

**Advanced Marriage**

**Training**

**For Singles**

**By**

**Dr. Derrick L. Campbell**

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## PREFACE

For several years, The Lord has blessed my wife and I to be able to facilitate marriage conferences for couples looking to enhance their marriage. As I continued, I became further concerned as to why there is such a high divorce rate. I reflected on all of the great tools and ministries around the world that improve peoples marriages. Then I asked The Lord, "Why are marriages not working". The Lord lead me to Genesis 2:15-18. The Lord revealed to me that the reason that marriages are not working is because they do not resemble His original design for marriage.

According to Genesis 2:15-18, God designed marriage with a specific purpose, path, and position. Adam's purpose was to be a servant and a steward over the resources that God provided (Genesis 2:15). Adam was provided a specific path that God gave in the form of commandments (Genesis 2:16-17). Adam was provided with a specific position in the marriage (Genesis 2:18). When any one of the three components of God's original design for marriage are dysfunctional then the probability for separation and divorce increases tremendously.

The Lord told me that I want you to share this information with people who are single. This will better equip them for marriage by helping them to make selections based on the original design for marriage and not the other superficial characteristics and values that force people to eventually contemplate divorce. Therefore, I wrote the book 'Advanced Marriage Training for Singles'.

The book - Advanced Marriage Training for Singles - comprises of several chapters. Each chapter provides a single person with activities for reflection before selecting a husband or wife. In many cases, after people have decided to marry or become engaged they do not take a closer look at the values and desires that each individual has for their marriage. It is not until after their wedding that they begin to uncover values that often contradict the values of the other person and therefore create tension in the marriage which can lead to separation or divorce.

Advanced Marriage Training for Singles begins by introducing the concepts of a dysfunctional marriage and how it is related to a dysfunctional organization. The following chapters include activities that prepare a single person for marriage before they begin the dating process or make that decision to become engaged. A single person who is better informed about themselves and their marriage expectations will select a mate that closely fits their expectations which will result in a higher level of unity between them and their future husband or wife. The book ends with chapters that provide singles with tools designed to reduce tension in their future marriage.

Writing this book required countless hours of studying the bible and research. Once God gave me this revelation, it required me to study The Word in more depth. It amazed me as to how many obstacles began to present themselves as I continued to write this book. I realized that this book is important for singles and reducing the divorce rate. I decided to just knuckle down and finish the book.

I would like to thank my wife Sheila who was instrumental in assisting me to write this book. I am thankful for her love and patience. I would also like to thank Victoria. As I continued to facilitate marriage conferences for couples, it was Victoria who insisted that if I could provide training for couples then I could provide training for singles. Thank you for your persistence Victoria.

The intended audience for this book is people who are single. While this book will help married people, people who are engaged, and people who are dating, I believe that people who have not begun to officially date will benefit the most from this book. I say that because after finishing the book, the pre-dating individual will have a complete picture of their expectations and therefore make an informed decision before they begin the dating process. This will reduce the divorce rate in our country tremendously.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Campbell holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics Engineering Technology from Capital Institute of Technology, a second Bachelor of Science degree in Math Education from the University of the District of Columbia, a Masters in Education Administration from Lincoln University, and a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Rowan University.

He is also the founder and CEO of DLC Consultant Group. After authoring his first book, *Promoting Positive Racial Teacher-Student Classroom Relationships*, in January 2008, Dr. Campbell developed a Cultural Relationship Training Program that improves teacher-student classroom relationships as well as several companion programs. He also developed the B.O.S.S. Leadership Training Program that improves manager-employee workplace relationships and relationships between Law Enforcement and their local community.

Dr. Campbell authored his second book, *Leading Your Marriage into the Promised Land*, in February 2009. *Leading Your Marriage into the Promised Land* provides advanced marriage training for couples. Following the writing of this book, he wrote two companion workbooks, one for husbands and the other for wives.

Dr. Campbell is founder and president of The Promised Land Ministry. The Promised Land Ministry provides training for churches and non-profit organizations. Churches and non-profit organizations receive training in the areas of strategic planning, team building, and leadership.

In August 2007, Dr. Campbell founded Leadership Advancement Journal which publishes articles on recent educational, organizational, and business developments that impact our culture. His articles, *Reducing Cultural Bullying in Schools* and *Reducing Inappropriate Special Education Referrals for Historically Underserved Students*, have been featured in a local New Jersey newspaper.

In November 2008, Dr. Campbell began the new Radio talk show - *Culturally Speaking with Doctor Derrick*. On this talk show we discussed the solutions to the cultural challenges that exist in our schools, workplaces, and community. Dr. Campbell has had a host of local and national speakers who contributed to the content of the show.

