



# Tulait

*Tok bilong God i olsem lait bilong soim rot long mi*

## God's Plan For Marriage



**Satan's plan to  
destroy marriage**  
PAGES 15 & 21

*Reformed Churches of PNG*



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## How is your marriage? Be honest. Is your marriage beautiful in the eyes of God?

Davi felt sad and frustrated.

He and his wife Miriam had recently started coming to a good, gospel-preaching church, but they still struggled all the time. Even a small thing could make them angry and start arguing loudly and violently. Yesterday, when Davi was watching their 3-year-old daughter, she spilled the pot of rice on the fire. Miriam became so angry that she picked up a steel bar and was about to hit Davi when suddenly she realised what she was doing, dropped the bar, and fell into Davi's arms, weeping profusely.

Davi felt relieved that Miriam had stopped herself, but as they sat down and talked about their marriage, Davi was still very discouraged. He did not know a single godly couple in their settlement. He could not think of one example of a strong, Christian marriage in his family. Yes, he knew strong Christian men and strong Christian women, but he did not know any strong Christian marriages.

Zero. Every marriage around them featured abuse, adultery, fighting, disrespect, or neglect.

How would they ever build a strong marriage?

### How is your marriage?

Every single marriage in Papua New Guinea is under attack. The statistics tell us that 70% of all women in PNG have been sexually assaulted. The same number have been abused. Probably the numbers are even higher. And it is not only men who are guilty. Women, too, are violent, unfaithful, and disrespectful. Countless marriages are either breaking or broken.

How is your marriage? Be honest. Is your marriage beautiful in the eyes of God?

### What if i want to change?

The message written on every page of this magazine is a message of hope. We did not write this magazine to tell you about broken marriages. You already know about them. We wrote this

magazine to tell you that there is hope for your marriage. There is hope for every husband and every wife. This hope is found in Jesus Christ. If you want your marriage to change, then you must look to Jesus Christ.

Davi and Miriam are sad and frustrated that they don't have examples to help them change their marriage. But in fact they do have an example. In Ephesians 5, the apostle Paul says that Jesus Christ and His bride, the church, are the picture of marriage that God has given all of us.

### What does change look like?

Too often we look to the husbands around us—our own fathers, uncles, older brothers, and friends—and we take our example from them. But if you want to be a good husband—a true, godly, strong man—then Jesus Christ is the perfect husband that you need to look to.

So many husbands in Papua New Guinea are afraid that they will look weak, so instead they become a tyrant - a man treats his wife like a slave or beats her if she does not listen to him. Jesus does not treat His bride, the church, like that. Jesus is powerful - He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, He has power to calm the wind and drive out thousands of demons—but He is gentle and loving with His bride. Apostle Paul says He *"feeds and cares for her"* (Ephesians 5:29). True Christian husbands provide physical and spiritual food for their wives. They care for their wife's body, and they care even more for her soul.

We men believe that since we are the head of the household (Ephesians 5:23), our most important job is to rule. But Christ shows us a different way. Yes, He is the head. Yes, He is in charge. But the most important job for Him was to love, and out of love for His wife He devoted Himself to making her holy. This is the most important work for every husband: love your wife, and devote yourself to her holiness.

Women also find all kinds of bad examples of what it means to be a good wife. Some support

the idea that wives should act like slaves for their husbands and blame the wife when her husband beats her. Others follow Western feminism, and believe a woman should never submit to a man. But a Christian wife must look to Christ and His church. *“Wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord”* (Ephesians 5:22). When a Christian wife obeys her husband, she is not serving him, she is serving the Lord Jesus Christ, who has rescued her with his own life.

Sadly, but understandably, many women react to sinful husbands by disrespecting them. It seems to make sense: if he will not be the worthy husband that I want him to be, then I will treat him like the unworthy husband that he is. The Word of God fights this sinful reaction by calling all wives to respect their husbands (Ephesians 5:33). What if he is not worthy of respect? What if he misuses the respect given him? Wives, God teaches you to not live in fear, but respect your husband because by doing so, you are showing your faith in Jesus, and God may use this to change your husband (1 Peter 3:1-6).

### How do i change?

Even when we know that we need to change and we know how we are supposed to change, making that change can be the hardest thing in the world. How do you fix a broken marriage? How can you build a foundation of love and respect? How do you change a sinful heart?

Here is the simple, honest answer that we all need to hear. You and I can't, but God can. Only God the Father is loving enough to forgive our sins. Only Jesus Christ's blood is pure enough to wash us clean. Only the Holy Spirit is powerful enough to change our hearts. Only in the gospel can we receive the love and respect that can fill our hearts so that we can love and respect others.

But you have to trust God. If you cannot give yourself to God and follow His ways, there is no hope for your marriage. But if you put your hope in God, repent of your failed efforts, and trust in

His plan for marriage, then He will certainly be faithful to His promise, and he will help you.

### Hope for you and me

We have written this magazine to give hope for people like Davi and Miriam and people like you and me. We are all sinners in need of grace. We are all the unfaithful wife whose only hope is that her husband will forgive her and continue to love her. God has done this for us in Jesus Christ.

There is hope for Davi and Miriam and there is hope for all of us - in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Ryan deJonge

▲ Photo by Moss Doersken



# Hop i Stap

## Sapos yu laik marit bilong yu i mas senis, orait, yu mas lukluk long Jisas Krai

Davi em i bel hevi.

Davi na meri bilong em, Miriam, i no long taim i go pinis na tupela i stat go lotu long wanpela gutpela sios we ol i save autim gutnius bilong Krai. Tasol maski ol i save lotu, marit bilong ol i no kamap orait. Ol i save belhat, tok kros, na pait tumas long ol liklik samting tasol. Asde, Davi i bin lukautim pikinini bilong ol i gat tripela krismas na pikinini i kapsaitim wanpela pot rais long paia. Miriam i belhat nogut tru long Davi na em i kisim wanpela ain na klostu em i paitim em nogut tru. Tasol wantu em i luksave long rong bilong em yet, olsem na em i putim ain daun, em i holimpasim Davi, na krai nogut tru.

Davi i amamas olsem Miriam i no bin paitim em, tasol taim ol i sindaun na toktok long dispela, bel bilong em i hevi yet. Wai? Bikos marit bilong ol i no kamap gut, na em i no save long wanpela marit man na meri husait i save stap strong long pasin bilong God bai ol i ken kamap olsem piksa bilong gutpela marit. Tru, ol i save long sampela strongpela Kristen man, na sampela strongpela Kristen meri, tasol ol i no inap tingim wanpela strongpela Kristen marit long setelmen bilong ol.

▼ Photo by Moss Doersken



I nogat wanpela. Olgeta marit ol i save lukim i pulap long pait, pasin pamuk, pasin bilong daunim narapela, o pasin bilong raun olsem man i no gat meri (o meri i no gat man).

Hau bai marit bilong ol i kamap strong sapos ol i no gat wanpela marit man na meri long kamap olsem piksa bilong gutpela marit bilong helpim ol?

### Marit bilong yu i olsem wanem?

Satan em i birua bilong olgeta wanwan marit long PNG. Yumi save harim olsem 70% bilong olgeta meri bilong PNG i bin kisim bagarap long han bilong narapela lain. Wankain long pasin bilong paitim meri: 70% bilong olgeta meri, man bilong ol i paitim ol. Na i no man tasol i wok long mekim nogut, planti meri tu i save paitim man bilong ol, sakim tok bilong ol, o ol i no wokabout stret na mekim pasin pamuk. Hamas marit i wok long bruk? Hamas i bruk pinis?

Marit bilong yu i olsem wanem? Noken giaman. Marit bilong yu i gutpela, o nogat?

### Sapos mi laik senis i mas kamap?

Hop i stap long olgeta pes bilong dispela magazin. Mipela i no raitim dispela magazin long toktok planti long ol marit i bararap o bruk pinis. Yumi save pinis long dispela. Nogat, mipela i raitim dispela magazin long tokim yu olsem, i gat hop i stap. Hop i stap bilong olgeta man na meri. Dispela hop yumi ken painim long Jesus Krai tasol. Sapos yu laik marit bilong yu i mas senis, orait, yu mas lukluk long Jisas Krai.

Davi na Miriam, tupela i bel hevi bikos ol i ting olsem ol i no gat wanpela piksa bilong gutpela marit. Tasol gutpela piksa i stap. Long Efesus 5, Aposel Pol i tok olsem Jisas Krai na meri bilong em, em i Sios, tupela i gutpela piksa tru bilong marit God i bin givim long yumi.

### Senis i luk olsem wanem?

Planti taim, yumi save lukluk long ol arapela man long lukim gutpela piksa long man. Yumi lukluk long papa bilong yumi, ol arapela papa, bikpela brata o narapela man na yumi save bihainim pasin bilong ol. Tasol sapos yu laik kamap olsem trupela Kristen man long meri bilong yu, yu no ken lukluk long ol arapela man, yu mas lukluk long Jisas Krai. Em wanpela tasol Em i trupela man olgeta.

Planti man long PNG ol i pret long kamap olsem wanpela wik man o meripes man, olsem na ol i save kamap olsem wanpela nogut bosman long meri bilong ol. Ol i save mekim meri bilong ol i kamap olsem wokmeri nating na ol i save paitim ol. Tasol Jisas i no save mekim kain pasin long meri bilong Em. Tru tumas, Jisas i gat pawa. Em i King bilong

olgeta king, Bikpela bilong olgeta bikman, na Em i gat pawa bilong bosim win na solwara. Tasol Jisas i no save yusim pawa bilong Em long mekim nogut long meri bilong Em. Nogat tru. Em i save *"givim kaikai long en na lukautim em gut"* (Efesus 5:29). Trupela Kristen man i save givim gutpela kaikai-bilong bodi na kaikai bilong spirit tu- long meri bilong em. Em i save lukautim bodi bilong meri bilong em, na em i save lukautim gut spirit bilong em moa yet.

