be put in place by both husband and wife. The institution of marriage will function as it ought to when both spouses are involved in making their marriage work. Commitment seems to be tiring when only one part is faithful to it. Any marriage without 100% commitment from the couple cannot work because it requires knowing and doing the right thing. After all, it's your duty!

3. Communication: Good communication saves marriage more than one can ever imagine. In a home where the pillar of proper communication is not lacking, there is always mutual agreement, which often brings about unhindered progress among the couple. When couples communicate in a language their spouses can best understand and at a suitable time that the spouse can best digest and ponder on the words discussed, there is always a favorable familial response, not a selfish response. In other words, the decision always favors the entire family.

When the three Angels visited Abraham and discovered that they were to be entertained, he ran to the cave to meet his wife, Sarah, and discussed how to prepare food for the visitors. Sarah agreed and did as Abraham discussed, and the outcome favored both. Had there been a communication problem between them where the husband had to plead and plead before the wife could agree, the angels might have left them without any goodbye. They would have lost that miracle of having their promised child, Isaac (Genesis 18).

4. Cooperation: Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together except they are agreed?" A marriage can only work with the collaboration of the couple. A home cannot be habitable, especially for children, when parents are not cooperating. Disagreement will be the order of the day, which may involve yelling and physical and emotional abuse because of resistance that is taking place between them.

Cooperation as a pillar of marriage has always been one of the bases of marriage right from the dating/courtship stage. Without it, marriage wouldn't have taken place because everything about the process of marriage requires the full cooperation of both bride and groom. This shows us that to keep the marriage still, this still has to be in place as it has been from the beginning of their union.

5. Faithfulness: Faithfulness to your marital vows makes things easier in marriage, especially when both couples know that God will hold them accountable if they fail to fulfill them. The marriage vow is not just for formality's sake; they are words that attract the presence of the hosts of heaven whenever it is read. Those proclamations are to be faithfully and diligently followed by every believer that does not want to end up in hell. It is better not to read it at all than to read it and not follow it.

"In the name of God, I, _____, take you, _____, to be my (wife/husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until parted by death. This is my solemn vow."

You made these solemn promises, yet you are having an extramarital affair, your spouse is no longer enough, and you don't even care what the repercussions could be. Loving and cherishing your spouse in sickness and health is no more your concern because you have decided to allow the enemy of your soul to take over your life.

As many who are in marriage but have forgotten about their vows because of marital issues, I pray the Lord will intervene miraculously, and there shall be a total restoration to that dying marriage in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mrs. Lanre Osineye

How to handle children delay in marriage

Mrs. Victoria Ronke Elusanmi.

Childbearing delay in marriage is a turbulent and frustrating moment for couples who eagerly desire to have children immediately after their wedding. The couple, especially the wife, becomes agitated every month once it is still as usual with her. The feeling of inferiority complex in themselves and from outsiders begins to set in, and as this lingers, pressure throws them off balance, and they start seeking solutions desperately.

Some are tempted to seek solutions for childbearing outside the will of God. Some would opt for divorce and seek another partner. In some cases, one partner may keep a secret lover and have children secretly with him or her, as the case may be.



help that meets the need of each other, every other thing would fall into place effortlessly for them. Priority of God's order must be duly followed in marriage. An intimate relationship between a couple is the priority in God's mind, and the couple must not allow anything to affect it.



Therefore, as Christian couples who have children delay in marriage, how do we handle such challenges and fulfill the purpose of God in it? We shall be looking at the following parameters as a guide to handling delayed periods of childbearing in marriage.

Understanding God's Concept of Marriage (Gen 2: 18-25).

Couples must understand that the first reason for marriage establishment by God was to solve the problem of aloneness for man, and the woman to be the help that can meet such needs, and sometimes, vice versa.

Gen 2: 18 KJV "And the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him."

We can see in that scripture that childbearing is not the first priority of God when He established marriage. However, we see that a lack of understanding of marriage makes us think that marriage is the primary and only reason for childbearing. It is just part of a marriage blessing.

