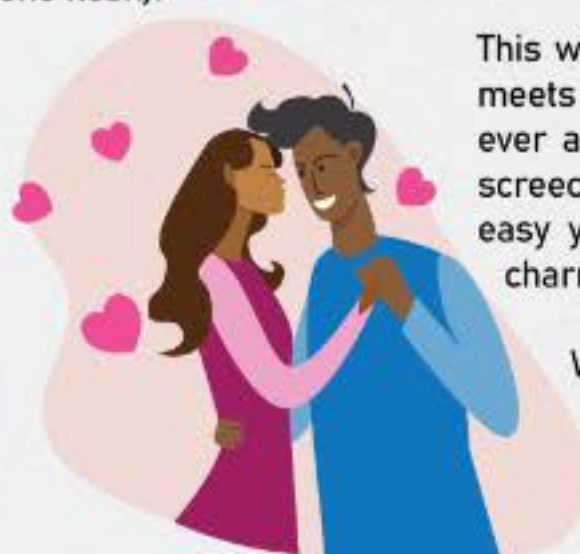


## DOING MARRIAGE

## THE GODLY WAY

There is absolutely no doubt that marriage is one of God's most beautiful creations. **Genesis 2:22-24** says that, <sup>22</sup>Then The Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken from a man, and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>The man said "This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh, she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of a 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).



This was from the beginning God's perfect plan, so simple in theory, a boy meets a girl, fall in love, boy marries girl, they have children and live happily ever after. If this was a movie, this is a scene when we would hear that screeching sound signaling an abrupt stop. In reality, marriage is far from easy yet most women spend most of their single life waiting for prince charming, and maybe that is where the problem starts; in waiting.

We tend to think that when we find the one they will complete us, make us whole but I am sorry to burst your bubble because no person can complete you but only Christ can, no person can give you purpose, only Christ can and no person can give you full acceptance, but only Christ can.

## GOD'S PERFECT PLAN

While God created a perfect plan for marriage, we cannot ignore the fact that the world we live in has its own ideas on how a marriage should look like, we are bombarded left right and center by all sorts of images and ideologies.



We have feminism putting ideas in our heads and movements like #menaretrash doing the rounds. Life has become so busy with women working outside their homes and roles have changed, which makes it difficult for marriages to thrive. Many people have suffered in the name of marriage that they have built their

walls up and do not even believe in marriage anymore, in other words marriage has become an endangered species that is struggling to survive.

As a Christian woman, I have always told myself that my marriage is in God's hands and that God is in control of my marriage, which is the Christian thing to do, right?

But, are we really honestly allowing God to be in control? Many times, I have found myself responding to something my husband has done based on my feelings or my bruised ego.

It was all about the fact that I am hurt so I am going to let him have it, and I can tell you that did not solve anything and if anything at all, things would always escalate because we were not talking to each other but our egos were. As time went on, I realised that I was more in control of my marriage than I allowed God to be. I would call on God after I had messed up and wanted him to come in and clean my mess.



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## UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF GOD

Romans 3:23

"for all have sinned and fell short of the glory of God". **John 3:16** "for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life".

I am so glad there is hope because God's love is unconditional. None of us deserves or earned it, yet God loves us anyway. God's love for us does not change based on what we have done or not done. It stays constant always and as Christians we're commanded to love as Christ loved. In many ways, we have no problem loving everyone unconditionally except when it comes to our husbands. Bishop TD Jakes once said and I quote

"Ladies, as men we just want you to love us the way you love your sons" unquote that really brought it home for me. While I'll be the first to admit that it's not easy to live and deal with a grown man, who was raised differently from me, thinks differently and reasons differently, has his own fears and insecurities, the list goes on. The word of God in **Ephesians 5:22-23** commands that "wives, submit to your husbands, as to the Lord."

In **Ephesians 4:32** the word encourages us to be kind and forgiving "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another just as God through Christ has forgiven you). We should be kind with our words too because, a soft answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger. Continuously praying to God "set a guard, oh Lord, over my mouth, keep watch over the door of my lips" (**Psalms 141:3**).

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About the author:

Moreblessing Nkome is a wife to Gaven Nkome for 20 years, a mother to Tinotenda, Makomborero and Tshepang. She is a somatology graduate from Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and she is currently working as a skin care Therapist at Sorbet Brooklyn in Pretoria.