Yumi man i save ting olsem yumi stap het bilong meri bilong yumi na bikpela wok bilong yumi em i bilong bosim ol olsem wokmeri. Tasol Krai i soim yumi narapela pasin. Tru tru, Em i stap het na Em i save bosim yumi. Tasol nambawan wok bilong En em i bilong laikim tru meri bilong Em. Em i laikim Sios na givim bel bilong Em long mekim em i kamap holi. Olsem tasol yumi man, dispela em i namba wan wok bilong yumi: yu mas laikim tru meri bilong yu, na yu mas givim bel bilong yu long em bilong mekim em i kamap holi long ai bilong God.

Ol meri tu i save bihainim kainkain pasin ol i ting bai mekim ol i kamap gutpela meri. Planti i wanbel long dispela tingting olsem meri i mas kamap olsem wokmeri nating long man bilong em, na ol i save sutim tok long wanpela meri taim man bilong en i kros na i paitim em. Sampela i bihainim tingting bilong sampela kantri olsem meri i noken aninit long man (olsem Feminism). Tasol trupela Kristen meri i no ken bihainim ol dispela kranki tingting. Em i mas lukluk i go long Krai na sios bilong Em. *"Yupela meri, yupela i mas aninit long ol man bilong yupela, olsem yupela i save aninit long Bikpela"* (Efesus 5:22). Taim wanpela Kristen meri i aninit long man bilong em, em i no harim tok bilong man tasol, nogat, em i harim tok bilong Jisas Krai yet, husait i dai pinis bilong kisim bek em.

Planti meri, taim man bilong ol i no mekim gutpela pasin, ol i save sakim tok bilong ol. Ol i ting olsem ol i bihainim gutpela tingting olsem: sapos man bilong mi i no kamap gutpela man olsem mi ting bai em i mas kamap, mi bai mekim nogut long em. Tasol Tok bilong God i againstim dispela tingting na em i tokim olgeta meri olsem *"Meri i mas i stap aninit long man bilong en na mekim gutpela pasin long em"* (Efesus 5:33). Na sapos man i no save mekim gutpela pasin, na em i no gutpela man, olsem wanem nau? Ol meri, Tok bilong God i tokim yupela long no ken pret na yupela i mas mekim gutpela pasin yet. Bilong wanem? Bilong man bilong yu i ken lukim gutpela pasin bilong yu, na Krai yet i ken yusim dispela long tanim bel bilong man bilong yu (1 Pita 3:1-6).

### **Bai mi senis olsem wanem?**

Em i hatwok tru long senisim pasin. Maski yu save olsem yu mas senis, maski yu save bai yu senis olsem wanem, tasol mekim senis i kamap bai i had olgeta. Bai yu stretim marit i bruk pinis olsem



wanem? Bai yu kamapim laikim tru na rispekt insait long marit bilong yu olsem wanem? Bai yu senisim bel bilong yu i save mekim sin olsem wanem?

Harim, trupela bekim bilong dispela ol askim em dispela. Yu na mi i no inap. Nogat tru. Tasol God Em i inap. God Papa i ken lusim sin bilong yumi bikos Em i laikim yumi tumas. Blut bilong Jisas Krai wanpela tasol i ken wasim yumi na mekim yumi kamap klin olgeta. Holi Spirit wanpela tasol i gat pawa long senisim bel bilong yumi. Long gutnius bilong Krai tasol pasin laikim na gutpela pasin i ken pulimapim bel bilong yumi inap long yumi ken laikim ol arapela na mekim gutpela pasin long ol.

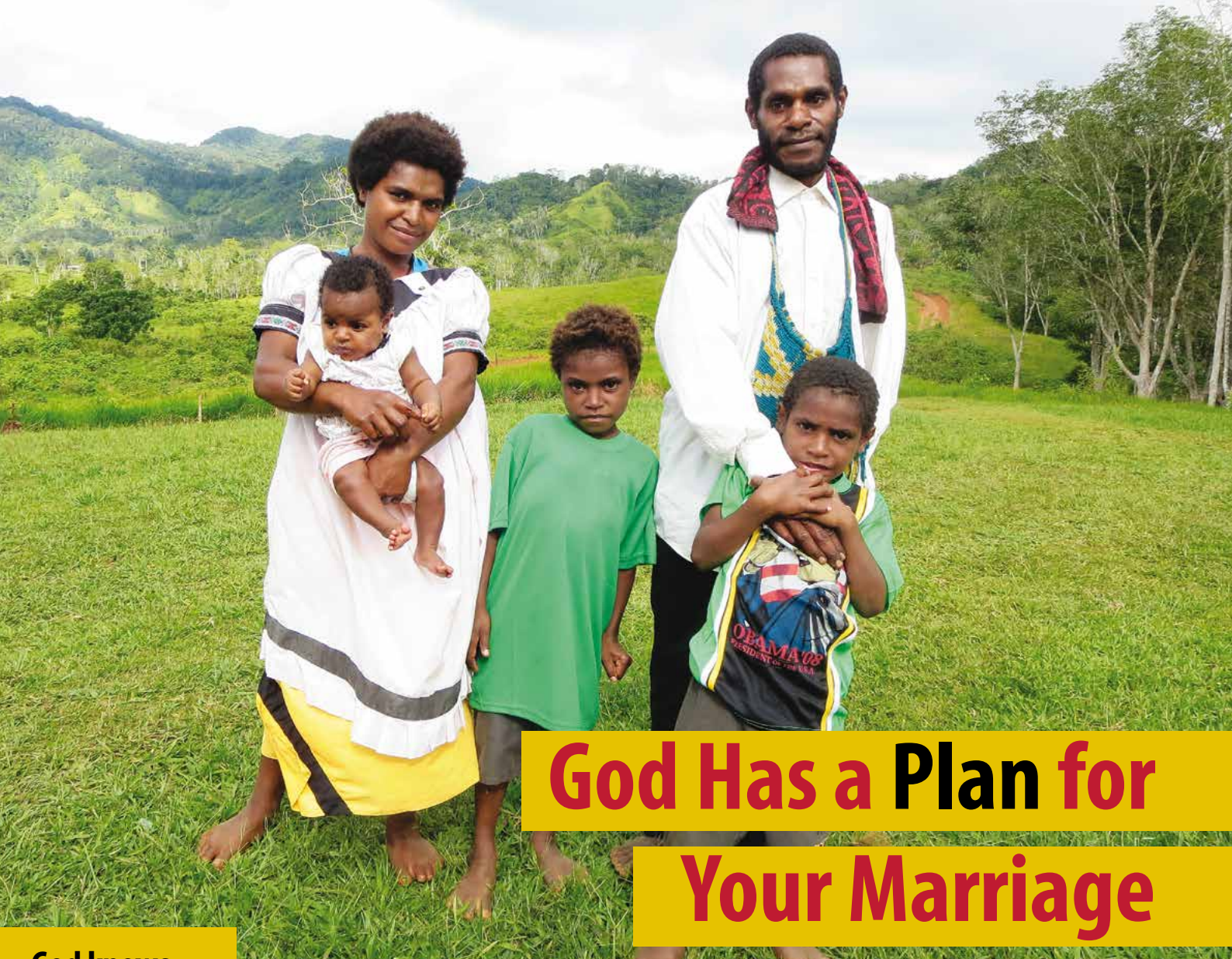
Tasol, yu mas bilipim tru God. Sapos yu no inap long givim laip bilong yu long God, marit bilong yu bai i no gat hop. Tasol sapos yu hop long God, tok sori long olgeta pasin nogut yu bin mekim, tanim bel, na trastim plen bilong God long marit bilong yu, God bai inapim olgeta tok bilong Em yet, na Em bai i helpim yu.

### **Hop i stap bilong yu na mi**

Mipela i raitim dispela magasin long givim hop long kain manmeri olsem Davi na Miriam, na manmeri olsem yu na mi. Yumi olgeta i stap olsem ol sinlain, na yumi olgeta i nidim marimari bilong Bikpela. Yumi olgeta i olsem wanpela pamuk meri husait i nidim man bilong em long lusim sin bilong em na laikim em gen. God i mekim dispela pasin pinis long yumi insait long Jisas Krai.

Hop i stap long Davi na Miriam, na hop i stap long yumi olgeta. We? Long gutnius bilong Krai!

**Taim wanpela Kristen meri i aninit long man bilong em, em i no harim tok bilong man tasol, nogat, em i harim tok bilong Jisas Krai yet**



# God Has a Plan for Your Marriage

**God knows – more than you know – what is best for your marriage**

- Do you have a plan for marriage?
- Are you married?
- Would you like to be married one day?
- Or, maybe you want to be married again?

**If you answered yes to one of these questions then you must keep reading!**

I know you want what is best for your marriage. No one enters into marriage hoping it will fall apart and endure an ugly, painful divorce, or be filled with sadness, abuse and neglect!

No! We enter marriage because we love the one we are marrying and we hope and pray that there will be many years of love, joy, peace and hope until death separates us.

So what is the secret to a marriage that lasts for decades and makes a husband and wife grow closer and closer together over these years?

The secret is God's plan for marriage!

Remember: God knows – more than you know – what is best for your marriage. Remember that He designed it! For this reason He loves marriages!

That means if we listen to Him and understand His plan for our marriage, and we allow Him to be at the centre of our marriage – our marriages can be something beautiful that will last a lifetime! *"Apart from me,"* Jesus says, *"you can do nothing"* (John 15:5).

## **The plan for marriage found in the Bible**

To understand God's plan and design for marriage we need to open the Bible and read about it. Actually, God's design for marriage starts right at the beginning of civilisation with Adam and Eve.

In the first chapter of the Bible, God told Adam and Eve to, *"Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it..."* (Genesis 1:28).

Then in chapter two of Genesis the Lord God shows us how Eve came to life (taken from one of Adam's ribs). We read the first description of a relationship that leads to marriage, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). What a beautiful picture of unity!

Marriage is more beautiful than you think. God designed marriage so that it resembles, in some way, the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). In the Trinity we find unity (oneness) in diversity (the three persons). There are three persons but only one God (Matthew 28:19). In marriage we see something similar. There is unity (one flesh) in diversity (two people). This earthly unity in diversity reflects the character of the heavenly unity in diversity between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This also elevates the status of marriage. Since God loves the unity in diversity between a man and a woman, He hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) because divorces divides this sacred union that God has established: "Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together" (Mark 10:8-9).