When the couple is focused on fulfilling the issues of solving the problem of aloneness and being the

This understanding would help a lot in handling the children delay in marriage. When Abraham and Sarah were facing the same challenge and Haggai came in between them, God's order was that Haggai and her son must be sent out of their relationship before Isaac could come. trusting in God's words with patience

Isaiah 55:11 "So shall my words be that goeth forth out of my, it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it"



During the period of children delays in marriage, the couple should learn how to rely on the words of God, because His words never fail but come to pass no matter how long. His written words (Bible) or His spoken word (prophecy, preaching, or declaration in the program) is powerful and faithful to perform its duty.

Both husband and wife should unanimously trust and believe the promise of God that each or both of them encountered concerning the challenge in question. I have shared my testimony in the previous publication in my write-up on how my husband and I trusted and believed the promise of the word of God during the period of our children delay.

God fulfilled His words, and we have our desired biological children to His Glory. God is faithful to His words, He keeps His promises with His people. He didn't fail Abraham and Sarah, and neither did He disappoint Hannah in His promise to give them children.

Though it may tarry, that is where the patience of the couples must be duly exercised till God fulfills His promise. Job 14:14 "If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." God works with His set time, not with man's time, He makes things beautiful in His time.

A definite request in prayers

Phil 4: 6 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."

Anxiety, pressure, and agitation as a result of such challenges in marriage make some couples complain to God instead of making their request in prayers. Some are only expressing their grief and sadness to God by weeping and mourning about their challenges. These are not prayers but emotional expressions of their situation which God is aware of even before they expressed it.

God only wants us to make our definite request with the hope and thanksgiving that He will answer. In 1 Sam 1:11, Hannah poured her mind before God and clearly defined her request to Him in prayer and after which, she had her peace, believing and hoping that He had heard her request.

Summarily, a cordial relationship between a couple and God is the basic requirement of God for marriage, which gives birth to every other thing in marriage. Eccl 4: 9-12, vs12 “And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Once this is absent in marriage, there would be no hope for fulfillment.

Our faith and trust in the words of God are also required, “Faith cometh by hearing and by hearing the word of God.” Believing the words of psychology and the philosophy of men cannot solve our challenges but worsen them. Finally, a definite request in prayers without ceasing shows our dependence on God, which is what He requires from us.

Matt 7:7 -8 vs7 “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:”



FULFILLING YOUR FAMILY OBLIGATIONS AS A WIFE AND AS A MOTHER

What does fulfilling something mean? It is an act of making someone satisfied or happy. It is providing happiness or satisfaction.

What is Obligation? Obligation is an act or course of action to which a person is morally or legally bound. It is also a duty or commitment.

Therefore, when we talk about fulfilling obligations as a wife and mother in the family, we will have to combine the two definitions to be one. That is when our course of action to our husband and children is satisfying to them.

Marriage is such a wonderful thing, even though it can be really tough at times to make it work. It starts from being a couple and for many, becoming parents. As a mother, balancing marriage and motherhood can be very difficult and stressful. There is always pressure to fulfill both roles, and the most important thing is to find the right balance between the two roles (responsibilities).

Here are a few tips by which we can maintain a healthy relationship between both roles.

Tips on how to balance (fulfill) your roles as wife and mother:

1. Set the right expectations between your partner and your children: Create open communication with your husband. Express how you feel, because your husband might not have any ideas of your struggles and expectations as a wife.

Discuss your needs with him on how you can support each other in your respective roles. Try to set a time to talk to your children, especially if they are old enough to understand because you also need their help in fulfilling your role as a mother and a wife.



