

Sacrament of Matrimony.

Seeking God's face or the world's satisfaction?!



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Book Title: Sacrament of Matrimony

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First Print: September 2018.

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Translated from Original Arabic Book:

سر الزيجة. طلب وجه الرب، أم رضى العالم؟!
الطبعة الأولى - يناير 2015

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Distributed by:

Episcopal Publishing House – 30 Shubra Street – Cairo –
Egypt.

Tel: 0020 225755316 – 0020 225766702

www.prayerforchristianunity.com



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

Our Lord: You are our source of unity ...
You alone are our true joy.



In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
One God.

Amen

The Sacrament of Matrimony is one of the seven sacraments of the Church, in which God unites a man and a woman to become one flesh. A “sacrament” is a sacred act whereby the believer receives the invisible grace of God through visible signs. The sacrament of marriage is the oldest sacrament that God Himself established from the beginning of creation in the Garden of Eden⁽¹⁾. The question today is do we realize the greatness of this sacrament and practice it with the fear of God or we became confused with the manifestations of the world so that we turned our eyes from God to satisfy the world and the people?!

(1) And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” ...

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

And Adam said:

“This is now bone of my bones

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man.”

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2: 18 - 24)

The devil has succeeded in diverting the eyes of some people from seeking the work of the Lord in this sacred sacrament to the request of false glory. In this book, we will discuss two phenomena that illustrate this:

1. Indecent clothing.

God has called us to be the light of the world⁽¹⁾, but unfortunately we find some Christians who attend the ritual of this sacrament with clothes that are not suitable for the children of God, causing offenses to believers and non-believers. Instead of attending the church to enjoy the prayers of this ritual and the participation of loved ones' joy and being blessed, some people take the condemnation for themselves by causing offenses to others because of their indecent clothes.

(1) You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5: 14-16)

So where did the decent clothing disappear?

It disappeared with the fashion of the world because **“the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”** (1 John 5:19). The beauty of a woman is in her chastity and purity, not in wearing exposed fashion clothes that offend others.

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (2 Corinthians 3:17), and where the Spirit of the world, there are offenses and bondage to the kingdom of Satan.

Christianity does not establish a unified system of clothing, but gives us the freedom that is in Christ. Through the work of the Holy Spirit within us, we can judge what should be worn and what should not. **“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”** (1 Corinthians 6:12).

Message to every woman:

Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

“If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. (Matthew 18: 7,8)

The Lord Jesus has obviously clarified the severity of offenses and their consequences. Do you think well before wearing clothes that may offend others?

Do you realize that by showing your beauty in an improper way in order to get the admiration of others, you might cause the fall of your brother, for whom Christ died?

Do you realize that unfortunately, the name of the Lord is blasphemed because of the indecent clothes worn by some people on occasions such as weddings and feasts?

The daughters of God should not offend others with their clothes, but give the world an example of purity and chastity. ⁽¹⁾

Do you realize the beauty and value of your body that God gave you? Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, owned by God, who bought you by the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. ⁽²⁾

Message to every man:

But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her

(1) when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. (1 Peter 3: 2-4)

(2) Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6: 19,20)

in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

(Matthew 5: 28-30)

When you face the wars of lust, do not seek excuses for yourself. Lift up your heart to God, confessing your weakness, ask for His help, and give Satan no place.

You have to realize that **“To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.”** (Titus 1:15). Do not lust the external beauty of your sister, for whom Christ died, but ask God to give you a heart after His own heart , so that your lusty look be transformed into the sacred pure look of Christ. The lust wants to take, but love gives and blesses.

Do not tolerate any look of lust,⁽¹⁾ even when the war is becoming more aggressive on you. **“Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain.”** (Genesis 19:17). If, for example, your presence in the hall of celebration is causing you lust temptations, you need to come out immediately and lift your heart to God. Be like Joseph who left everything to escape from falling into sin.⁽²⁾ **“Keep yourself pure.”** (1 Timothy 5:22). Keep your mind, your feelings, your looks ... keep yourself completely pure to God.

God called His people to live the life of purity and to be a living example to the world. Every Christian believer must live a life of purity and chastity, knowing that our call is to be **“ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”** (2 Corinthians 5:20).

(1) But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1: 14,15)

(2) But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. (Genesis: 39: 12)

2. Celebrations in ceremonies that follow the Sacrament of Matrimony which are not suitable for the children of God.

We often see the bride and groom along with their families arranging the finest details of everything related to the celebrations while the readiness for this sacrament does not even take a small part of their interest. For example, the reservation of the wedding reception may take a whole year prior to the wedding date. Rather, it might be the corner stone according to which they determine the date of their wedding. The program of the reception hall is well settled in detail to be presented in the best way, while the spiritual preparation for this sacrament; knowing and understanding its details as a ritual does not find any interest from anyone!

The ruler of this world has used the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life to stifle our love and obedience to God. Under the excuse of duty or fashion, we find the receptions and parties that follow the sacrament of matrimony far from the sanctity of this sacrament .

