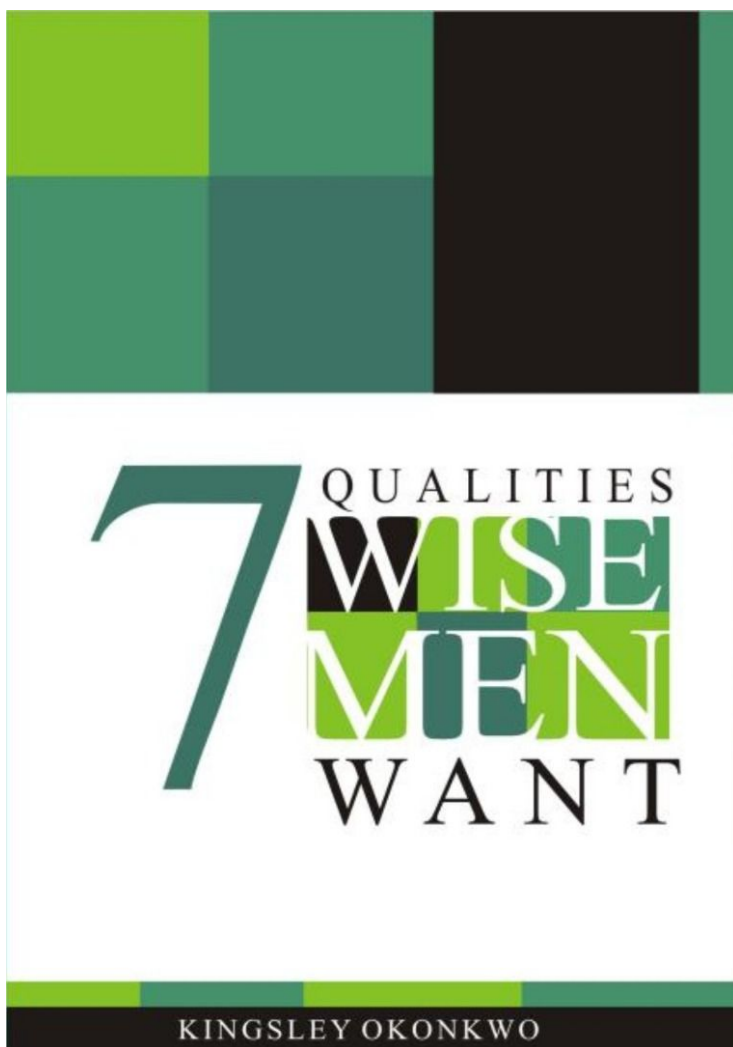




7 QUALITIES WISE MEN WANT

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INTRODUCTION

Most times when you see a very fine woman married to or marrying a short, ugly man, you usually wonder what she saw in him .It is not what she saw in him, it is what she heard from him. The fact is women are moved by what they hear, so if that short, ugly, poor, rugged-looking man can talk well, he can marry the finest woman in the world.

On the other hand, men are usually moved by what they see, so if you are a woman, I advise that you please take time to look good. Don't just build your inner qualities; build your outer qualities as well. Look good! Some women think because they love the Lord, the only important thing to work on is their intelligence; no! Men are moved by what they see! Work on the inside as well as the outside.

If you look good on the outside, men will be attracted enough to find out what is on the inside. If something is packaged in a bad wrapper, no matter how good the thing is, I will not look at it twice!

However when it comes to real marriage situations, beauty will not count for much. In marriage, you have to look beyond beauty because the Bible says beauty is vain! (Proverbs 31:30) Yes, as a man you can be attracted to a beautiful woman, but make sure she is beautiful on the inside also. Make sure there is something beyond the beauty, because physical attraction alone will not keep you in marriage. A lot of beautiful women abroad -especially those in the entertainment world, have been cheated on. They have been divorced and sometimes even beaten, because in marriage, beauty doesn't count. It is only from a distance that physical attraction looks uncontrollable and

desirable. In a marriage relationship, there has to be real love; one beyond beauty or physical attraction.

I remember counseling a man some time ago and he was telling me all the things a lady did to him; very bad things. When he finished, I told him the girl probably did not like him and he said, “Pastor I really like her. I really want to marry her.” I asked him why and he said, “Pastor she is very beautiful.” The lady obviously did not like him and was doing some very bad things, but he was so stuck on her beauty, he wasn’t thinking straight anymore and men need to watch out for that. There is nothing wrong in a man looking for a beautiful woman; it’s okay as long as she also has inner beauty and good qualities.