2. Keep the fire of romance burning in your marriage: Create opportunities to do the things you used to do with your partner before you became parents. Always express your love to him, the one you once had for him before the children came. Write or text random messages of your love and affirmation. Cook his favorite meal, do not defraud him sexually (1 Cor 7:5), hold his hands be physically intimate with him. More importantly, hold on to the very reasons why you fell in love with him at first, in spite of the challenges and difficulties you may have encountered in your relationship.
3. Practice proper time management: Set a realistic schedule for everything and orientate your family about it, and involve your husband in planning activities for the two of you. For the children, set an ideal routine for them. Older children can be given simple household tasks. Most importantly, try to set a regular schedule for family bonding activities that everyone can look forward to.
4. Develop a positive attitude in every situation: No matter how tough it may be, strive to be grateful for the family you have. Avoid blaming your husband for not supporting you enough and making your children feel like they're becoming a burden to you. Try to assure them that even if you are tired or stressed out, they are still the most important people in your life.
5. Wives should learn how to be submissive: Apostle Paul said, “Wives submit yourself unto your own husband as unto the Lord” (Eph 5:22). As a wife, you should submit your totality to your husband, respect, and honour him. Appreciate his commitment and do not talk negatively about your husband to your family, friends, or relatives because it will definitely bounce back on you (the wife).
6. Give attention to each child: For all your children, share special moments and do things they all enjoy – both quality time and quantity time. Provide spiritual training, cultural opportunities, and creative outlets appropriate for their ages.



7. Find time for yourself: When we have exhausted too much of ourselves in trying to please everybody, we also tend to neglect our personal needs. Later, we become too stressed out in trying to meet the needs of our children while maintaining a happy relationship with our partners. Instead, find time to look and feel good, work out and pamper yourself.

8. We must be teachers: We can generally agree that a mother must be a teacher to her children. As mothers and wives, we must be able to educate our children and husbands appropriately by being the best role model we can be for our family in good deeds.

9. Be available: As wives and mothers, we need the help of our family members, and our family needs our help. Let us be available for them, and be there when they want to talk to us. Let us listen to our husbands and advise them if required, and at the same time, be our children's advisers.

10. Be faithful to your family: Once married, you have to remain loyal and committed to your husband no matter what. Also, as a mother, you need to be faithful to your child/children and call a spade a spade for them. Do not give them scope to question your faithfulness.

11. Love your family: In everything, after God, your family should come first. In a marriage, a man wants to be loved, liked, and appreciated. Also, as a mother, you should love your children too in everything but do not place the love you have for your children above your husband. Before the children came, you had known your husband, so give him unconditional love, physically and emotionally.

12. Fulfill your family's needs: As a mother and a wife, cook for your family, take care of your husband and children when they're unwell, or uplift their moods when they're stressed out. Don't spend all the money you have on buying cooked food from outside. Let your family have a taste of your delicious meal too.

Romans 8:31 says, "What shall we say then to this thing? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

God assures us that He is on our side. Our family needs the same assurance from us as wives and mothers. They need to know that we're partnering with them through every challenge.

Note: "Learning how to balance being a parent and being a wife is one of the lessons you will ever learn. It can save your marriage. Don't let children come between what you have. You had children to enhance your life together, not to tear your life apart."

AYODELE-BANKOLE, Olajumoke

THE IMPORTANCE OF A ROUTINE CHECK-UP

Regular check-ups are important for both our physical and spiritual health. Just like we need to maintain our physical health, we also need to maintain our spiritual health.

Our physical health can say a lot about how we honour God, and all the gifts God has given us are meant to honour Him. We can and should honour Him with our bodies by taking care of our physical health. Ultimately, our lives are meant to honour and glorify God, and prioritizing our physical health creates a comfortable space for the Holy Spirit to live and work within us.

There are several biblical principles that suggest the importance of taking care of one's health. Here are some key points:



- God wants us to examine any health problem and make wise decisions, while looking to Him to lead and guide us in those decisions.
- The Bible does not condemn doctors, medicines, or other scientific methods of helping oneself with illness.
- Health is important to the Lord, and it is essential for a healthy walk with Christ.
- We should take care of our bodies because God made them, and Jesus died for them.
- A joyful heart is a good medicine.

Regular check-ups with licensed medical professionals are essential for maintaining good health. Here are some reasons why:

● Early Detection of Health Issues:

Regular check-ups can help detect potential health issues before they become a problem. When you see your doctor regularly, they are able to detect health conditions or diseases early, giving you the best chance of getting the right treatment quickly and avoiding any complications.

