

# Before MARRIAGES

*Eyes wide  
OPEN!!!*

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Spanish - Russian - Portuguese - Brazilian

**English**

# BEFORE MARRIAGE

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# 1 - INTRODUCTION

Before getting married: Eyes wide open!

After getting married: Eyes closed!

What a strange title, right?

But it's a great truth.

IT'S BEFORE we get married that we need to have our EYES WIDE OPEN.

To see what? To see the faults.

No one doesn't have flaws.

But it's BEFORE getting married that we must see what **to decide**: *"Can I live with these flaws?"*

AND AFTER getting married, we must keep our EYES CLOSED!

If you have already decided and married, now there is no point in looking at these faults. Close your eyes to their flaws.

**Concentrate** on all the **good** qualities that he or she has.

In this book, **we are going to focus on** BEFORE GETTING MARRIED.

Many people want to get married and start a family.

But in general, they lack one very important thing:  
KNOWLEDGE!

They don't know what marriage is, and they think it's something **romantic** that happens by chance. They think they've just got married, and that's it.

They have the wrong idea, which has nothing to do with reality. It's only after they get married and when problems arise that they realize that doesn't exist.

Or they think they've married the wrong person and can divorce and look for the perfect person.

This is what they show us in the movies. Like this, the majority of people think marriage doesn't work or it's only for a while.

It's normal for people to **get married** several times, always looking for the ideal person. Others no longer believe in marriage and don't get married at all. They stay together until the love fades.

Before getting married, we need to understand:

- What marriage is.
- How marriage works.
- How to find the right person.

In this introduction, we'll look at several things. Learn the following:

## **1) FOR LIFE**

Marriage is something very serious.

God instituted marriage and is for life.

It's not a joke because we're talking about the lives of two people. Marriage is two lives becoming **one** life.

*Matthew 19:6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

## 2) THE PERFECT PERSON

We will never find the perfect person.

We are not perfect, and nobody is perfect. So, there is no such thing as a perfect marriage.

Our partner will never fulfil all our needs. We are human beings. They will fulfil some of our needs, but there are others that they will never fulfil.

There will always be areas in our relationship that only God can fulfil.

## 3) MEN AND WOMEN

We have to realise that men and women are different. We think differently, we see things differently, we have different emotions, we draw different conclusions, and in the end, we don't understand each other.

We can buy and read all kinds of **books**, but they'll only confirm what we already know:

- We are different, and it's on purpose. God made us this way to **complement** each other.

## 4) PRIORITIES

It's very important to get off to a good **start**. We must always have Jesus in **first place** in our homes and in our marriages.

Only Jesus really fulfils all our needs.

Only Jesus is perfect.

Only Jesus understands us perfectly.

Only Jesus knows our potential.

If we only know these four points, we can avoid many problems. This is a solid foundation before we start looking for and finding the right person to live with for a lifetime.

There is also the spiritual side.

It's invisible but very real.

We are in a world where the devil rules.

And he only has one target:

***John 10:10** "The thief (devil) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..."*

That's the bad news. The devil comes to kill, steal and destroy. He wants to destroy families and marriages, and, in fact, he wants to destroy **you**.

The good news is the second part of the same verse:

***John 10:10** "... I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

To have this life that Jesus promised us, we must do things God's way.

We can only do this if we study the Bible, God's word. **It's** about listening and then doing. Only then will we have this life and life in abundance. Some things may seem like **they're no longer** for today, but God's Word never changes, and neither does God. If we apply His Word to this very important area of our lives, we will get the result.



Once we have **heard** God's Word, we always have the following options:

- **listen** and practise,
- **listen** and not practise.

**Matthew 7:24-27** *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

*and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

*But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.*

*and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*

We must decide whether to build our home, family and marriage on rock, listening to and practising God’s Word.

Or not pay attention and do things as we please, but with the danger of having the doors opened to the devil right at the beginning of our marriage.

When (not if) the devil enters through an open door, he will do what he wants. With him, any demon or evil spirit can enter your life and do what he wants for your health, your family, your marriage, your husband or your wife.

The war is real, and the devil launches fiery arrows. We are continually under attack from the devil.

**Learn** what God says in His Word so that you have God's protection.

God never changes. We have to learn what God says in his Word about marriage.

The devil doesn't wait until you're married, either. In fact, he destroys your life before you get married.

He tries to get **you** involved with lots of people and have lots of relationships without ever finding the right person.

Or he **sets you up** and **brings** you beautiful people who are full of problems and addictions and who might even convert one day, **but that's not** likely to happen either.

All this so he can have an open door to enter your marriage and thus your life.