While the work of the Holy Spirit is found in the Church, Satan's work is found in many of these parties where there are songs, dance, indecent clothing, drunkenness ... etc.

Some people may find that there is no harm to share some joy in the world's style; such as dance and songs after the completion of the sacrament of matrimony as a kind of participation of our joy with others. In this aspect, we have several points to discuss:

1. The sacrament of matrimony is one of the seven sacraments of the Church and has its sanctity as all other sacraments. Is it appropriate, for example, to partake of the Holy Communion while wearing immodest clothes, and then go out to attend a party full of dancing and songs that carry the spirit of the world ?! The answer is: Of course "No...." If it is inappropriate to do so in one of the sacraments of the Church, then it applies to the rest of sacraments.

2. We believe that Christ is present in our midst according to His promise: **"For where two or three**

are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20). Can we invite Christ to share with us the dance and songs that carry the spirit of the world? **“For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”** (2 Corinthians 6: 14)

3. Has our joy become the joy of the world or the joy of heaven? Has the love of the world and its manifestations become possessing us so that we forgot that the true joy is in obeying the Lord and His Word?

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2: 15-17)

4. What is the arrangement of our priorities? Is it pleasing God or pleasing people based on the misleading

principles of the world?⁽¹⁾

5. Why do we lose the blessing and sell it in exchange for lentils? In Genesis, the Bible tells us how Esau sold his birthright for bread and stew of lentils (Genesis 25: 29-34). Similarly, we see that God has prepared abundant blessings for us in the sacrament of matrimony, but we sell them in exchange for lentils: temporary false joy.

What then, is it permissible to hold a ceremony after the sacrament of matrimony is completed or not?

The answer is simply: **All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.** (1 Corinthians 10:23)

Whether you decided to arrange a ceremony after the sacrament of marriage or not, **“do all to the glory of God.”** (1 Corinthians 10:31).

(1) For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10)

Not having a party after the Sacrament of Matrimony

- ❖ Makes the focus and attention of everyone on attending the Church, thus enjoying the ritual of the sacrament of matrimony and seeking God's face.

- ❖ Does not give Satan a place or opportunity to fight us with the manifestations of the world.

- ❖ Makes the children of God distinct from the people of the world, giving example to the sanctity of the sacrament of matrimony.

- ❖ Since we live in a world full of economic pressures, the new couple may use the large amount of money to be paid for arranging the party in other valuable things that benefit them, but unfortunately we see some people borrow and put themselves in debt just to arrange a party after marriage.

- ❖ Avoid the embarrassment of inviting only some people to attend the party while not inviting others, unlike the sacrament of matrimony, in which all people are invited, without distinction, to attend in the house of the Lord in order to enjoy the ritual.

- ❖ Avoid stress and problems that may occur during party arrangements.

Having a party after the Sacrament of Matrimony

Under the pressure of the parents, and the desire of each family to meet the family of the other party, or the desire of the bride or bridegroom to share their joy with their beloved ones, some people may see the need to have a party after the sacrament of marriage, and here are some advices:

- ❖ The presence of a party should not distract us from enjoying the sacrament of marriage and asking God's face from the depth of our hearts.

- ❖ Let our target in arranging a party be seeking the Glory of God, as we want God who united us in the sacrament of matrimony to be with us at the party, so we will not allow the presence of world's loud music or songs with dance and other manifestations that carry the spirit of the world.
- ❖ Presence of some hymns, especially those related to the joy of marriage, along with quiet classical music and hymns music instead of the world's songs.

As we mentioned some of the negative aspects of parties that bear the spirit of the world, we must also refer to the true faithful believers parties that rejoice the Heaven. Some Christian believers arrange a party after marriage as an extension to the sacrament of matrimony where brothers and sisters meet together, in the spirit of communion and simplicity, to proclaim the glory of the Lord and exalt His name amid the praise and prayers. Christ is in the middle to bless the new house in order to be built on the rock.

A true Christian Marriage is the one done:

- ❖ According to God's thought, and not according to that of the world, as seeking the Lord's face is our deepest joy.

- ❖ We do not give Satan a place to stifle our true joy in the Lord through the deceptive manifestations and principles of the world.

- ❖ The children of God are known, acting as ambassadors for Christ, to give a living example of purity and chastity and of the sanctity of Christian Marriage.

Other books for the author in English

- ❖ Prayer for Christian unity.
- ❖ Ambassador of Heaven.
- ❖ Lord Jesus' visit to the child Maria.
- ❖ Wait for the Lord.
- ❖ Victory is waiting for you.
- ❖ Sanctify me Oh God.
- ❖ Come to Jesus' bosom
- ❖ Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.





Does seeking God's face represent our priority and greatest joy in the Sacrament of Matrimony, or the manifestations of the world like indecent clothes and noisy parties that do not suit the children of God, became like the thorns that stifle our true joy in the Lord with this Holy Sacrament?