### **This is what happened when sin entered the world**

When Adam and Eve fell into sin, marriage became terribly corrupted. After that day, we see in the Bible that hatred, jealousy, envy, pride, abuse, sexual unfaithfulness, bursts of anger, bitterness and divorce begin to destroy the beautiful gift of marriage. But this was not God's plan for marriage. His plan for marriage was that marriage would be holy and filled with love.

From the beginning, holiness has been more important than happiness in a marriage. Happiness in marriage without holiness is like a mist in the morning that will soon disappear. What God desires is holiness in marriage: selfless love and

humility, kindness and gentleness, respect and honour, a readiness to help each other, and hearts of worship and prayer.

### **Therefore God sent His Son to renew marriages**

God did not leave Adam and Eve and all their children (including us) in our sin. Neither did God ignore the plan that He had for marriage.

To redeem the world lost in sin and to redeem marriages God sent His Son. When Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many, Jesus broke the stranglehold of sin on our marriages to make them beautiful again!

In fact, God sees so much beauty in marriage that in the New Testament Jesus is called a Bridegroom (see Ephesians 5 or Revelation 19) and the bride of Jesus is the church.

The Bible uses this picture of Jesus loving and saving His bride as a way to show us God's renewed plan for marriage. Therefore, we learn that husbands are to love their wives just as Jesus loved His church and gave His life for her. This is an act of selfless love, even to death! Wives are to submit to their husbands, and love, respect and honour them, as the church is called to do this to their husband, Jesus! (See further Ephesians 5:22ff).

Such a marriage lasts. Such a marriage is beautiful also before God. And in Christ, such a marriage is possible.

So dear reader: please do not ignore God's plan for marriage! Read about it. Learn about it and by His Spirit walk in step with His plan. As you do, realise that Jesus is the Bridegroom who will redeem your sins, broken past, and unmet promises, and calls you to go and sin no more! So keep your eyes fixed on Jesus who is the Author and Perfecter of your faith, your life and your marriage.

Pastor Ian Wildeboer



▲ Photo by Moss Doersken

# ASK A PASTOR

## **What does God want me to do if I have two (or three, or more) wives?**

Some men say it is okay to have more than one wife because men in the Bible like Abraham, David and Solomon had many wives. God designed marriage to be made up of one man and one woman - that's the first family He created. If you put off your wives you're not divorcing them, but you're restoring your marriage after the will of God. God told Abraham to put off Hagar and her son Ishmael (Genesis 21:12). You can do that too by God's grace. – **Pastor Tony**

God instituted marriage in the beginning. He gave one woman, Eve, to one man, Adam, in marriage (Genesis 2:24). Jesus spoke of this in Mark 10:7-9, "This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." God wants us to have one wife and to be faithful to one wife only. Therefore, you have to make a decision to be faithful and committed to one wife only, I think the best action is to stay with your first love, the first wife whom God has joined you with. I believe that the other wives came out of adulterous and sinful relationships. If you have children with the other wives, you will be still responsible for caring them. – **Pastor Isidore**

# God i gat plen long

- Yu gat wanpela plen bilong marit bilong yu, o nogat?
- Yu marit pinis, o nogat?
- Yu gat laik long marit long wanpela de, o nogat?
- Yu tingting long marit gen, o nogat, sapos man o meri bilong yu i dai pinis?

Sapos yu bekim “yes” long wanpela bilong dispela ol askim, orait yu mas ritim dispela artikel!

Mi save olsem yu laik bai marit bilong yu i ken i stap gut tru. Long taim bilong marit, i no gat wanpela man o meri i save tingting olsem: Mi gat laik bai marit bilong mi i ken bagarap na stap nogut tru.

Mi laik olsem mitupela bai i bel hevi tru long marit, na brukim marit bilong mitupela sampela yia bihain. Mi laik olsem man bilong mi i ken paitim mi, bagarapim mi, na givim hevi long mi. Mi laik bai meri bilong mi i sakim tok bilong mi, lukluk long narapela man o kain olsem.

Em, nogat tru!

Taim yumi i marit pinis, em i samting bilong laikim tru, na yumi i save prea olsem marit bilong yumi bai kamap gutpela na naispela tru, na bai yumi i stap wanbel, na laikim tru na bel isi i ken karamapim marit bilong yumi i go inap long taim yumi i dai.

Olsem na, wanem samting tru bai i inap long helpim marit bilong yu i stap gut, na man na meri i ken stap strong moa yet long olgeta yia?

Plen bilong God long marit i ken helpim yu!

Tingim: God i save – na save bilong em i winim save bilong yu – wanem samting em i gutpela samting long marit bilong yu.

Tingim: God yet i wokim marit! Olsem na Em i laikim tru marit!

Olsem na, sapos yumi harim Tok bilong Em na kisim save long plen bilong Em long marit bilong yumi, na sapos yumi i larim God i stap namel tru long marit bilong yumi, orait marit bilong yumi bai inap long stap olsem wanpela naispela na gutpela samting stret, na marit bilong yumi bai i stap strong inap long taim yumi i dai. Jisas i tok olsem, “Sapos yupela i lusim mi, yupela i no inap mekim wanpela samting” (Jon 15:5).

## Dispela plen bilong marit i stap long Baibel

Sapos yumi laik save gut long plen bilong God long marit, yumi mas opim Baibel bilong yumi na ritim. Plen bilong God long marit i stat long taim God i wokim Adam tupela lv long taim Em i wokim dispela graun.

Long namba wan siapta bilong Buk Stat, God i tokim Adam tupela lv olsem, “Yupela i mas kamap planti na i go sindaun long olgeta hap bilong graun na bosim olgeta samting i stap long en. Mi putim ol pis na ol pisin na olkain animal bilong graun aninit long yupela” (Stat 1:23).

Na bihain, long siapta tu long Stat, Bikpela i soim yumi hau Em yet i wokim lv (long wanpela bun long banis bilong Adam). Na long hia yumi i ritim namba wan tok long marit: “Olsem na dispela pasin i kamap. Man i save lusim papamama na i pas wantaim meri bilong en, na tupela i kamap wanpela bodi tasol” (Stat 2:24). Dispela em i wanpela naispela piksa stret long pasin wanbel i stap insait long marit!

Marit em i naispela samting stret. God i wokim marit na marit i olsem wanpela piksa bilong God Triwan (Papa,

Pikinini na Holi Spirit). Long God Triwan yumi inap lukim dispela pasin bilong wanbel na bilong wok bung wantaim maski ol i stap olsem Papa, Pikinini, na Holi Spirit (Matyu 28:19). Olsem tasol, long marit yumi i lukim wankain samting: Man na meri (tupela manmeri) i pas na kamap wanpela (wanpela bodi) tasol. Dispela pasin wanbel bilong marit i olsem wanpela piksa bilong pasin wanbel bilong God Triwan long heven.

**Tingim: God i save – na save bilong em i winim save bilong yu – wanem samting em i gutpela samting long marit bilong yu**





# marit bilong yu

Na taim yumi klia long dispela samting, bai yumi klia tu olsem marit em i bikpela samting tru. Em i no samting nating. God i laikim tru dispela pasin bilong man na meri (tupela manmeri) i pas na kamap wanpela (wanpela bodi). Olsem na, God i bel nogut long pasin bilong brukim marit (Malakai 2:16), bilong wanem, pasin bilong brukim marit i brukim wanem samting God yet i pasim pinis: *“God i tok olsem na tupela i no i stap olsem tupela moa. Nogat. Tupela i kamap olsem wanpela bodi tasol. Olsem na samting God i pasim pinis, em man i no ken katim”* (Mak 10:8-9).

## Dispela samting i kamap taim sin i kam long dispela graun

Taim Adam tupela lv i pundaun long sin, sin i karamapim marit bilong tupela tu. Bihain long dispela, Baibel i putim ples klia olsem kain kain pasin nogut olsem belhat, kros, mangal, pasin bilong apim yumi yet, pasin bilong paitim narapela, na pasin pamuk i wok long bagarapim marit. Tasol dispela i no plen bilong God long marit. Plen bilong God i olsem marit i mas i stap holi na pulap long laikim tru.

Pasin bilong stap holi i winim pasin bilong stap amamas long marit. Sapos yu laik amamas tasol long marit, tasol yu no tingting tumas long stap holi long marit, orait bai yu no inap stap amamas longpela taim. Em bai drai hariap olsem wara i kamap long graun long moning i save go hariap na bai yumi i no inap lukim moa. God i laik yumi mas i stap holi long marit: pasin bilong daunim laik bilong yumi yet na laikim tru narapela, daunim yumi yet, pasin bilong bel isi, respektim narapela, stap redi long helpim narapela, na bel i pulap long lotu na prea.

## Marit em i naispela samting stret

## Olsem na God i salim pikinini bilong Em i kam long mekim marit i kamap nupela

God i no larim Adam tupela lv na pikinini bilong ol (yumi olgeta) i stap long sin bilong ol. Na tu, God i no tok maski long plen bilong Em yet long marit.

Nogat! God i salim pikinini bilong Em i kam long kisim bek dispela graun i lus long sin na long mekim marit i kamap nupela gen. Taim Jisas i givim laip bilong Em long baim bek yumi, Em i brukim dispela strong bilong sin i wok long bagarapim marit bilong yumi. Nau, bikos long wok bilong Krai, marit i inap long kamap naispela tru gen!

Em i tru olsem God i lukim marit em i naispela samting tru. Olsem na, Nupela Testamen i tok olsem Jisas Em i olsem wanpela man i laik marit, na Sios bilong Em i olsem meri bilong Em (Efesus 5 na Kamapim Tok Hait 19).

Baibel i yusim dispela piksa bilong Jisas i laikim tru Sios bilong Em na i dai bilong kisim bek em long sin bilong soim yumi dispela plen bilong God long mekim marit bilong yumi i kamap nupela. Olsem tasol, man i mas laikim tru meri bilong em olsem Jisas yet i laikim tru sios bilong Em na Em i givim laip bilong Em yet long Sios. Dispela em i trupela luv – Jisas i dai long yumi! Na meri i mas aninit long man bilong em, laikim em tru, respektim em, na mekim gutpela pasin long em, wankain olsem Sios i mekim long Jisas (Efesus 5:22).