There's nothing God won't do right, but it's better to be safe than sorry. If you're one of these single people who wants to get married, here's some advice:

## **BEFORE YOU GET MARRIED EYES WIDE OPEN!**

- Look at everything, all the mistakes.
- You **choose!** Choose well!
- Take your time!

## **AFTER GETTING MARRIED EYES TIGHTLY SHUT:**

- Don't look at mistakes anymore
- Now you're married
- No more choosing.

This is a great truth! But people usually do the opposite. Here's what they do before they get married:

Before getting married:

They meet someone and immediately fall in love.

- It's all love and emotion.

During their courtship, they don't see any faults in each other.

- And even if you do, I'm sure he/she will change.

She's all qualities.

- Perfect, in fact.

He's a very attentive person.

- *I'm on cloud nine!*

Then they get married:

But only now do they decide to open their eyes and see the reality:

- *I didn't see it right after all; she's doing very badly in this area.*

- *After all, he doesn't even want to change.*

The couple soon start having a lot of problems.

Partly because they didn't know who they were marrying. They chose with their eyes closed.

They also don't know how to build a marriage. They thought they had just got married, and that was that. They didn't realise that you have to build a life together. Meanwhile, they try to change their partner based on the dream they had before they got married.

You have to search and find the person. It's not just any old way.

Some people think that everything happens by chance or God will do everything.

You have to know what you want.

We have to know what we don't want.

We have to do our part.

We have to ask God for help and wisdom.

*Proverbs 18:22* "He who finds a wife finds a good thing

..... "

## 2 - WHY SHOULD WE DATE?

Let's talk a bit about dating.

People usually think that dating is a joke.

But it's not a joke; it's the beginning of a very important relationship.

You don't want to date just anyone,  
just as you don't want to marry just anyone.

Dating **HAS** a purpose!

Dating is **NOT** the purpose!

Some people only have this purpose: they always have a girlfriend. Today, it's one, and tomorrow, it's another.

In fact, they need a girlfriend (any girlfriend, as long as she's good-looking and not completely stupid) to prove:

- that they're very popular,
- that they can maintain their ego,
- that they're not gay.

These people want to date: that's their target.

They're not interested in marriage or love; they want passion and excitement.

It's like you see in the movies: two people fall in love, and then they're in bed. After a long time like that, one says, "I LOVE YOU", and the other is shocked instead of happy.

He replies that it can't be serious, that he's not ready, that's not what he meant when they were in bed, etc. They just wanted to play.

They say they need lots of girlfriends to gain "experience" and ensure they don't marry the wrong person.

Experience in cheating?

Experience in sex?

Marriage is a LIFE that you build together. Even after you get married, it takes years to get to know the person well enough to adapt to each other and grow together.

Will they learn anything from having MANY boyfriends?

All these relationships last a short time and are focused not on the relationship but on emotions.

Or they have this target: "*How long will it take to get laid?*".

With all these relationships, you only learn that no one is perfect. Emotions guide them, and they give up when they discover a flaw or the moment the emotion of love is gone.

They don't really know what dating is, nor do they know its purpose.

It may even be that the person doesn't want to get married yet. That's fine, but then you're not dating.

Instead, you can have healthy, sincere friendships. Don't want to get married? Then don't start dating!

Don't follow what you see in the movies, things that make you want to believe that all this is normal.

It's not normal, and it certainly doesn't work!

You can tell by the fruit that they don't know what they're talking about:

If you have one girlfriend after another, you'll also have one marriage after another.

You can tell by the fruits that they don't know anything about relationships.

Dating is not a joke.

The purpose of dating is to get married.

The purpose of dating is to get to know each other better to get married.

Dating is the beginning of getting married. Many decisions about how you're going to live your marriage are made during the time you're dating:

- how decisions are made,
- how often and how you talk,
- who **decides** what you're going to do,
- how you spend your money,
- Where you'll go out.

When you're dating, you can see the person's character. If she likes to be in charge, she'll also like to be in charge once she's married. If he thinks she'll change afterwards, he's mistaken.

A secret:

Don't start dating right away if you like someone. Start with friendship.

It's much easier to see what a person is like in a group of friends if they all go out together, etc.

You can even see what he's like by watching the way he plays soccer:

- he wants to win, no matter what,
- he wants to play, whether he wins or loses,
- he doesn't want to play; he'd rather watch than get dirty or tired.

Would you like to be married to a lazy or relaxed husband?

Would you like to be married to a husband who always wants to win, even though he's stepping on everyone's toes?

Would you like to be married to a happy husband who isn't worried about **anything**?

It also depends on your character.

If you're a carefree person, imagine being married to a husband who worries about every detail and wants everything to be perfect.



