

Series: **MADE IN HEAVEN (Mr & Mrs Better Half Season VI)**

Topic: **Recipe for Bliss**

Date: **8<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**

Text: **Joel 2:7-9**

As we are able to trust God for healing and jobs and other good things, we should also be able to trust Him for healing in our marriages and relationships. We need to be assured that God's ability to turn situations around means He has the ability to change human beings

There is a kingdom order for family which is different from the worldly order. In God's order for a home, it is first Christ, followed by the man, then the woman, and then the children. This can be buttressed by 1 Corinthians 11:3, which tells us that the head of every man is Christ and the head of the woman is the man. When our relationships do not follow this God ordained order, we will go through pain. Pain is the first signal that something is out of order or alignment. It can also serve as a voice that tells you to check out something.

For us to enjoy pain-free relationships, we must commit to loving Christ and obeying Him. This is when one can truly find joy and be a blessing to one's partner.

Joel 2:7 tell us not to break ranks and explains a commitment to order. This commitment makes for increase, progress and maximization of resources.

In a home, there is the relational structure and the administrative structure. The relational structure is that everyone in the family should have a blossoming relationship with Christ including the father, the mother and the children. The man is meant to hear instructions from God for his family and the capacity of the home to receive from God is stronger when a man is positioned to hear from Him. In a lot of homes though, men who are the head are not able to receive instructions from God because they are disconnected from Him.

Commitment to building a blissful home should be a driving force to a commitment with God. When we are committed to God, we fear God and we do not want to sin against Him. A spouse who fears God will in turn not sin against his or her spouse. God has commanded believers not to be unequally yoked to unbelievers or simply not to get married to unbelievers. This guarantees that one can have peace and feel secure. The key to a blissful home is knowing God and cultivating our relationships with Him.

The administrative structure tells us that everyone is equally important, however positioning is important for the sake of purpose and responsibility. God wants us to respect His order, which is that the man is the head of the home. To carry this role effectively, the man must have a personal relationship with God. When a man recognises that submission to God validates his authority, he takes his relationship with God seriously. Authority without control or submission is dangerous and therefore a man must be accountable to someone before getting married.

When a man is submitted to Christ, the following will be in place:

1. His decisions are aligned with God's word.
2. He takes responsibility for leadership.
3. He takes responsibility for provision. 1 Timothy 5:8 says a man who is unable to care for his own house is worse than an unbeliever.
4. He must demonstrate love and affection for his wife.

A woman who is submitted to the husband will have the following characteristics:

1. Honouring her husband and allowing him to take the lead
2. Being a consistent support
3. Recognising that submission does not take away from her intelligence and capacity for sound judgement.

In Mark 10:4-8, Jesus condemned the practice of the Jews on divorcing their wives for flimsy reasons. God wants married people to be committed to permanence and refuse to give up easily. When problems arise, they need to be resolved. Resolving conflicts will only strengthen the marriage.

Following divine order is definitely a recipe for bliss and peace