The same Bible verse that says beauty is vain also says charm is deceitful. Most men are tripped when they see a woman they can relate with. That she is

charismatic and you two are flowing and you enjoy your conversations with her does not mean you will make it in marriage. There is a difference between conversing well and functionality. Because most men are not in touch with their emotions, they cannot tell when it is just emotions. You can meet someone you have never met before and just like the person. I don't know why it happens, but that is not love. You need to understand that emotional love is different from real love. Samson loved Delilah but did Delilah love Samson? Was Delilah a good woman? It's obvious she was not, but the bible says Samson loved her and that led to his destruction.

The truth is, you will meet women that you just like and you don't know why. Maybe you like the way they talk or walk or you can't even place your finger on it but if you know the qualities you want in a woman, then you can make a sound decision. You

can decide beyond whatever feelings you are experiencing.

For instance, there was a time I wanted to buy a car and when I came across this particular car, I just liked everything about it. It was beautiful and I wanted it. As I began to investigate about it, I found out that I and the car were not compatible but I liked the car. Eventually I didn't buy that car because I had to move from just my feelings to functionality. The same goes for a marriage relationship. It is one thing to like somebody but another thing for both of you to walk together as one.

As men, we need to be careful of beauty and charisma because those are the two major things that cloud our judgments. Hence, knowing the qualities to watch out for will help us make sound decisions despite our feelings. Those qualities are what we'll be examining in the subsequent pages

and it is my prayer that as you read this book, there will be a renewal of your mind and you will walk into that glorious marriage destiny with the right choice, with the right partner God has purposed for you.

The fear of the Lord

*“Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain but a woman
that fears the Lord shall be praised”*

(Proverbs 31:30)

The first quality wise men should look out for in a woman is the fear of the Lord. When I say fear of the Lord, I don't just mean that she goes to church, I don't just mean that she carries the bible, I don't just mean that she prays, I mean she is a woman that holds God in reverence and has a living, breathing relationship with Him. Listen very carefully, whether you are a man or woman, what will sustain that marriage till the end is a personal relationship with God, not with your spouse. I'm not saying don't have a personal relationship with your spouse, but your relationship with God must supersede that.

Joseph had the chance to sleep with Potiphar's wife but he said, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God." (Gen 39:9). The issue was not about Potiphar. Potiphar would not have known, but Joseph had the fear of God. Listen, your spouse will not do some certain things to you or against you if they fear God.

My wife doesn't just submit to me all the time because I'm saying what she likes, no. The bible says you should submit because you are a wife (Ephesians 5:22) and that's what she's practicing. The woman is not just submitting because she believes or because she agrees with everything the man is saying, no! She submits because she wants to honor God and honor God's word!

Just the same way the Bible says the woman should submit, the Bible also says as a man, you should

love your wife! (Ephesians 5:25) That means you put her first! That means that sometimes you don't feel like doing certain things, but because you fear God and you want to honor God, you do those things. You need to understand that if the person you want to marry is doing everything he or she is doing just because of you, the day you annoy them there will be consequences.

For example, I am not beating my wife because God says not to do so, not because of her, not because I like her. If your own reason is because you like her, the day she offends you, you will beat her because she offended you. The natural, selfish, you wants to get back at her, but if it is because you honor God, no matter what she does, you want to stand in righteousness before Him.

It is better that the person is treating you right because they fear God than because they fear you,

because the day you are not there, the person will still treat you right and the truth is, you will never always be there. I've heard of a case where the woman was delivering a baby in the hospital and her sister was delivering another thing in the house to the husband. That is the difference! If it is the fear or the love of you that is making her do something right, the day she is tired of you, she will do what she likes. I just don't live right because my wife would know, no. There are things I could do that she won't know, but God would know.

And please note that it was not at the time I met my wife I began to fear God or the other way round, no. We both had the fear of God before we met each other. That means the relationship with God existed before either of us came to know each other. It shouldn't be because of you that the person is now going to church, no! Does she love God ordinarily? Does she respect God? Does she honor God? Does

she reverence God? You must look for a woman that fears God and is ruled by the Spirit of God and by the word of God. That is what can sustain the marriage.

A lot of people that are divorced today were happy on their wedding day when they got married. How many wedding pictures have you seen the husband and wife frowning and looking unhappy or how many have you seen hold hands saying, “We are fighting!” No! Most wedding pictures you see, the husband and wife were smiling and hugging each other. How then did the marriage result in divorce? It’s because they got tired of that love; that romantic love.