If you're a passive person, would you want to be married to someone who goes all out? Always active in everything? Imagine your vacation...

Here are a few things to watch out for:

## **1) AGE**

Are you old enough to get married?

Only start dating if you're old enough to get married.

**Start** with a friendship.

Of course, we all know people who started dating very young, and it worked out, but there are more cases where it didn't. Instead, they suffered and focussed on flings. They don't think about anything else, their life or their future.

Some even marry the wrong person, which turns out to be a disaster.

A very young person still doesn't really know what they want out of life. It's all a joke; they're still growing in their personality and way of being.

## **2) MARRY HIM?**

Would you really like to MARRY him?

Don't date someone you would never actually marry. That would be playing with the other person's feelings.

Some people like to date anyway. Sometimes, they don't even believe it's the right person, but anything is better than having no girlfriend at all.

There are several dangers here:

The person is deceiving the other, lying.

They can also become so emotionally involved that they find themselves married to someone they already knew wouldn't work out before they know it. Their emotions have tricked them.

### 3) UNSAVED PEOPLE

Don't play with FIRE!

Choose someone who is for Jesus.

"But I know he'll convert".

You never know if the person will be saved.

What will it be like if **he/she** doesn't convert?

What if he/she goes to church and gets ahead in salvation, but only to please you?

After getting married, he/she doesn't care about the Church, God, the Bible or anything else. .

*II Cor. 6:14: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers ... "*

Many people, when they choose someone to marry, don't look for them. They see that he or she is a good person. But marriage is a LIFE.

Where do you want to be in **5** years or even 1 year? Being married to someone who doesn't want to go to church, you always going alone, with children who prefer to stay at home with their father? Many completely **different** interests. Do you want to be forced to attend parties that don't interest you, etc.?

But **that's not** even the biggest danger.

We mustn't forget that the devil comes to kill, steal and destroy. If you marry an unsaved person, the house has an open door right from the start.

Where the door is open, the devil enters. And he brings any demon with him.

Marrying like this is a great danger, and you will be subject to attacks from the devil in any area of your life.

You may think God **protects** you, but your unsaved husband or wife is not.

And the devil uses him or her to get to you. You will suffer. It may take more or less time.

Then imagine when you have serious problems. You want to solve it with prayer by doing the Word of God, but your partner doesn't believe, care, or won't do it.

You'll be alone.

Is that the best God has for you?

God invented marriage.

If we want to be successful, we have to do things God's way.

In practice, this means:

- 1) We have to look to the Word (the Bible),
- 2) Listen to the Word,
- 3) Practice the Word,

***II Cor. 6:14:*** “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

God spoke this verse to help you choose the right person. Receive God's wisdom and act accordingly.

Marriage is not so easy for us to complicate with situations like these.

Marriage, in general, is under attack by the devil. Start well, ask God for wisdom and practice what He teaches us in His Word.

Don't chase emotions.

Go after God.

#### **4) DATING IS NOT MARRIAGE**

Some people treat dating like marriage.

They don't get along and have many differences, fights and arguments. Still, instead of stopping the relationship and recognising that this probably isn't the right person, they almost go to the pastor for advice.

Dating is not marriage.

Dating is about getting to know the person better. But if you get to know the person better and don't like them, don't continue.

If the relationship doesn't work out, stop it straight away.

Don't treat dating like marriage.

If you discover something really bad, even one day before the wedding, stop dating. **It would be better to find out beforehand** than before you're married.

Forget about the party, the relatives, what they will say, think, etc. We're talking about your life.

It's better not to get married than to have big problems afterwards. Until you get married, you're free to decide what you want.

## 5) LIVING TOGETHER

Nowadays, it's very common not to get married at all but to live together, "marriage is just paper, and in many cultures, there is no marriage, no paper," they say.

That's true. There are cultures where "getting together" is considered a marriage.

There's no paper, but it's as holy as a marriage, even without paper. It's for life, with all the responsibilities of a family.

What's happening today is different: people don't want to get married, but they want the benefits of marriage: they want to have sex, but they don't want to be responsible. They want to be free to leave at any time, in any way.

It's actually a very insecure union where the two of them have to be very careful at all times.

*"If he or she gets upset with me, maybe we won't be together tomorrow."*

There's nothing to hold on to, so the devil gets in even more easily. It's like a house without a door. You can't even close the door. Even an ex-girlfriend can get in.

*"Ah, but that's not it..."*

If that's not it, why don't they get married?

*"We want to get married but can't afford a party."*

Where does it say that you need a party to get married?

Who generally wants the party?

- parents,
- friends, colleagues.

Marriage is not a party. Marriage is a covenant:

It's coming before God to make a covenant:

All that is mine is yours,

All that is yours is mine,

From now on, we are one.