Kain marit olsem bai i stap longpela taim tru. Kain marit olsem em i naispela samting stret long ai bilong God. Taim yumi pas wantaim Krai, yumi inap kisim kain marit olsem.

Olsem na, harim: no ken givim baksait long plen bilong God long marit bilong yu! Ritim na lainim planti samting long plen bilong God long marit bilong yu. Long Spirit bilong God, harim tok na bihainim plen bilong Em. Taim yu mekim olsem, bai yu klia moa olsem Jisas Em i man bilong kisim bek yu long sin, long ol samting nogut yu bin mekim bipo, na long ol promis yu yet i brukim. Em i tokim yu long lusim olgeta pasin nogut na bihainim Em! Olsem na, yumi mas lukluk i go long Jisas, Em i as bilong bilip bilong yumi, na bihain Em bai inapim tru bilip bilong yumi, laip bilong yumi, na marit bilong yumi tu.

**Olsem tasol, man i mas laikim tru meri bilong em olsem Jisas yet i laikim tru sios bilong Em na Em i givim laip bilong Em yet long Sios**



# A Story of Amazing Grace

Jeffrey and Monica's marriage is a miracle of God's grace. If you are in a marriage that desperately needs a miracle, then I hope you will read this story and find hope.

It began in 2010 the way too many marriages in Papua New Guinea start: with an unexpected pregnancy. Monica was a young woman who went to church each Sunday, played guitar, led the youth, and seemed committed to serving God. Jeffrey was working at a local hardware store during the day and drinking, stealing, and throwing rocks at churches at night. Jeffrey had only known Monica for a few months when their relationship turned sexual. Monica became pregnant, and Jeffrey immediately left her to go to school in Kavieng.

Monica felt like she was living a nightmare. *"It was very difficult,"* is the only way she can describe it. She was supposed to be a leader and model Christian at church, but now her sin was exposed. She felt very badly and apologised to the church, but deep down she felt ashamed for what she had done, and angry with God for letting it happen.

Jeffrey completed a three-month program in Kavieng, then got work on a ship that made deliveries all the way up and down the North coast of PNG. Being away most of the time, he provided little support for Monica and for their new baby. When he did return to Lae, it would have been better if he had stayed away. He would drink, get angry, beat up Monica, and then leave again.

Then things got worse. Monica became very ill, and was hardly even able to look after their daughter. Monica desperately needed Jeffrey to come and help her, but instead he returned from the boat one evening, got drunk, got in a fight, and was arrested by the police. He was sentenced to six-months in prison for public drunkenness and assaulting a police office.

Whenever Monica would plead with him to change, Jeffrey would tell her, *"My head and my heart are like stone. There is no man who can break me."* But in prison, something started to happen; God started to break Jeffrey. *"I started to think about what I had done wrong and why I was in prison,"* he says. Some of the leaders from Monica's church would regularly visit Jeffrey, sharing God's Word with him, and praying for him. Then Jeffrey started to pray by himself. A thought entered his head, *"I want to serve God."*

After two months, family bailed Jeffrey out of jail, and he returned to his work on the ship. But he also went back to drinking. He wanted to change his life, and he started to go to church, pray more, and read his Bible. But he kept drinking, even getting drunk before visits from the church leaders. The problems continued in his life and in his marriage. Jeffrey knew something would have to change. But what? He was making a lot of money working on the ship. He enjoyed drinking. He was like a stone. He was hard to change.

But God changed him. Jeffrey knew what he had to do. He quit work on the ship, and in 2015, he quit drinking. He realised that he would never find true life in a good job, a good fortnight, or a good beer. *"True life is in God,"* he says now. As Jeffrey committed to coming to church more, he and Monica began a marriage course at their local church, with Pastor Isidore Aufa. It was then that Jeffrey found out what true marriage in the Lord was, and his heart broke thinking of how he failed as a husband and a father. He completely broke down, said sorry to God, and asked for forgiveness. He knew that if he was going to be a true husband and a true father, he couldn't do it on his own. So, he committed his life to the Lord Jesus in November 2016 and joined the church.

As God was working in Jeffrey's life, he was also working in Monica's. As Jeffrey continually drank, beat her up, and was eventually put in prison, Monica started questioning God. *"Why did God let this happen to me? Why did He give me this pain?"* she asked. *"I felt like I wanted to run away, I even tried to, but it didn't give me peace."* Another Reformed pastor and his wife came close to Monica at this time, and pointed her to Christ: *"There is no one who can carry this burden for you. You have to look to Christ."*

So Monica did look to Christ - as did Jeffrey - and Christ has made massive changes in both of their hearts.

Christ broke Jeffrey's heart and He pulled Monica's heart back to Himself.

But their struggle is not over. They still need to look to Christ constantly. Jeffrey no longer struggles with drinking, but he still gets angry, and has sometimes fallen into the sin of hitting his wife. Sometimes Jeffrey comes home tired after going to school, where he is studying to become a mechanic, then

goes to work to earn a little money to help the family, followed by some evening program for the church. After a day like this, he is completely exhausted and asks God, *"Why did you change me? This life is so hard."* Monica finds the burden very hard too. Especially when they are fighting with each other, she wants to give up and run away.

But Monica and Jeffrey have learned that these struggles are like a school. Before, their burdens overwhelmed them, but now they see how Christ is using their struggles to humble them, teach them, and change them. By God's grace, He will continue to change them and love them, so that their story continues to be a miracle of His amazing grace.

Monica & Jeffrey are now faithful members of Living Water Reformed Church in Kamkumung, Lae, where Pastor Isidore Aufa is the pastor. Since then God has blessed them with another child.

#### Questions for Reflection

- What was the beginning of Monica and Jeffrey's marriage like?
- What tools did God use to work in Jeffrey's life? How did He work in Monica's life?
- *"Grace"* is defined as *"unearned favour"* or *"kindness that you don't deserve."* How was this true in Monica and Jeffrey's marriage?
- How does this story challenge you? How can your marriage become a miracle of God's grace?

Pastor Ryan deJonge



**He knew that if he was going to be a true husband and a true father, he couldn't do it on his own**

## ASK A PASTOR

**I can't afford to pay the bride price, but my girlfriend and I want to get married. We are even thinking about eloping. What should we do?**

It is best you sit with your friend's relatives and tell them about your love for each other. That is more honourable than eloping. Tell them that you honour them and would love to give something back to show that you appreciate them, but you can't afford it. Tell them that you love their daughter and would make every effort to make a good husband and father, should the Lord bless you with children. Eloping would only have your friend's family to feel that you have not honoured them as parents which may also cause more trouble for you both. – **Pastor Tony**

Just be courageous and honest. Pray about it and seek the LORD for help. Go straight to your girlfriend's parents and tell them the truth that you love their daughter very much and would really love to have her as your wife, but you cannot afford to pay the bride price.

You must have the blessing from the parents before you both leave. That is God's plan: *"Leave parents, cleave to wife, and become one flesh"* (Genesis 2:24). Do not run away, but live in peace with the blessing from both of your families. . – **Pastor Isidore**



# God's Plan For Husbands: Loving Leaders

## Created to lead

God created men to lead.

God created man first and put him in charge of his creation. He revealed His will first to Adam. So when Adam and Eve broke His law, even though it was the woman who first ate of the fruit (Genesis 3:9), it was the man who God set out after and called to account. God was saying, *"Man, I put you in charge. You were supposed to lead."*

As the representative of God, Adam was supposed to show the love of God to his wife. But he failed when he allowed Eve to be tempted, and later took the fruit himself and ate it. Then he blamed the woman for what happened. Worse, he later blamed God for giving him the woman! He failed to see, as we often do, that it was his calling to love and protect his wife. The woman, whom he delighted to see when he first laid his eyes on her, of whom he said, *"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh,"* he now disowns. Adam attempted to stay out of the trouble, but actually, he was to blame, because he was the head of the family.

Adam, the head of the family, failed in his calling to be a loving leader. If he truly loved his wife, he would have done everything he could to protect his wife from the Evil One's deception. But Adam failed, and because of him, sin and death entered our world.

## Christ, the perfect loving leader

In His grace, however, God promised us salvation in the ultimate Son of Adam,

Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15). Christ, the second Adam, has reconciled God to man. In Christ, God has shown us the perfect model for husbands. Christ loved His bride, the church, so much that He gave up His life for her! Whereas Adam blamed and disowned his wife, Christ took the blame to make us His own again.

## Lead like Christ

Men, Christ died not only to save you, but also to change you, to make you into a loving husband, like Himself! Therefore, our marriages should resemble the relationship between Christ and His Bride; husbands should love their wives as Christ loved His church (Ephesians 5:25).

Brothers in the Lord Jesus, if God Himself calls us to love our wives as Christ loves the church, nothing should stop us from executing that calling. We shouldn't love our wives only when they fulfil our sexual desires, or only when they're submissive. You shouldn't love your wife only when she's young and beautiful. God calls us to love our wives no matter what! Not only when she's good in health. Not only when she bears children. Not only when she cooks you meals. Not only when she respects you. Not only when she makes you happy. Not only when she meets your relatives' approval.

It is our God-given responsibility to love and protect our wives, irrespective of circumstances or what other people might think.

I can still remember the look on the face of our midwife when I ran into the labour ward to hold my newborn son, still covered with blood, in my arms. Most

men would find this difficult because of cultural taboos about blood, but my love for my wife compelled me to be with her, and stand by her as we welcomed our first-born into the world. Christ stands by His bride; I will stand by mine.

We need to lead our families with the love of Christ. Show your wife the love of Christ. Point her to Christ, the perfect husband. Bring the Scriptures to her. Take the lead in every situation.

Most importantly, live the same life you want your wife to live. We can't just preach the Word, can we? If your wife is struggling with slander, to help conquer that sin you can't add to her slander. Neither should you yell at her to *"Do this!"* or *"Don't do that!"*, for that will only fuel the problem. Simply tell her with love that Jesus hates slandering. Protect her, lead by example, and guide her in love.