However if that person is ready to please God by all means, even if they don’t feel like doing some things, they will do it in obedience to God’s Word. That is why when you hear people that are supposed to be Christians out rightly say, “I don’t want to marry my husband again, I am just tired,”

you know that they don't honor God.

Your husband will not always please you and your wife will not always please you; just get that fact settled forever. I heard of the story of a man that was angry with his wife and said he didn't love her anymore and was going to send her packing. When the pastor came to the house and asked him what the problem was, he said, "Pastor, I don't like my wife anymore. I don't want to marry her anymore." The Pastor said, "Brother, you know the Bible says: husbands love your wife." (Ephesians 5:25) He said, "She is not my wife anymore. She lives in the next room. She is not my wife, she is my neighbor." The Pastor said, "Well, the Bible says you should love your neighbor." (Mark 12:31) He replied and said, "She is not my neighbor! In fact, we have not spoken for the past three months. We don't talk to each other. She is not my neighbor, she is my enemy." The Pastor responded and said, "Brother, the Bible also says: love your enemies and pray for

them” (Matthew 5:44). There was no escape route.

If God has commanded you to love your enemies and to love your neighbor and you have been doing that, it’s not going to be difficult to love your wife. Even when she is not perfect or loveable, it’s not going to be difficult to live with her if you have been obeying the word before. The Word is the foundation for a successful relationship. You must have the fear of God not just because you want to marry. Many are trying to bring in spiritual things to find a wife, no! You must first love the Lord. You must first have a relationship with Him. The fear of God is the first quality to look out for, not just that the person goes to church.

Watch out for the person that is out rightly talking against the scriptures. When you see a woman that fights her Pastor, fights her Father, fights her elder brother, fights her boss and is always bad mouthing

people, stay away from her. She doesn't fear God!
Don't go and marry her! She will not change! You
will be the next in line!

A meek and quiet spirit

*“Whose adorning let it not be that outward
adorning of plaiting of hair and of wearing of gold
or of putting on of apparel but let it be the hidden
man of the heart in that which is not corruptible,
even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit
which is in the sight of God of great price.”
(1Peter 3:3-4)*

A lot of men don't know what to look out for in a woman. That she has hips or she's tall is no reason to marry that girl! The Bible says a meek and quiet spirit is of great price before the eyes of God. That means God values it, and friend if God values it, you better value it. Listen to me men; do not marry a woman that does not have a meek and quiet spirit! That means she must be teachable. People ask me what the greatest quality to look for in a wife is and the answer is she must be teachable. In the

marriage setting, the Bible says the man is the head (1 Corinthians 11:3). Head means leader. If you are a leader, one of the major qualities you must see in a follower is the ability to follow. If the person following will not listen to you, then you have nothing to teach the person.

That woman can be nothing today but if she can learn, she can develop to any level she wants. If God values meekness, you better value it too. Does she listen to you? Lot's wife became a pillar of salt because she refused to listen to a simple instruction (Genesis 19:26). Can she follow you? Can she submit to you? She must have a meek and quiet spirit. Unfortunately, some people are trying to marry women that want to kill them, a woman that is always shouting and never listening. You can never convince her about anything if it's contrary to her opinion. That's a rebellious woman! Stay away from her otherwise she will be your death.

Some people tell me, “Pastor, there is a lady I’m trying to marry. I have been proposing to her but she doesn’t want to accept. What do I do?” Listen to me! If you cannot convince her to marry you that means you won’t be able to lead her in any other way, because marriage is largely about communication. And the same principle applies to a woman as well. You should not follow a man that cannot lead you; that you cannot submit to. It’s dangerous! The Bible says in Genesis that when God saw Adam, He said it was not good for man to be alone. Hence He made him a help meet that was suitable and adaptable (Genesis 2:18). One of the major things that will happen in marriage is that there will be a lot of adaptation. You will be adapting to different circumstance and the big question is, can the woman do that?

One of the qualities I love most in my wife is that she is very understanding; I can tell her this is what

we are going to do and even though it might not be convenient for her, she will listen. If you cannot lead the woman, how can you marry her? You can't convince her, you can't share the vision and you can't share the dream with her. There is no use!

I don't understand the way people fight sometimes; I don't understand it at all. People say the wedding period is always awful, that they fight. If you really marry the kind of wife you should marry, you will be able to explain to her. My wife likes jewelries. She likes rings but when we got married there was no engagement ring. Even till now there is still no engagement ring. We didn't have the money then.