This is legalised so that the world's laws can also recognise it.

If there's no money for the party, do something simple.

You could buy a cake and a bottle of **champagne**.

If your friends want to party, they'll pay for it.

Or they want to try it out first to see if it works. They completely **forget** that marriage is a life together that is built day by day.

Without the strong foundation of **agape love** - the love that loves unconditionally - it's like building on sand.

It's like a life where you're constantly experimenting. If nobody likes to work on an experiment all the time, then how can you live like that?

It'll be stressful 24 hours a day.

*"What about sex before you get married?"*

*"He already says he's going to marry me."*

Are you sure? Then why doesn't he?

Don't listen to the words, but watch what he does.

*"But I don't care. That's a lie from the devil."* It doesn't matter if they have already been sleeping with many others!

Let's mention a **few things**:

- what if he gets aids?
- what if she gets pregnant?
- and he doesn't care; he says he didn't do it?
- and you, do you always like to be compared to others?

If she was in the habit of sleeping with boys when they were dating, after she gets married, he has doubts. Will she resist temptation when her ex-boyfriend turns up?

If they both knew each other well during their courtship, there wouldn't be any surprises after the wedding.





## 3 - MARRIGE

We've already seen that the purpose of dating is to get married. Let's see what marriage is.

Marriage is a new life in which two people (man and woman) begin a life together.

It's a new life.

They leave their parents and decide how they will live this new life.

Marriage is not a party that you throw on the day, and that's it. Marriage doesn't just begin on the wedding day; it's **built day by day**.

It wasn't invented by men but was instituted by God.

There are people who no longer believe in marriage because they look at marriages that have failed.

But car accidents also happen, but that doesn't mean that cars don't **work**.

Marriage works, and God's creation blessed us and made us happy.

It's a very good thing, but to have a happy marriage, it has to be done according to the manufacturer's manual, the Bible.

Only then can we hope to have a marriage as God intended:

- happy,
- with a strong union,
- based on love and respect.

To be successful, follow the instructions of the manufacturer = God.

***Genesis 2:24*** *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”*

This means both husband and wife leave their families and start a new life together.

“Leaving” is really leaving.

You don't want to marry your wife, plus her parents and sisters. Marriage only happens to two people.

If the rest of the family and friends also want to come in and run the house, there will be big problems.

Many marriages end in divorce because of this. The mother-in-law is always in the house, and instead of respecting and submitting to her husband, the wife respects her father more.

The ideal would be to start by living well away from the family, making it much easier to build a new marriage.

Marriage is for life and not as they try to teach us in films, where divorce is very normal, and there's nothing wrong with it.

God instituted marriage. He knows how it works best and says it's for life. This is God's perfect plan.

It's the perfect plan for each person to be happier.

One of the most important rules of marriage is love.

There are different kinds of love. All are important and have their place.

## 1 - EROS

"Eros" love - physical attraction.

This love is exploited in films, and many people think that's all it is.

It's emotional and subject to rapid change.

Here, people can even be attracted to several people simultaneously.

It's a love of feelings that "comes and goes".

*"I feel love until it's over."*

## 2 - PHILEO

"Phileo" love - friendship.

It's a conditional love. We feel this love if you're nice and we have the same opinions.

But at the moment of conflict, when you do things that the other person doesn't like, this love will end.

### 3 - AGAPE

“Agape” love - unconditional

This is the love that God has for us.

*John 3:16 “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.”*

It’s unconditional love. God gave his Son when we were still sinners.

This is God’s attitude towards us.

God is love, and his love was manifested when he gave his Son.

This doesn’t mean that God loves sin.

God hates sin but loves the sinner so much that he gives the solution to free the person from the devil and sin.

This is the highest love there is.

It is this love that we have to develop in marriage.

We decide on our wedding day: “I decide to love you (unconditionally) for the rest of my life”.

If you’re thinking of getting married, think of this love:

The love that gives.

The love that believes.

The love that respects.

The love that is patient.

See I Cor.13 (from the Living Bible):

Love is patient,  
Love is kind,  
Love is not envious,  
Love is not jealous,  
Love is not conceited,  
Love is not proud,  
Love is not arrogant,  
Love is not selfish,  
Love is not rude,  
Love doesn't demand that you do what it wants,  
Love is not irritable,  
Love is not sullen,  
Love doesn't hold grudges,  
Love will hardly notice the harm done to me,  
Love will always be loyal to the people I love,  
Love will always defend the people I love, even when I  
think they're wrong.

Marriage will be based on this love, developed day by day.

It doesn't happen by chance.

We have to develop this love and see the other person as they really are: full of value.