Dr. Campbell has lectured at various locations throughout the nation, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference, and local churches. He has ministered to the youth at his home church on the topic of Christian student rights in the public schools and has ministered at another local New Jersey church on *Overcoming the Poverty Cycle*. He has been a board member of his church's men's ministry, *Athletes United in Christ*, and has participated in various church activities. He is a board member for several non-profit organizations. He has facilitated *Leading Your Marriage into the Promised* seminars at churches and the *Iron Sharpens Iron Conference Men's Conference*.

Dr. and Mrs. Campbell are available for speaking engagements.



DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my brother who was  
my lifetime playmate and friend,

Craig Alexander Campbell Sr.

RIP

February 27, 1958 to August 7, 2014



# The Dysfunctional Marriage

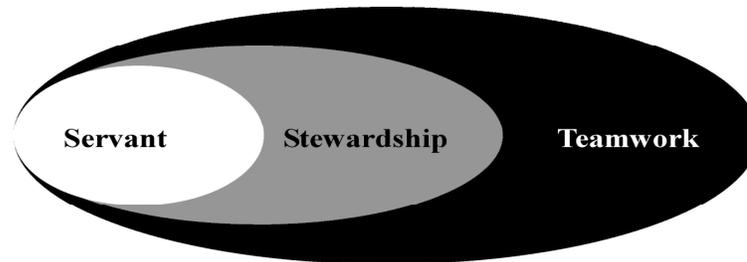
*And he answered and said unto them, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:4-6).*

A marriage becomes dysfunctional when it does not operate as originally designed. God designed marriage as a union between a man and a woman. In addition, He also placed several leadership principles in the husband and wife to ensure that marriage remains functional. Figure 1 reveals that the husband leadership principles of a functional marriage are servant and stewardship. When He added the wife, He also added teamwork as the final leadership characteristics.

# THE DYSFUNCTIONAL MARRIAGE

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Figure 1: Functional Marriage Husband Leadership Characteristics



Our first example of a marriage is between Adam and Eve. God gave Adam certain responsibilities, which required certain leadership principles. When these leadership principles do not operate as God originally designed then the marriage is dysfunctional.

Genesis 2:7, records that ..."the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul". God placed the man He created in the Garden of Eden. Then God created a habitable environment for him, which included trees that were pleasant to the sight and good for food. God placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden too. Eden also had a river that divided into four parts. God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden "... to dress it and to keep it" (Genesis 2:15).

Dressing and keeping the Garden of Eden was Adams original purpose. The word 'dress' in the Hebrew is 'abad, which means to work as a servant. The word 'keep' in the Hebrew is shamar, which means to protect. God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to work as a servant in the garden and to protect the garden. Protecting the garden required that Adam become the steward of the garden. God granted

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Adam stewardship over the Garden of Eden. Stewardship requires a relationship between the master and the one that the master entrusts with the resources. In this case, God is the master and He entrusted the Garden of Eden to Adam.

God provided Adam with the path that he was to follow (Genesis 2:16 - 17). God instructed Adam on what he could and could not do. At that point and time, Adam maintained his relationship with God by obeying his commands.

God decided to provide Adam with a helper. Genesis 2:18 records ..."The Lord God said , It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet". That word 'meet' in the Hebrew is 'ezer. Ezer means to help. Eve's primary responsibility was to help Adam who was to work as a servant and to protect the Garden of Eden. The original purpose for the union between Adam and Eve was to work together as a team to serve and protect the Garden of Eden. Hence, the original purpose for the marriage between a man and a woman is to serve and protect the resources that God gives to the husband and wife through teamwork. The key for the husband is to become a servant of God so that God will provide resources for the husband to protect which will enable the wife to help with the purpose that God gives to the husband.

Noah provides an example of a husband who prospered due to his decision to become God's servants. Noah made the decision to become a servant of God and God provided him with the resources to accomplish his task that included help from his wife. Noah is the grandson of Methuselah (Genesis 5:25-29) and the son of Lamech. He was a "just man and perfect in his generation" and "walked with God" (Ezekial 14:14, 20).

During his time, the descendents of Cain and Seth began to intermarry and the result was a faction of people who were known for their ungodliness. Man's corruption increased and God decided to eliminate this wicked population from the earth (Genesis 6:7).

God entered into a covenant with Noah which guaranteed that Noah and his family would survive this judgment. God commanded that Noah build an ark (Genesis 6:14-16) and he served God's purpose by obeying Him. When Noah decided to serve God's purpose, he saved himself and his family.