I remember my mother in law saying, "Won't you people do program for the wedding? You didn't print program!" As at the time she was saying that, it was a few days to the wedding. There was no wedding ring and she was talking about program! I told her not to worry that it would be printed. The

purpose of a program is to let everyone know the next thing to do so all we had to do was tell them. There was no need to print anything because we didn't have the money for it!

But you see, I had to sell the idea to my wife. I had to tell her when it came to the issue of engagement ring that I'm not engaging you, I'm marrying you. It's the wedding ring you need, not the engagement ring.

The truth is that as men, we are going to find ourselves sometimes in situations where we need to adjust and if you can sell her the idea, there should be no problem. If both of you can communicate effectively, there should be no problem. That is the major quality you must look out for in that woman, the ability for her to buy that idea you're selling. Should we rent a house or should we buy land and build? Should we live in a small place now while working on building our own or should we rent a

big house and not be able to pay? Her responses to such questions will help you know her thought pattern.

You need to understand that women are delicate. Many men are fighting their wives instead of talking. That is your principal assignment as a man; the ability to sell her the idea. What if God calls you to be a pastor or calls you to travel? You must have the ability to tell her, “Honey, this is what I want to do and these are the reasons.” You must have the ability to share that vision.

Men make sure that woman has a meek and quiet spirit. God has made you the leader of that home and if you cannot lead the people following you, then you are not a leader.

3

Virtue

“Who can find a virtuous woman? Her price is far above rubies” (Proverbs 31:10)

This means a virtuous woman is expensive; not expensive in terms of cash but hard to find. If you read the whole chapter of Proverbs 31, you will see who a virtuous woman is. The Bible mentioned that her price is more than rubies but nowadays, a lot of women's price is far less.

It is amazing when I see women who follow men to fast-food restaurants just for a plate of meal and sell their virtue in the process. The woman described in Proverbs 31 was not dependent on a man. Most women don't know it but they are more powerful than the average man. They are more gifted.

Throughout the whole chapter, the Bible mentioned all the businesses the woman was into, I'm sure she had a lot of business cards with her name as the CEO/MD. She was into real estate because the Bible says she considers a land and buys it. She was into Textile because she was making clothes. She was into all kind of businesses and the Bible says with all these businesses her home was still well run. How many things were said about the man? Just one; he was at the gate. I'm sure he was a politician, perhaps a Local Government Chairman. He was at the gate doing only one thing but the woman was multitasking. God has given women the grace to multi task; to do many things at the same time.

When I was young, my mother will wake us five boys up-if you count my father that makes six, cook breakfast, dress us up and do many things. All my father did was to wake up and use chewing stick to brush his teeth and both of them will meet at the

car to go to work. With all my mother did, she was still on time to follow him when he was leaving for work. This shows a woman's ability to multitask. A woman can be ironing, talking on the phone, watching a soap-opera, breastfeeding and still be chatting with her husband all at the same time. The average man can only do one thing per time. If you are talking to a man when he is watching TV or watching football, you are wasting your time. He is not hearing what you are saying.

If you notice, this woman was into all sorts of things but the man was doing only one thing. In other words, she was a virtuous woman. She didn't depend on a man. She decided to be the best she could be. Nowadays, it is difficult to find women that have dreams. The average woman's dream is to marry. I want to encourage every young woman reading this, please have dreams! Do something with your life. You need to understand that God is not going to ask you to do what you cannot do

because you're already gifted. The potential is within you, all you have to do is just release it.

Nowadays, it pains me to see women dancing on musical videos. When I mean dance I don't mean choreography, choreography is good. I mean those ugly, dirty dances that involve shaking of all their bum and body. Those things are because of a lack of vision. There are some kinds of women you can't call to come and do that nonsense for you. With the job they have, they can hire you. With the businesses they are running, they can hire you. Thank God for people like Tara who own their businesses. Thank God for people like Genevieve who have pursued their careers and passions and are doing well in it.

The man can add to what a woman is doing but God has also gifted her to be able to do something with her life. I wonder where they gather those women

from to come and shake their bum. I wonder if these people don't have families; don't have people that can talk to them. I wish I could tell those women they are more than shaking their bum for public viewing all in the name of money because that's what they do for a living. As a woman, you shouldn't let any man belittle you. A woman is more than chicken and chips. She's more than money. That means you cannot quantify her price in terms of cash.