When she's unwilling to forgive, you forgive first. Often, we want to be forgiven first. We put conditions, don't we? *"I'm going to love you... if you respect me!"* *"I'm going to help you... if you fulfill my desires!"* But Christ's love for us does not include conditions. He loved us while we hated Him (Romans 5:10). He served us while we were serving ourselves (Mark 10:45).

## Look to Christ

This type of love is impossible by ourselves. So husbands, continually look to Christ. We can only lead in love if we truly love Christ, the perfect loving leader.

Pastor Tony O. Aufa

# Plen bilong God Long Ol Maritman: Ol i Mas Laikim Tru Meri Bilong Ol

## God i wokim ol man bilong kamap lida

God i wokim man bilong i go pas long meri bilong en.

God i wokim man pastaim na makim em long bosim olgeta samting God i bin wokim. Olsem na, taim Adam tupela lv i brukim lo bilong Em, maski lv i bin aigris na kaikai dispela prut tambu pastaim, God i singautim man na kotim em (Stat 3:9). I olsem God i tokim Adam, *"Man, mi makim yu long givim stia long meri. Mi laik yu mas i go pas."*

God i bin makim Adam long makim maus bilong Em yet, bilong soim pasin laikim bilong God long meri bilong em. Tasol, Adam i no bin kamap gutpela lida. Taim lv i kisim dispela prut tambu na kaikai, Adam i sanap na lukluk tasol, na binhainim em tu i kisim hap prut long meri bilong en na kaikai. Tasol em i sutim tok long meri bilong em na putim olgeta asua antap long em taim God i kotim em. Em i putim asua long God tu long Em i givim em dispela meri. Em i mekim pasin nogut tru! Adam i no luksave olsem yumi tupela i no save luksave olgeta taim olsem, em i wok bilong man bilong laikim tru na lukautim meri bilong em. Tingim, taim Adam i bin lukim meri bilong em nambawan taim, em i bin amamas tru na i tok olsem, *"Bun bilong em i kamap long bun bilong mi, na mit bilong em i kamap long mit bilong mi."*

Tasol nau, Adam i givim baksait long lv. Adaim i traim long em i no ken stap insait long dispela trabel. Tasol trupela tok em i olsem, Adam i asua bilong dispela hevi. Bilong wanem, God i makim em long go pas long femili bilong em olsem wasman o hetman.

Adam i no soim pasin laikim tru bilong God long meri bilong en. Em i no inapim dispela wok God i bin givim long em. Sapos Adam i bin laikim tru meri bilong em, orait em bai mekim olgeta samting bilong banisim meri bilong em long ol giaman bilong Satan. Tasol Adam i no mekim olsem, na bilong dispela as, sin na dai i kam insait long dispela graun bilong yumi.

## Jisas Krai Em i trupela lida bilong yumi

God, long marimari bilong em tasol, i bin promis long kisim bek yumi long wok bilong Pikinini tru bilong Adam, Jisas Krai (Stat 3:15). Krai, Em i nambatu Adam, i kamap namelman long God na yumi man bilong kamapim wanbel (Rom 5:1, 12). Insait long Krai, God i soim yumi piksa bilong trupela man. Krai i laikim tru meri bilong Em, em i sios bilong Krai, inap long Em i givim laip bilong En bilong kisim bek sios. Adam i putim asua long meri bilong em na i tok em i no save long em. Tasol Krai i kisim asua bilong yumi bilong mekim yumi kamap ol pipol bilong Em tru gen.

## Yumi ol man i mas kamap man olsem Krai

Ol man, Krai i no dai bilong kisim bek yu tasol. Nogat. Em i dai bilong senisim yu. Krai i dai bilong mekim yu i kamap wanpela gutpela man, wankain olsem Em yet bai marit bilong yumi i ken kamap olsem wanpela piksa bilong Krai na sios bilong Em. Ol man i mas laikim tru meri bilong ol, olsem Krai i laikim tru sios bilong Em (Efesus 5:25).

Ol brata insait long Bikpela Jisas Krai, sapos God yet i makim yumi long laikim tru meri bilong yumi olsem Krai i laikim tru sios bilong Em, yumi i no ken larim wanpela samting i pasim yumi long inapim dispela wok. Yumi i no ken laikim ol meri bilong yumi long taim ol i inapim laik bilong bungim bodi wantaim tasol, o taim ol i harim tok bilong yumi tasol. Yu i no ken laikim tru meri bilong yu taim em i yangpela na naispela tasol. God i singautim yumi long laikim tru ol meri bilong yumi long olgeta taim, maski wanem samting i kamap.

Yumi no ken laikim ol meri bilong yumi long taim ol i nogat sik tasol. Yumi no ken laikim ol meri bilong yumi long taim ol i karim pikinini tasol. Yu no ken laikim meri bilong yu taim em i kukim gutpela kaikai long yu tasol. Yu no ken laikim meri bilong yu long taim em i respektim yu tasol. Em i no samting bilong taim em i amamasim yu tasol.



# Plen Bilong God Long Ol Maritman: **Ol i Mas Laikim Tru Meri Bilong Ol**

**God i wokim man pastaim na makim em long bosim olgeta samting God i bin wokim**

Em i no samting bilong taim em i amamasim ol lain bilong yu tasol. God i givim dispela bikpela wok long yumi bilong laikim tru na lukautim meri bilong yumi, maski wanem samting i kamap o wanem tingting ol arapela i gat.

Mi tingim yet pes bilong ol lain i helpim meri bilong mi long haus sik taim mi ran i go insait long ples bilong ol mama i karim. Mi go insait na holim pikinini bilong mi. Mi klia olsem long planti hap em i tambu tru long man i holim nupela blut long taim mama i karim. Ol i bilip olsem man bai sik na bihain dai sapos em i tachim nupela blut. Olsem na dispela wok em ol i larim i go long han bilong ol arapela mama long mekim. Dispela em wanpela giaman i save pasim man long inap tru wok bilong em. Tasol mi bilip olsem dispela em i wok bilong yumi man. Yumi mas sanap klostu long ol meri bilong yumi olgeta taim olsem Bikpela Krai Jisas i save sanap klostu long meri bilong Em long olgeta taim. God i laik bai yumi i gat kain laikim long ol meri bilong yumi.

Yumi mas i go pas long famili bilong yumi wantaim pasin laikim tru bilong Krai. Soim dispeal laikim tru bilong Krai long meri bilong yu. Tokim em olsem, Krai em i gutepla man tru. Tokim em long Tok bilong

God. Go pas long em long olgeta taim. Na nambawan samting em i dispela: soim em wanem pasin yu laik em i mas bihainim. I no orait yumi tokim ol arapela long mekim wanem samting yumi yet i no save mekim, a? Sapos yu laik helpim meri bilong yu long em i no ken bagarapim nating nem bilong ol arapela, yu mas i no ken bihainim dispela pasin nogut. Yu no ken belhat o krosim em olsem, *"Mekim olsem!"* o *"No ken mekim olsem!"* Bilong wanem, dispela pasin bai mekim hevi i go bikpela moa. Tokim em isi tasol olsem Jisas i save les tru long pasin bilong bagarapim nating nem bilong ol arapela. Lukautim em [meri bilong yu], stap olsem piksa bilong gutpela man long em, na givim stia tok long em wantaim laikim tru.

Taim em i les long lusim rong bilong yu o arapela, yu mas go pas na lusim rong bilong em. Planti taim, yumi laik ol arapela i lusim

rong bilong yumi pastaim. Yumi save putim sampela kain mak olsem, *"Mi bai laikim yu tru... sapos yu respectim mi!"* *"Mi bai helpim yu... sapos yu amamasim mi!"* Tasol laikim tru bilong Krai i no gat mak bilong en. Em i laikim yumi tru taim yumi stap olsem birua bilong Em (Rom 5:8-10). Em i bin mekim gut long yumi, maski yumi save mekim gut long yumi yet tasol (Mak 10:45).

## **Lukluk i go long Krai.**

Yumi olgeta i save olsem yumi i no inap bihainim tru pasin laikim bilong Krai. Olsem na, yumi ol man, yumi i mas save lukluk long Krai oltaim. Yumi ken go pas long femili bilong yumi wantaim pasin laikim tru sapos yumi laikim tru Krai long bel bilong yumi. Em i trupela wasman, hetman na lida bilong yumi.

Pasto Tony O. Aufa



## **ASK A PASTOR**

### **Is it okay to have sex with my boyfriend if I plan to marry him?**

No. He may be your friend but both of you are not married yet. Sex outside of marriage is adultery. God purposely designed sex for marriage and marriage only. Many, if not all the time, sex is mistaken as love. If your friend truly loves you he will not ask you to have sex with him before marriage. Marriage is a life-long commitment between one man and one woman. If your boyfriend asks you for sex when you're both not married yet, what makes you think that he will not ask another girl when you're not satisfying his sexual desire? If a boy doesn't ask you for sex, it is because he respects you as a person and wants to do what's right for you. He doesn't want your body. He wants to share his life with you for as long as you both shall live. This young man truly loves you. If your boyfriend keeps asking you for sex and gets mad at you for not meeting his desire, then it is clear that he doesn't love you, he wants only your body. Beware of such men! If he truly loves you, he will wait till you both are married properly in the Lord. – **Pastor Tony**

No. The Bible gives us three parts to marriage (Genesis 2:24). First, you have to leave your parents. Second, you must be united (married) to your wife. Third, you become one flesh. Becoming one flesh refers to the sexual union. Sex comes last. This is God's plan for marriage. Therefore, I would say no to sex before marriage because it is a sin of fornication and it is not holy before God's eyes. If your boyfriend truly loves you, he will respect you and keep your virginity until your marriage bed. After all, God's plan for sex is that it will only be used in marriage. – **Pastor Isidore**

## Satan's Plan to Destroy Marriage:

# Abuse



Abuse is destroying marriages, lives, and families in PNG.

Multiple reports say that at least 60% of women in PNG are victims of sexual abuse. In some areas, that number goes up to 80%. What is sexual abuse? It is when sex or sexual contact is forced on another person without their agreement. Some examples are rape, molesting under-age children, or forced prostitution. Sex is a gift from God to married couples, but Satan deceives us and makes it into something unholy; something used to destroy other people, especially women.