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It took Noah one hundred and twenty years to build the ark (Genesis 6:3). During that time, Noah testified to the non-believers and the wicked of that time to encourage them to repent of their evil and wicked ways. After Noah and his family finished building the ark then the "Lord shut him in" (Genesis 7:16). God flooded the earth for forty days, which resulted in the destruction of every living man, woman, and animal that remained outside of the ark.

Noah decided to become God's servant. God provided the necessary resources for Noah to complete his task. God also provided him with a wife, which provided the mechanism necessary for the team and teamwork that would accomplish the task. As a result, Noah, his wife, and his family prospered by positioning themselves to overcome the impending tragedy of God's judgment. A husband who decides to become God's servant will attain the necessary resources which includes help from his wife.

When the husband makes the decision to become God's servant, he must also make the decision to obey God. When Adam made the choice to disobey God, he also made the choice to alter the functionality of his marriage.

Adam demonstrated his disobedience in the Garden of Eden. Before God created Eve, He told Adam that he was not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17). Then God warned Adam that in the day he did eat fruit of that tree he would surely die. Shortly thereafter, Satan took on the form of a serpent (Genesis 3:1) and began to tempt Eve by asking the question "Hath God not said Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Satan suggested to Eve that God was wrong with the command that he gave to Adam. Eve responded that she and Adam could eat of all the trees of the garden except the one tree called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Then Satan blatantly lied and told Eve that she would not die (Genesis 3:4). Eve allowed herself to be deceived in three areas. First, Eve saw the fruit was good for food, appealing to the flesh and bodily senses. Second, she saw that it was pretty and appealed to her emotions. Finally, it appealed to her mind and intellect because she wanted to be wise (Genesis 3:6).

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Eve failed in several areas. She refused to accept God at His Word. She doubted God, opening the door to the Devil's appeal to her flesh and her spiritual pride. She failed in her position as Adam's helper. She made the decision to disobey the instruction that God gave to Adam. She effectively disobeyed her husband Adam. She did not involve Adam in any way until after the act of disobedience was done. She became an instrument of temptation herself and offered the fruit to her husband. She failed in her role as a helper and this was the failure that became the means for Adam's downfall.

Eve is not the only person that failed. According to 1 Timothy 2:14, ... "Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression". Satan's goal was to get Adam to sin by disobeying God. He used Eve's gullibility and weaker nature to get at Adam. Adam saw that Eve had eaten of the fruit, and he must have concluded that she was not dead and thus God must have lied to him too. He must have also concluded that due to the knowledge that Eve possessed that she was now wiser than him. Instead of believing God, he believed what his eyes saw and what his own wisdom concluded was real.

After Adam sinned, both their eyes were opened and they saw themselves naked and ashamed. They immediately sought to cover their nakedness and sewed fig leaves together into an apron (Genesis 3:7). God came as usual in the cool of the day to fellowship with Adam and Eve, but they tried to hide from God. Adam and Eve could not escape the presence of God, and when called, responded honestly, "...I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself". (Gen. 3:10)

When questioned about how they knew that they were naked (Genesis 3:11), Adam and Eve tried to justify their actions by passing the blame. Adam, pleaded it was the fault of the woman, "...whom thou gavest to be with me" (Genesis 3:12). Adam was blaming God. As if God had not given him the woman he would not have sinned. However, Adam was not deceived as noted earlier. He with full knowledge willfully disobeyed God. Eve, followed Adam's example and said it was the serpent's fault (Genesis 3:13). "He tricked me", she said and thus she pleaded she was not responsible as well.

God judged both Adam and Eve for their transgression. God's judgment on woman was that her sorrow and conception would be multiplied (Genesis 3:16).

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The result of sin was that the length and pain of child birth was increased. Furthermore, the woman would have a strong desire to rule over her husband. However her husband would rule over her. The same word that describes the pain of women in childbirth is used to describe man's pain in laboring for a living. The life of man would be one of hard work caused by "thorns and thistles" indicating that even the plants of earth were adversely effected by man's sin. After a hard life, man would die and be returned to the dust from which he was formed (Genesis 3:17).

The original leadership principles for man is servant and stewardship. With the addition of a woman, who becomes his wife also, include the addition of teamwork. When the husband makes the decision to disobey God by not serving in his appointment the result is a dysfunctional marriage. Couples who are in a dysfunctional marriage will also exhibit characteristics consistent with a dysfunctional organization. In my next chapter, I will discuss the characteristics of a dysfunctional organization.