I always laugh at ladies who are into 'Aristo' (sugar daddies) because I try to imagine, what is the Aristo going to give you? Even if he gives you money, how much? How many people have you seen that used Aristo to become something important in life? Have you ever heard of a woman that is awarded for having an Aristo? No! That path leads to death! There is nothing at the end of it. There is no future in it. The reason such things exist in the society is

because the average woman is dependent on a man. She is swayed with the fact that he bought her a phone or took her to a fast-food restaurant. She doesn't realize that if she's running her own business and doing something with her life, she can afford those things ten times over and her virtue will still be intact.

A virtuous woman lives her life and doesn't wait for a man. She packages herself so well and is so blessed that she supports her husband. She contributes and adds to the family. Because she is a purposeful woman, she is always attractive. Because she has dreams in the first place, she will look for a man whose vision can accommodate hers. She knows that her life is not ordinary. She knows that she cannot depend on a man; that her dependency is on God. She has goals and dreams she wants to achieve and marriage shouldn't take that away from her. Instead, it should enhance it.

Men, look for a virtuous woman. Don't marry a liability! The sad thing is that when you marry a woman that is so much into money, so much into things people can do for her, the day somebody can do more than what you are doing, she will leave you. Sadly, some men like a woman that is a liability because it gives them power. It gives them a hold on the woman because she's totally dependent on them. Listen to me, the day somebody can do more than what you are doing; maybe you are buying her ice cream but the day somebody buys her the whole shop of ice cream, you are in trouble. Look for a virtuous woman that has standards! It is not about money, it is not about material things!

You can know a virtuous woman from the things she values, things she puts emphasis on. There are some women that when you talk to them 24 hours a day, all they will talk about is clothes, shoes and new hair-do. Nothing else is important. There is

nothing else going on in their life outside of clothes, bags, shoes and hair. Their focus is on the outside not on the inside. They are into material things, not eternal things. You will know a virtuous woman by the things she says, by the things that excite her and by the things that interest her.

Have wisdom

“Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish plucks it down with her own hands.”(Proverbs 14:1)

As men, you must look for a wise woman but what does it mean to be wise? The scriptures describe wisdom as the ability to know the truth and to do it,

Matthew 7:24 says

***“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who builds his house on the rock”
(NIV)***

Hence, a wise woman is the woman that is practicing what she knows, especially in the word of God. She is a doer of the word. The scripture in Proverbs above says a foolish woman will pluck her

own house down with her hands, and I have seen many women fulfill this scripture- They plucked down their marriages with their own hands.

For instance, there were a group of women who formed cliques against men because men like ego and respect. Hello?! It's a scriptural fact that men like respect so your job is not to change him; your job is to use that information properly!

The Bible tells us that the wife should reverence her husband. In other words, God himself knows that men like to be respected and He has given you the power of influence. You can respect that man into doing what you want instead of fighting him. You can never win a man in a logical argument. Even if you have the stronger point, he will not just agree with you. As a woman, you can get the result faster if you use the power of influence. A wise woman knows that simple things will keep her marriage.

For instance, you understand that men are moved by what they see. A wise woman knows that even when she is married, she needs to take care of herself and look good.

These things might look simple but a wise woman understands that they are important. Things like not understanding the roles and the responsibilities of the man and the woman in marriage has destroyed some peoples' homes. Understanding simple things like how to talk to a man can save a quarrel or fight. Unfortunately, many women think that when a man talks to them, they should also talk back. All those things don't bring result. A wise woman living by the word of God builds her home.

An example of such a woman in the scriptures is Abigail (1 Samuel 25). She was married to Nabal and the Bible referred to him as a fool. In fact the meaning of his name is folly so you can imagine just

how foolish he was. Now, David was going to kill Nabal and Abigail heard. This woman in her wisdom didn't wait for the trouble to come and meet them in the house. She knew if that happened, the whole family will die. Instead, she prepared food and took it to meet David on the road and when she met him, she bowed down and called David Lord about 14 times. She also knew his vision and reminded him that a man with his kind of anointing shouldn't soil his hands with the blood of a foolish man. With that singular act, she saved her family and left an impression in the heart of David because the moment Nabal died, he married her.

Sadly, most women don't know the vision of their husband and the truth is, men are attracted to women that know purpose. In other words, if your husband is a banker or your fiancé is a banker and you know about banking, he will be impressed. In fact, he will be taking you to where he hangs out

with his friends because he wants to show you off. But unfortunately, most women don't learn about things. A wise woman needs to know what her husband's or fiancé's vision is. Most women don't know their husband's dreams or their fiancé's dreams. They don't know what he is trying to achieve! If you don't know his dream, how can you even pray for him?