Satan does not only use sexual abuse to destroy marriages, but also domestic violence and physical abuse, which leads to rampant physical, social, and mental problems in the family. Children are affected, education is ruined, properties are destroyed, ethnic and tribal fights erupt, and

marriages end in divorce! A prominent lawyer in Papua New Guinea says, *"Violence is like a disease that not only destroys families, but PNG as a nation."*

Why is abuse so prominent in Papua New Guinea? A major reason is this: our culture has the wrong view of women. Women are seen as cargo, an item that is bought with a bride price payment.

We think that 'Because he paid for his wife he can':

- Divorce her and buy another
- Cast her off and buy a new one
- Force her to work for him
- Commit adultery since she is only a piece of property, not an exclusive, life-long partner
- Verbally and physically abuse her

But God did not create woman to be the property of man!

▲ Photo by Vlad Sokhin - [www.vladsokhin.com](http://www.vladsokhin.com)

**Violence is like a disease that not only destroys families, but PNG as a nation**

# Abuse

God created woman in His own image (Genesis 1:27) to be a true companion of man (Genesis 2:21-23), and therefore women should be honoured and cherished. The Apostle Paul says a husband should love his wife and treat her well, like he would treat his own body (Ephesians 5:28). The Apostle Peter says a husband should honour his wife and be considerate (1 Peter 3:7). Just as Christ never abuses, misuses, or shames His bride, the church, but rather loves her dearly, so a husband should love his wife.

Listen! Satan uses sinful thinking about women to destroy marriages in PNG. Do you see how Satan uses lies to destroy marriage, which God had made good and holy? Is your marriage under attack because of Satan's lies? Where is your marriage heading?

Young man, what type of marriage are you planning?

Young women, how is your future husband treating you right now? What are you following - God's plan for marriage or Satan's lies?

If you are already under Satan's lies, and your marriage is not faithful or holy as God wants it to be, there is still hope. God can bring change, restoration and blessing into your married life. God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. He is willing and ready to help husbands and wives.

If you are an abusive husband or wife, confess your sins to God and sincerely desire to change your evil ways. He is willing to forgive all your sins and to restore your marriage relationship, if only you humble yourself and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

He died on the cross to pay for your sins - even sins of physical and sexual abuse - so that you can be forgiven and start over again.

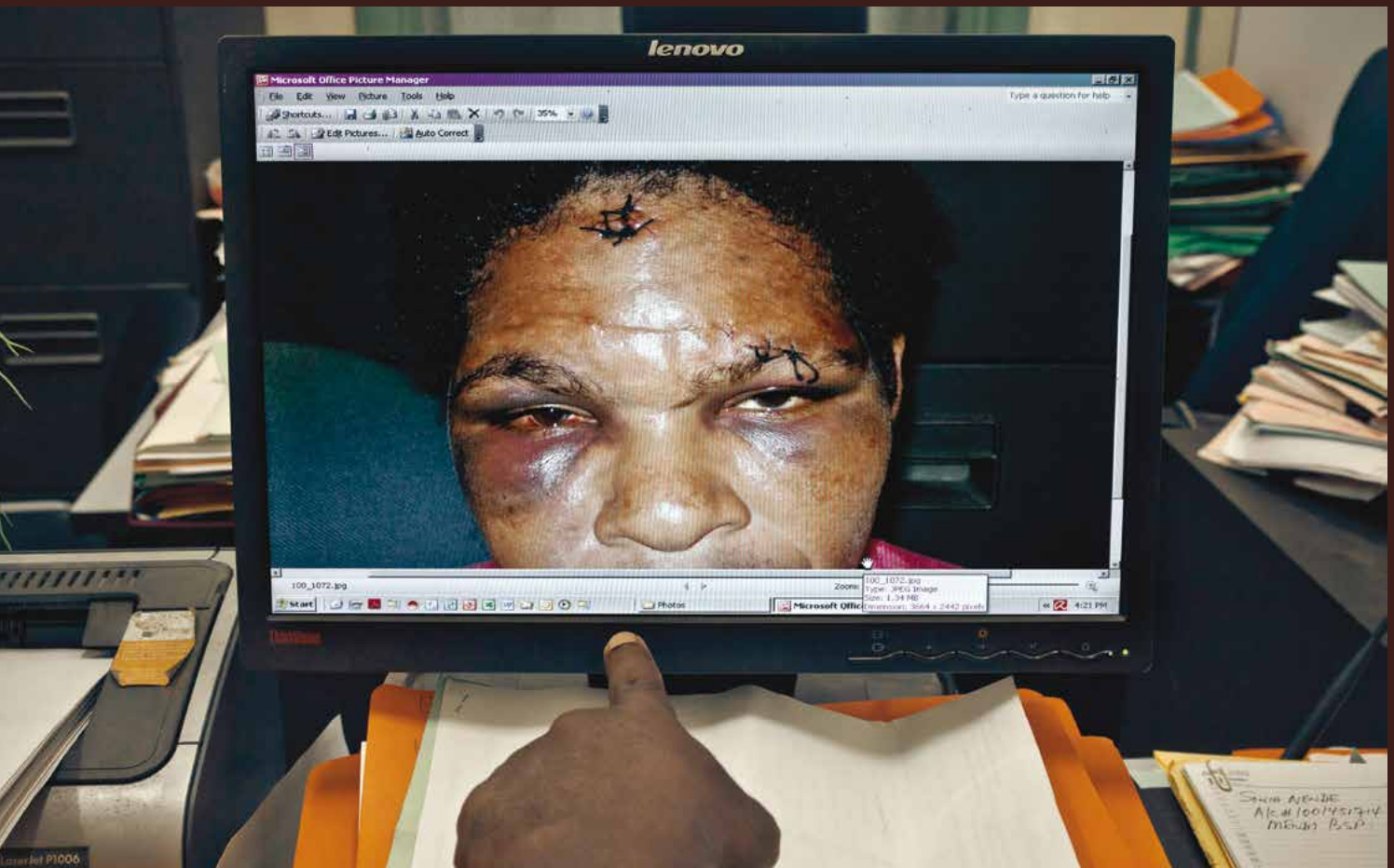
If you are or have been abused by your husband or wife, you can find true, eternal safety in Jesus Christ. Anger, payback, and adultery are no solution - they are only more lies of Satan. Cry out to God for help. He will hear you!

In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus says that love is the greatest commandment.

The Apostle Paul tells us that love does no harm to its neighbour (Romans 13:10). The Apostle Peter says, "Above all keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). Love is the opposite of abuse.

Men and women of Papua New Guinea, we must hate and utterly reject all forms of abuse. Instead, we must put Christ's sacrificial love at the center of our marriages and of all our lives.

Pastor Aisi Kosa



▲ Photo by Vlad Sokhin - [www.vladsokhin.com](http://www.vladsokhin.com)



# God's Plan for Wives:

# Submissive Helpers

## Submission in the Bible

*"Wives submit to your husbands, as to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22).*

Today the word "submit" means different things to different people. Groups who advocate for women and promote female equality understand this word negatively because it seems to make men more important than women. Others interpret it through traditional Papua New Guinean values, and think it means that men are the bosses and women are their possessions or tools that they can dominate and oppress.

But submit is a biblical word, so we must understand it biblically.

Right in the beginning, in the garden of Eden, we see God come to Adam and Eve and tell them how they should live. But God left it up to them to decide what they were going to do. If they would submit, that would mean that they agreed with God's headship and desired to live under God's order. If they would disobey, that would mean that they were unhappy about the way God was running things – how He was caring for and leading them. When Adam and Eve submitted to God (before the fall into sin), they were making a choice. But they made this choice knowingly and lovingly, in relationship with the Lord God.

When Apostle Peter tells the young men to be submissive to their elders, he first appeals to the elders as under-shepherds who serve the Great Shepherd, to obey God by being shepherds (1 Peter 3:1ff).

They are to serve not because they must, but because they are willing; not because they are greedy for money, but because they are eager; not bossy, but being an example to those placed under them. Yes, God has given them a position of authority, but he demands that they show the right kind of leadership.

These texts show that biblical submission is first of all submission to God. We see this here not just with the elders, but also with political leaders (1 Peter 2:13), and the husbands (1 Peter 3:1). To submit to your husband means to live in grateful acknowledgement of his God-given leadership and care for you.

## Fruits of not submitting

If we take away the God-given command for women to be biblically submissive, there will be no example for those under her. Children will have no way of understanding what it means to submit to authorities if it is not modeled in their home. A child needs to see her mother submitting to the godly authority of her husband, as well as to God. A broken home breaks down godly submission.

It will not only affect those under you but also those above you. By not submitting, your husband's leadership is undermined. Don't forget that he is not the only one above you: Christ is his head, to whom he must submit (1 Corinthians 11:3).

It also affects those around you. Authority and submission is God's order for humanity, both on the small and the large scale. Therefore, broken submission in marriage breaks the order at home; a broken family means a broken community, and a broken community destroys the nation. Submission is the very fabric of a strong nation.

You ask why this beautiful country of ours is weak? Look at our communities – our young people don't value honour, respect, sacrifice and love. They have not learnt submission.

## Submission is a noble task

Submission is not about man versus woman, but about a woman's noble role in the home. Her noble task is not one that is given by men to suppress her. It comes from God; it is a higher calling, a most privileged role. She submits, not because men tell her she must, but because she is willing to do it with a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight (1 Peter 3:4).

Submission does not make a woman a worthless slave. It makes her a servant that God uses to weave the very fabric of this nation.

## What about when a husband is not a believer?

*"But wait!" you might be asking, "How can I submit when my husband does not submit to God?"*

This is the problem that many women face because sin has damaged every part of our being and of our world. Sadly, there are many husbands who do not love and lead their wives in a godly way.

But 1 Peter 3 helps us here too. After talking about husband and wife relationships, the Apostle Peter goes on to point us to Christ.

*"Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks you about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep a clear conscience. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!" (1 Peter 3:15-17)*

When we submit to our husband, we are submitting to Christ. So even if our husband treats us poorly, Christ will always care for us and lead us. If we don't submit and we suffer, we gain nothing. If we do submit and we suffer because of it, we are following in the footsteps of Christ.

Christ is our great leader. He has given His life for us. By having faith in Him, we can truly enjoy His rule.