● Chronic Illness Detection: Routine check-up visits can lead to better detection and treatment of chronic illnesses such as depression and hypertension, an increase in vaccinations and screenings for diseases like cancer, and improve how a patient actually feels after visiting with a doctor.

● Preventive Medicine: Medical check-ups are essential to our well-being as they help us identify irregularities, slow the progression of some conditions, and prevent severe health issues.

● Reduced risk of developing more health issues: Detecting health issues early typically helps reduce the chance of complications and increases one's likelihood of survival.

● Find out about cancer risks: A medical check-up can help detect cancer risks. With a standard medical check-up, cancer risks, such as family history, can be identified, with preventive measures advised accordingly.

● Better Communication with Your Doctor: Regular check-ups help keep recommended screenings up to date and help identify problems as early as possible. The more you regularly communicate with your primary care physician and let them know how you're feeling and taking care of your body, the better chance they have of identifying and helping you avoid health issues.

● Cost-Effective: Regular check-ups can prevent health problems before they start, and can even help to lower medical costs in the future. The money you spend on a medical check-up is nothing compared to the cost of treating a condition that is at an advanced stage. Therefore, it is wise to invest in regular checkups to prevent and manage diseases in the early stages.

Regular Checkups can help identify stress-related diseases: These days, with factors such as heavy traffic, constant pressure at work (or school, college), and unpredictable weather, it is no surprise that most people are suffering from stress. This is causing higher levels of stress in everyone and may even result in stress-related diseases and disorders which can manifest physically or even psychologically.

A regular full body checkup will help your doctor diagnose such issues and also give you the opportunity to discuss stress to get the treatment that you need.

How often should one get a routine check-up?

The frequency of routine check-ups recommended by medical professionals varies based on age, risk factors, and current health status. Here are some general guidelines:

● If you're under 50 and in good health, routine check-ups are generally recommended once every 3 years.

● If you're over 50, routine check-ups are generally recommended once a year.

● If you have a chronic disease or other ongoing health issues, you should see your doctor more frequently, no matter how old you are.

In summary, routine check-ups are important for maintaining good health as they can help detect potential health issues early, lead to better detection and treatment of chronic illnesses, and prevent severe health issues. They also provide an opportunity for better communication with medical professionals and can be cost-effective in the long run.

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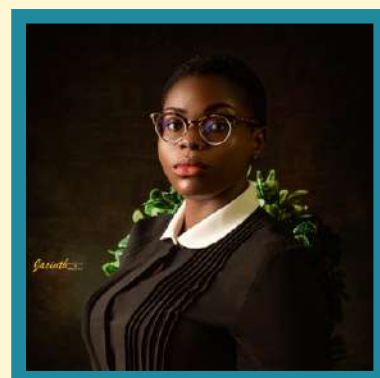
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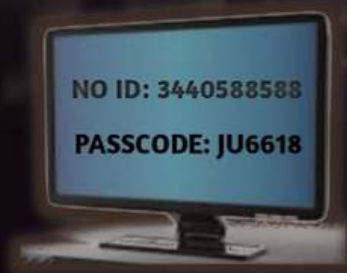
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Ministering

- Mrs. Lanre Osineye

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and LORI it shall be
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Chorus: LORI, LORI
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Ladies of Rubies International (LORI) is a non-denominational ministry that prepares single ladies for their future homes through Godly guidance and principles according to the ordinance of marriage in Genesis 2:18

Mission

**Taking the ladies through the stages of becoming the Proverbs 31 woman.
Build homes and transform nations through the biblical principles of marriage**

Vision

Our vision is to help single ladies see the possibility of nurturing Godly homes regardless of the numerous bad examples present in the world today.

We desire to see single ladies become proud home builders where the Bible is loved and taught; where the father is genuine and authentic, where the mother is caring and generous and where the Lord is an honoured guest

Our programs are as follows:

1st Saturday's of the month - Bible study


**3rd Saturday's of the month - Webinar
on Zoom and Telegram**



**Last Saturday's of the month - Prayer
meeting**

Our Anniversary - April 18 of every year

For more enquires contact via

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