Men like intellectual discussions; when you can talk about things at the frequency they flow. Such a man will take that woman everywhere. That is why my wife can represent me any day, any time! There is practically no area you want to discuss about that she won't be able to contribute; that I am sure of. In fact, sometimes I even take my wife to protect myself because I might not know what is being discussed.

Yet, there are some men that find it difficult to take their wife to any intellectual gathering because

when she talks, she will expose her ignorance. That is why you see a lot of men hiding their wives because they don't want to be embarrassed.

As a woman, you also need to build your intellectual capacity. For instance, chances are you might marry a man that likes football. Learn a bit about football. You don't have to know everything but know a little, like the name of key players and their clubs, know the color of different jerseys. Know what is going on. All some women watch is soap-operas. Once in a while when your husband or fiancé is watching a match, ask questions. Is that a goal? Why is it a goal? Where is the post? Why is it offside? Why did they give that guy red card? Some women don't know all these things! Ask questions! Find out!

Women are emotional beings but a man likes a woman that can stimulate him mentally. Left to a woman as long as she is talking to someone she likes, even when they are discussing rubbish, she is

enjoying it. It is an emotional discussion. They can be talking about tie, glasses or shoes and she doesn't mind as long as they are talking. But it doesn't work like that for men! The discussion has to have meaning. Men don't talk naturally; men think more than they can talk so a man can sit quietly and think for 24 hours and will be very fulfilled but a woman might not be able to do that. Another thing is, women think out loud but men think within. As a woman you need to understand these things! You need to understand that if a man is going to talk, it has to make sense. He can't just be talking for fun. Even from childhood, from babies, you will notice that the female children always talk faster and talk more than the male children. Women are natural talkers while men are natural thinkers. It is therefore important for your peace of mind as a man that you marry a woman who is wise and understands these things.

Have hospitality

“And having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work” (1 Timothy 5:10)

What this scripture basically is saying is that men should look for a hospitable woman. The truth is that there will always be the need for that woman to relate with people and most men like it when their wife can take care of people. Men like it when their friends visit and their wives can organize something quickly for them to eat or drink. Most men like those kinds of things and women have that ability naturally; many do not just develop it.

Look for a hospitable woman because she will raise your children and run the home. She must have the

skill even if you have ten house-helpers. House-helpers still need to be told what to do and require supervision. The woman should develop her basic home skills like cooking because the average man is moved by what he eats. If she can't cook, she should learn. There is no problem with not knowing how to cook; there is only a problem if you don't learn how to cook.

As a woman, it is not just enough to learn how to cook; you must also be creative about it. Learn new things especially nowadays that there are a lot of interracial and inter-tribal marriages. A woman must have that ability to be hospitable.

Men like a clean home. They want their environment to be clean even if it might not be one of their strengths. One of the things that cause problems in a home is comparison in marriage. Because the man has gone to his friend's house and has seen the way the wife keeps the home and runs

the home, he is impressed. To top it, she now cooks for them and he eats and enjoys it but when he comes home, the pepper is to the right and the vegetable is to the left. There will be problems, so a woman must learn these things.

The Bible says when we are entertaining strangers, one day we might entertain angels (Hebrews 13:2). That is how Rebecca got her own husband. She saw that elderly man and was hospitable towards him. She did not only give him a drink, she gave his camels as well (Genesis 24:18-19). Most women are only nice to the man they want to marry. The only time they're nice is when they meet an eligible bachelor. No! Learn to be nice to people! Learn to be friendly! Learn to be caring! One day you might entertain angels unknowingly. The woman must be hospitable. She must learn basic things like how to cook and how to clean.

Men like food; that is just the truth! If you as a man know that food is very important to you, please do not marry a woman that cannot cook. It will cause problems. A woman called us one time and said her husband gave her a very good beating, and I asked what the problem was. She said the food came late, or did not come at all, I'm not sure which now and the man beat her mercilessly. You can imagine! So don't take for granted what I'm saying because something as simple as that can cause trouble in the home.

However, there are some men that don't like food. They only eat because they have to or they are even forced to. People like that can eat bread and be okay. For him it is food, but for some of us, bread is not food. It is snacks. After eating bread, the real food must come. In some men's dictionary, things like cereal, noodles, and sandwich don't count as food, they are appetizers. So it is important that as a

woman, if that man likes food, you know how to cook very well.