Pastor Nawai and Daiva Renagi





## Plen Bilong God Long Ol Maritmeri:

# ol i mas aninit long man bilong ol bilong helpim ol

### Buk Baibel i tok wanem long ol maritmeri i mas aninit long man bilong ol?

*"Yupela meri, yupela i mas aninit long ol man bilong yupela, olsem yupela i save aninit long Bikpela"* (Efesus 5:22).

Taim ol lain tude i harim dispela tok "aninit long man", ol bai i gat kain kain tingting long dispela tok. Ol lain i save toktok long "meri raits", olsem ol meri i mas i stap wankain long ol man, ol bai i les tru long harim dispela tok "aninit long man". Sampela narapela lain bai harim dispela tok, na ol bai ting i gat dispela mining: Ol man i olsem bos bilong ol meri, na ol meri i stap olsem kago samting bilong man, na man i ken bosim long laik na strong bilong em yet. Planti lain long PNG i gat dispela tingting.

Tasol dispela tok "aninit long man" i kam long Baibel, olsem na yumi mas go long Baibel long kisim save long trupela mining bilong dispela tok.

Long stat bilong dispela graun, long Gaden Iden, God i bin i go long Adam na lv na tokim tupela long pasin tupela i mas bihainim. Tasol tupela yet i mas makim wanem rot ol i laik bihainim: bai ol i aninit long tok bilong God na amamas long Em i bosim ol, na redi long bihainim olgeta tok bilong Em, o bai ol i sakim tok bilong God na putim ples klia olsem ol i les long Em i bosim ol na ol i les long gutpela lukaut bilong Em? Taim Adam tupela lv i no pundaun long sin yet, ol i amamas long stap

aninit long God na laikim tru bilong Em, na ol i stap wanbel wantaim Bikpela.

Taim Aposel Pita i tokim ol yangpela man long aninit long hetman bilong sios, pastaim em i stori long ol hetman na tokim ol olsem ol i stap olsem wasman bilong sipsip bikos ol i stap aninit long Namba Wan Wasman bilong sipsip (1 Pita 5:1 ff). Taim ol hetman i mekim wok, ol i mas amamas long mekim dispela, olsem God i laikim ol i mekim. Na ol i no ken mekim dispela wok bilong kisim pe. Ol i mas mekim ol gutpela pasin tasol, bai ol arapela i ken lukim na bihainim. God i givim dispela wok long ol, olsem hetman bilong sios, tasol ol i mas mekim gutpela pasin tasol, na stap olsem gutpela hetman na lida.

Dispela teks i putim ples klia olsem taim Baibel i mekim tok olsem "stap aninit long narapela", em i samting bilong stap aninit long Bikpela pastaim. Yumi inap lukim dispela samting long 1 Pita 2:13 tu we Pita i tok olsem olgeta kain gavman i stap aninit long Bikpela, na long 1 Pita 3:1, Pita i tok olsem olgeta man i stap aninit long Bikpela. Ol maritmeri, taim yu stap aninit long man bilong yu i min olsem yu amamas long em i stap olsem lida bilong yu bikos God yet i makim em long mekim olsem na long lukautim yu tu.

### Wanem samting bai kamap sapos yu no stap aninit long man bilong yu?

Sapos yumi sakim dispela tok bilong God long stap aninit long man bilong

yumi, orait hau bai ol pikinini i inap kisim save long dispela pasin bilong stap aninit long narapela?

Hau bai ol pikinini i inap klia long pasin bilong aninit long gavman o lo bilong kantri, sapos ol i no lukim dispela pasin long mama i stap aninit long papa bilong ol? Em i gutpela olsem pikinini i lukim mama bilong em i aninit long namba God i givim long papa bilong em, na aninit long God tu. Taim wanpela femili i bruk na bagarap, dispela pasin bilong aninit long narapela, olsem God yet i makim, em bai i bagarap tu.

Tasol, sapos yu sakim tok bilong God na yu no aninit long man bilong yu, em bai mekim namba God i givim long man bilong yu olsem samting nating tu. Taim yu les long aninit long em, hau bai em i mekim wok olsem lida bilong yu, olsem God i tokim em long mekim? No ken lus tingting: Krai i stap olsem Het bilong yu na bilong em, na man bilong yu i mas bihainim Krai na aninit long Em (1 Korin 11:3).

Na sapos yu no aninit long man bilong yu, dispela bai mekim ol arapela lain i ting olsem namba bilong man bilong yu em i liklik samting. God yet i kirapim dispela pasin bilong sampela lain i bosim narapela lain, long wanwan femili na long kantri na gavman tu. Olsem tasol, taim ol maritmeri i no aninit long man bilong ol, em bai afektim na bagarapim komyuniti bilong ol tu; na taim komyuniti em bagarap, orait kantri bilong yumi bai bagarap tu. Pasin bilong aninit long narapela em bai strongim tru kantri bilong yumi. Sapos yu laik

▲ Photo by Moss Doersken



**Taim meri i stap aninit long man bilong em, em i no stap olsem wanpela wokmeri nating. Nogat, em i stap olsem wokmeri bilong God**

save bilong wanem dispela naispela kantri bilong yumi i no strong tumas, orait, lukim ol komyuniti bilong yumi – ol yangpela lain bilong yumi ol i no save honaim na respektim ol lida bilong ol, ol i no save laikim narapela na daunim laik bilong ol yet. Ol i no bin lainim dispela pasin bilong stap aninit long narapela.

**Pasin bilong stap aninit long narapela em i gutpela wok long mekim**

Pasin bilong stap aninit long narapela em i no samting bilong kamapim pait namel long man na meri. Nogat, em i samting bilong gutpela wok maritmeri i ken mekim insait long femili bilong em. I no olsem man i givim dispela wok long meri long daunim em na bagarapim em. Nogat. Dispela wok i kam long God yet; God i singautim ol maritmeri long mekim dispela bikpela wok stret, na em i gutpela samting tru long mekim. Meri i no aninit long man bilong em bikos man bilong em i tokim em long mekim olsem. Nogat. Em i gat bikpela laik long mekim olsem, na em i stap belgut na bel isi taim em i mekim olsem bikos em i save olsem dispela kain pasin em i gutpela moa yet long ai bilong God (1 Pita 3:4).

Taim meri i stap aninit long man bilong em, em i no stap olsem wanpela wokmeri nating. Nogat, em i stap olsem wokmeri bilong God, na God bai i yusim em long strongim kantri bilong yumi tu

**Tasol, sapos man bilong em i no bilip long God, meri i mas mekim wanem?**

Nogut yu gat dispela askim: *“Hau bai mi aninit long man bilong mi sapos man bilong mi i no aninit long God?”*

Dispela em i bikpela hevi bilong planti meri, bikos sin i bin bagarapim dispela graun. Na yumi ken sori tru bikos i gat planti ol man i stap husat i no save laikim tru meri bilong ol, na ol i no lidim na bosim gut meri bilong ol olsem God i tokim ol long mekim.

Tasol 1 Pita 3 i ken helpim yumi long dispela hevi tu. Taim Pita i stori pinis long dispela poroman bilong man wantaim meri bilong em, orait em i tokim yumi long lukluk long Krai:

*“Long bel bilong yupela, yupela i mas putim Krai wanpela Em i stap Bikpela bilong yupela. Na sapos ol i askim yupela long as bilong dispela gutpela samting yupela i wetim i stap, orait*

**ASK A PASTOR**

**What do I do if my wife doesn't submit to me?**

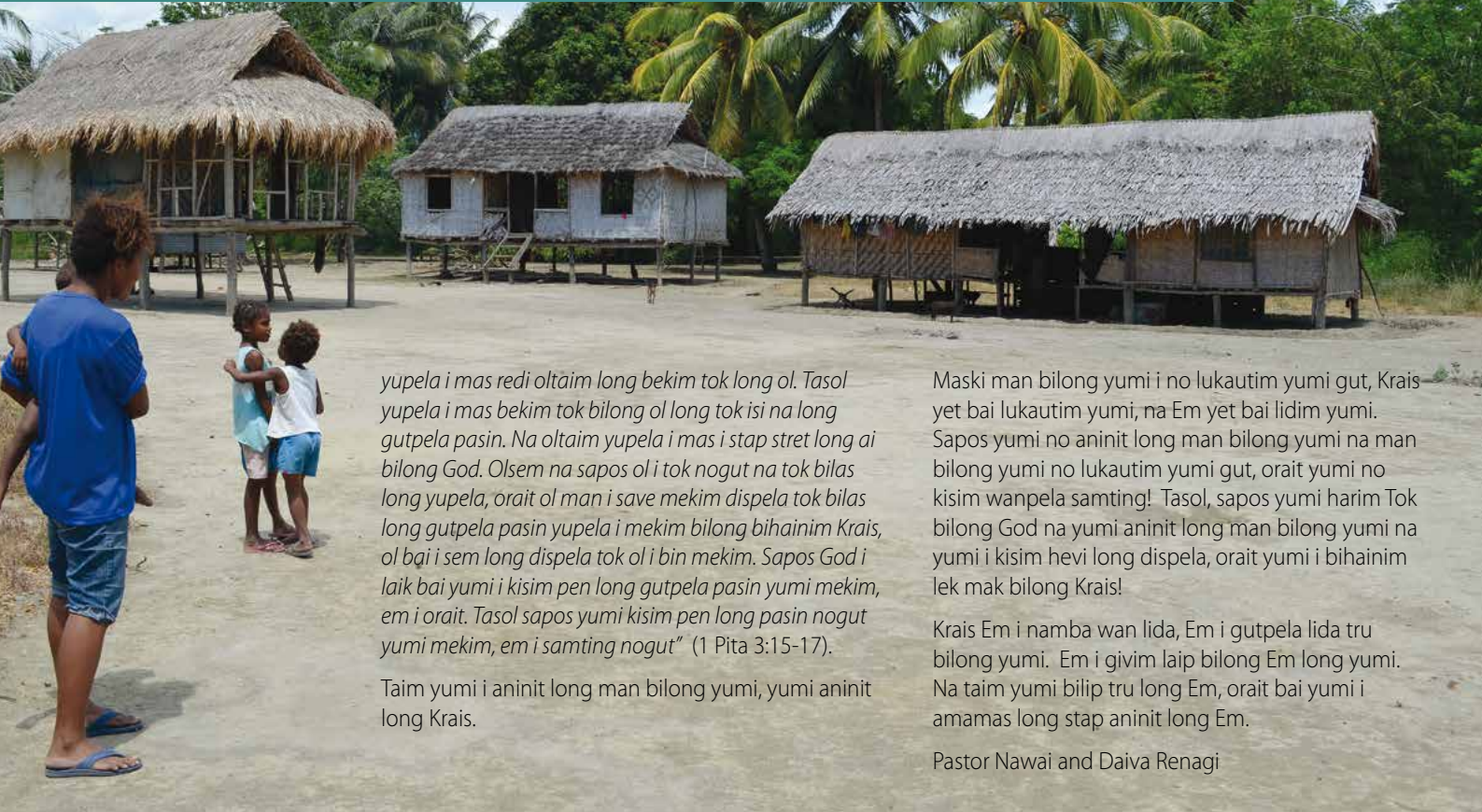
God commands husbands to love their wives. That includes loving a stubborn and adulterous wife. The prophet Hosea is such a perfect example. God tells him to go and find his adulterous wife and take her home again. It is indeed a very heartbreaking situation, but you must love your wife even if she does not submit to you. You just do what you are called to do: love her and pray earnestly for her. Lord willing, she may repent of her sin one day. Even if she does not repent you still have to love her. If she does not repent, she will be held accountable before the Just God for not submitting to the man God gave her. **–Pastor Tony**