Be wholesome

“Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.” (3John 1:2)

Lots of women, perhaps because of their past experiences are hurting; maybe they have a low self-esteem or maybe they have had some terrible experience in the time past and that is affecting them. Such a woman will hurt other people. If somebody had a bad experience and has not let it go, that experience will affect their marriage. There are some women today that have trust issues because they had a relationship where the man cheated on them and they carry that to their next relationship. If the person is not over her past, if she is not over the bad things that happened to her, you might want to reconsider marrying such a person.

Yes, I understand that what happened to her was very bad. I understand it wasn't her fault .I agree. The thing is, she must not bring it into her relationship with you. If she does, she will hurt you, because a hurting person will always hurt other people. She must first deal with those issues through the help of the Holy Spirit.

There are some people that were raped, and it has affected their self-esteem and a host of other things, but they have to deal with those issues first before progressing into a relationship. They have to be healed of that pain and that healing can only come from Jesus Christ. He is the One that can heal both physically and emotionally.

Don't marry a woman with emotional baggage. Marry a complete woman. Marry a whole woman. Don't marry somebody coming from a war background, because in her mind life is a war. She

has to deal with that mindset first! There were some brothers I knew way back that were attracted to abused women. They wanted to give them self-esteem and were trying to help them by marrying them. Listen to me, you have to be careful because it is not everybody that enters your life that you should marry. There are some people you are supposed to help, not marry. You can't marry out of pity.

Get rid of the mentality that because she had a bad past, nobody will marry her so you want to pity her and marry her. No! Let her deal with that issue. Pity won't sustain that marriage. Marry a whole woman! Marry a complete woman that is over her past experiences, has good self-esteem and loves herself. There are people who hate themselves because of what happened to them. Do you think someone like that can love you? The scriptures say love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31). She must love herself before she can love you. Don't be deceived.

You can help her go through the process but don't marry someone that is still in the process. Let her be healed!

Sometimes, some people get involved in rebound relationships. Because somebody has had a bad relationship, the person jumps to the next one just to forget the last one. Because that last one didn't work, they want to use another one to repair the hurt. That is not a good reason to marry! Let God heal you! You need to let go of that past. You cannot hold on to unforgiveness; let go of it! Trust God to sort you out, to bless you, to help you and connect you with another person. So men, I will encourage you look for a whole woman.

Like I said before, there are people that fight. They have a problem with authority in their life. Maybe their father was not there for them or possibly did not care about them, they become resentful, they

begin to challenge the authority of their father. From there, they challenge the authority of their elder brother, the authority of their boss, the authority of their Pastor, the authority of their lecturers and anybody above them. These kinds of women hate any form of authority over them and you as the husband, you are supposed to be the head but she will fight you because it is in her nature to challenge any form of authority. Until she deals with that issue, friend, don't take it to the next level.

Be trustworthy

*“The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her,
so that he shall have no need of spoil.” (Proverbs
31:11)*

Friend, in marriage, there is nothing that can take the place of trust. If both of you do not trust each other, you have nothing. If you don't trust each other, you have nothing! Trust is very crucial. The average person thinks males cheat more, but it will amaze you the amount of women that are cheating on their spouse or in their relationship. Trust is a major issue!

Back in those days when you go to the embassy and you want to travel with your family, you are asked to bring pictures and birthday certificates but now they do DNA test to ensure that you are a family. Statistics show that 60% of the families that come,

the child belongs to the woman but doesn't belong to the man. My brother, women cheat!

That's why you must marry a trustworthy woman, not the one playing away match when you are not around. It is a gracious woman that will retain her honor (Proverbs 11:16). The moment she is cheating, she will start to lie and it doesn't look good for a woman to lie.

Some people say it's normal, that sometimes you just tell white lies. No! I disagree! The woman that lies for you will lie against you and will lie to you. I am skeptical about people that lie in my presence because if you do that, why won't you lie to me? If you could lie to someone, why won't you lie to me the day you are under pressure?

One day, I was outside a bank in Festac and there was a girl looking very fine in her trouser suit and high heels. She was on the phone talking and I

think the person at the other end was asking her where she was and she said she was in Oshodi. I decided to check, maybe I was the one with the wrong location but I was not! We were in Festac and she said she was in Oshodi! A very pretty girl, lying! It's a shame! And someone will marry her. No integrity, not trustworthy! As far as I'm concerned, there's no reason under heaven why she should lie. There was absolutely no reason at all but because there's a lack of trust, you find these things happening.

I have heard of people who have friends in telecoms and they ask the person to download all the numbers their wives or fiancées have called. Some even collect the SIM and go and check all her text messages because there's no trust. He wants to know all the places she went to in a day and will call those places to confirm. Imagine that! I heard of a man that will call his wife and ask where she is. If

she says she is in so, so and so house, he will tell her to give everybody the phone so that he can talk to them and ask where they are. That's a pity! It means you can't take your wife's or husband's word as it is. It sounds funny but without trust you have nothing. You will not be able to sleep at night and you will not have peace of mind.

That's why I'm telling you to look for a trust worthy woman, not a liar, not somebody you cannot trust. Marry someone that is trust worthy; someone that lives a sexually pure and holy life. It wasn't a coincidence that Mary the mother of Jesus Christ was a virgin. Imagine if she was not a virgin, maybe she had been sleeping with some people before and she now became pregnant. Do you know the kind of controversy that would have generated when she was asked who was responsible and she said the Holy Spirit? Some men would be glad she didn't mention their names but some might have actually come out boldly just to refute her even if she was

saying the truth. It would have been a serious controversy. That's why God chose a virgin. So live a clean life.

If you are lying today, why do you think you will suddenly change? The same line you have to cross to commit fornication is the same line you would have to cross to commit adultery. Most people don't know but they are the same thing. If you look at Galatians 5: 19-21, where the works of the flesh were mentioned, the first two are adultery and fornication. They are brothers! If you cannot control yourself from doing the wrong things now, why do you think you will be able to in marriage? Some people think that when you marry, all your sexual temptation is solved, all the sexual pressure is solved; you are joking! It is inside marriage that you will see the real temptation.

Self-control is important. Being a person of integrity is important either before or after marriage. You must live a life of integrity so stop the lying. Watch out for the lady that is quick to lie for you. To you, she's very good. In fact, you carry her to go and help you lie because she is very skillful. My friend, you are laying a very bad foundation. You are training her to lie to you. There are families where the husband and wife don't know what each person owns; they hide their money and their salaries from each other, the man has built a house and the woman has built a house but they don't know. Both of them don't know about it because there's no trust.

I don't understand why someone should tell you something from outside that your spouse or your fiancée has not told you. If you can believe an outsider over the person that you know, then there is a problem. Trust is a vital part of a relationship;

not just only in marriage, but with your dealings with other people too. When you say this is the way something is, people should be able to accept it that way. They should be able to believe that is the way it is. If you do not have that kind of confidence in the woman you want to marry then please, work on the trust issues! It is vital to the success of that marriage relationship.

CONCLUSION

The truth is, if you position yourself in the right way, you can have the marriage of your dreams and this is what this book is designed to help you do. I believe that with these important qualities, you know what to look out for in a woman beyond just the physical beauty. Marriage can be peaceful if you look for the right qualities and it is my prayer that as you apply the wisdom in this book, you will have the marriage of your dreams. You will not struggle in your marriage in Jesus's name, Amen!

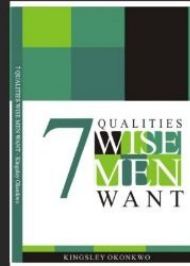
SALVATION PRAYER

Yes you can have the marriage of your dreams but that's an inheritance of a child of God. If you are not saved, you have no right to partake in this inheritance but praise God, today is a good day to become a part of the family. Please say this prayer with me.

Lord Jesus,

Come into my life and forgive me of my sin. Wash me with your blood. I believe that you died and rose for me and accept the gift of salvation. Thank you for saving me and giving me a whole, new, clean life. I receive the grace to serve you all the days of my life in Jesus' name, Amen!

Congratulations! You're now born-again and I say welcome into the family of God!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kingsley Okonkwo is the founder and Head Pastor at David's Christian Centre, a vibrant church with worship centers in Lagos. With well over a decade of full-time ministry behind him, Pastor K as he is fondly called is a profound teacher with a passion for victory through the word. A unique minister of the the gospel, his say-it-as-it-is approach to the word of God has endeared him to many especially the generation of youths.

Pastor Kingsley is the host of the popular monthly relationship seminar; Love, Dating and Marriage which currently airs weekly on television stations and aims at building strong marriages based on timeless biblical principles. He has authored numerous books, organized countless seminars and is a much sought after speaker whose humor and practical styled teachings have been a blessing to people of all ages and races.

He currently runs THE EDGE BUSINESS SCHOOL, a training ground for entrepreneurs who wish to get an edge in Business.

He is happily married to his lovely wife and best friend Mildred who pastors with him and they are blessed with a beautiful daughter.



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