The Bible tells us that wives should submit to their husbands. If your wife does not submit to you, show her from the Bible and sit down with her and talk about it. Explain that what she is doing is not right in God's eyes and it is sin. Forgive her for what she has done to you, pray with her, and hope that the LORD will help her to submit herself to you. Love her as Christ loves you. Your love for her may bring her to submission. Many wives do not submit themselves to their husbands because they are not loved by their husbands. We men must always remember that the submission of our wives comes easiest when we love them. If your wife still does not submit to you even though you talk about it with her, pray about it and show her love and then follow the principle that is written in Matthew 18:15-20. **– Pastor Isidore**



# Plen Bilong God Long Ol Maritmeri:

ol i mas aninit long man bilong ol bilong helpim ol



*yupela i mas redi oltaim long bekim tok long ol. Tasol yupela i mas bekim tok bilong ol long tok isi na long gutpela pasin. Na oltaim yupela i mas i stap stret long ai bilong God. Olsem na sapos ol i tok nogut na tok bilas long yupela, orait ol man i save mekim dispela tok bilas long gutpela pasin yupela i mekim bilong bihainim Krai, ol bai i sem long dispela tok ol i bin mekim. Sapos God i laik bai yumi i kisim pen long gutpela pasin yumi mekim, em i orait. Tasol sapos yumi kisim pen long pasin nogut yumi mekim, em i samting nogut” (1 Pita 3:15-17).*

Taim yumi i aninit long man bilong yumi, yumi aninit long Krai.

Maski man bilong yumi i no lukautim yumi gut, Krai yet bai lukautim yumi, na Em yet bai lidim yumi. Sapos yumi no aninit long man bilong yumi na man bilong yumi no lukautim yumi gut, orait yumi no kisim wanpela samting! Tasol, sapos yumi harim Tok bilong God na yumi aninit long man bilong yumi na yumi i kisim hevi long dispela, orait yumi i bihainim lek mak bilong Krai!

Krai Em i namba wan lida, Em i gutpela lida tru bilong yumi. Em i givim laip bilong Em long yumi. Na taim yumi bilip tru long Em, orait bai yumi i amamas long stap aninit long Em.

Pastor Nawai and Daiva Renagi

## ASK A PASTOR

### **None of my friends are waiting for marriage before they have sex. Why should I?**

As a Christian, you should let God's Word determine your life. You can't let someone's action compel you to have sex before marriage, for God's ways are not like ours. God wants you to be a light to those who are living in darkness.

As Christians, we ought to take captive every thought, such as sexual desire, and make them obedient to Christ (1 Corinthians 10:5).

If you can't control your desires it is better that you marry than burn with passion (1 Corinthians 7:9). The best answer as to why you have to wait is because you are not your own, but belong with body and soul to Christ. – **Pastor Tony**

As God teaches us in Acts 4:19, we must listen to GOD rather than men. We must avoid and flee from sin with all our might. *“Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness,”* the Apostle Paul says to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:22) and in Romans 13:14, he says, *“Make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires”* (Romans 13:14). – **Pastor Isidore**

### **When I read these articles, they make me feel like a very bad husband. What should I do?**

Be assured that you are not alone in this battle. There are millions like you. In fact you will not find a perfect husband on this earth. Since these articles were written based on the Word of God you should submit to what God is saying. That is the only possible thing you could do. First, you repent from your sins and ask God to help you and give you the grace to be a good husband. You can't do this alone. You need Jesus! – **Pastor Tony**

Do not lose hope. There is hope in Christ. Satan's plan to destroy marriages started in the beginning with Adam and Eve and continues throughout history. He comes only to kill and destroy marriages. But Christ came and died and rose again and He lives forever. Bring your marriages to the Living One, Jesus Christ. Bring it to the cross of Jesus. Pray and work at your marriage by the power of the Holy Spirit. If you ask for forgiveness, God is faithful and He will forgive your sins and help restore your marriage.

You are never too late. In Christ alone, you can start a new life in your marriage. – **Pastor Isidore**

# Satan's Plan to Destroy Marriage: Adultery



▲ Photo by Moss Doersken

Adultery is poisoning, destroying and killing marriages in PNG. Families are being broken. Men lust for sex, leave their wives and children at home, and chase after girls and women with money. Young girls and even married women lust after money and sell their bodies for a living. Men and women alike dress and act provocatively to lure others into fornication and adultery.

Our courthouses are filled with cases of adultery, from the national courts right down to the local village courts. Our music industry is promoting adultery through many of the latest-releases and popular songs. How sad that these songs are favourites to many in PNG, especially the younger generation!

Adultery is on the rise in PNG and in the world as a whole. Adultery is everywhere - in our thoughts, in our words and in our actions. My beloved Papua New Guinea, adultery is destroying our beautiful, so-called Christian country!

And the man behind all this adultery is Satan himself. Adultery is one of his

favourite ways to destroy marriages. We can see this in the lives of Mark and Mary:

Mark and Mary were a very happy couple for seventeen years. They had five beautiful children, the eldest 16 and the youngest 3. Mary was a house wife while Mark earned a very good fortnight as a top government official.

Mark rented a big house in Port Moresby, owned a car, and his children were doing very well in school. They lived a very decent life until Mark met Judy, a 19-year-old high school dropout, and fell in love with her. Mark told lies to her that he was a single man and lured her with money and gifts for sex.

Life changed for Mark and Mary's family, and things went from bad to worse, as Mark's adultery began affecting them all. Mark began spending more of his time and money on Judy and neglected Mary and the children. Soon, there was not enough money for food, school fees, power, water bills and other daily expenses. One day, Mary found out what was happening with Mark and an

argument broke out between the two. To cover up his guilt, Mark chased her out of the house and told her never to come back again.

Then Mark took Judy in and they lived a luxurious life in his house, Mary and the children went to live in a settlement in Mary's uncle's house. For an unemployed mother, to care for 5 children was unbearable. There was no food. The children had to stop schooling because they could not pay the school fees.

The little money they made by collecting empty cans and bottles was not enough to sustain them, and so, without her children knowing, Mary decided to sell her body for sex to support the family.

Marriages broken by adultery are hideous. Marriage itself is something beautiful that God created good from the beginning at creation (Genesis 2:21-24). God blessed it (Genesis 1:28) and said that it was very good (Genesis 1:31). In fact, marriage is more than beautiful. It is holy. It is a special gift from God.

# Adultery

Within marriage, God has given sex as a gift to husband and wife to be enjoyed exclusively by husband and wife. This exclusive intimacy is a picture of the deep intimacy between God and His people, between Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:22-32).

But Satan hates the beautiful and holy things of God, and so his plan is to destroy marriage. He takes sex, a beautiful and holy gift, and turns it into something ugly. Satan uses illicit sex to destroy marriages. He lures many people to lust for sex and use sex in unholy ways: not only adultery, but also fornication, polygamy, pornography, incest, rape, paedophilia, and bestiality.

These sexual sins are like poison destroying and killing many hearts and minds and bringing them to hell. The Bible is clear: the sexually immoral will not inherit the kingdom of God (Ephesians 5:5). Satan's plan is to corrupt sex and destroy marriages, and sadly many marriages in PNG are on this path.

But, dear reader, there is hope.

We have hope to restore our marriages to God's plan through the cross of Jesus Christ. There on the cross of Calvary, Jesus died for our adultery. Yes, He died to take the punishment of God's anger against all our sexual sins and to make us pure in God's eyes. He also rose from the grave so that we could live a new, holy life (Romans 6:6). Through Christ, God has redeemed marriage and given hope to every marriage that has been destroyed by adultery.

Mary hit rock bottom when her uncle told her that she couldn't live with him any more and that she would have to move out. Move out? Where? How? Mary was overcome by sadness and despair. Who would help her? Desperate, she turned to God in prayer. The Lord answered her prayers.

Mary found a church in which the gospel of Jesus Christ was faithfully preached. She repented of her sins. She stopped selling her body for sex. She learned to entrust her life to Jesus Christ. The gospel changed her heart more and more. She became a new person, a new Mary.

The church was kind and helped her and the children to get back to their home village. They made a big garden and planted many crops. The LORD blessed their garden and it yielded much more than expected. The LORD also blessed them in their markets. They made a lot of money out of the crops. The elder son became good at buying and selling and was soon running a mini supermarket. Later, they were able to expand the business, buy a PMV, and even buy a house in Port Moresby again.

At that very time when the family was growing their business, their father, Mark, was in dire need. He had lost his job, his house and his car. His girlfriend Judy had left him for another man. He was poor and destitute.

When Mary and the children heard about this, they had pity on him. They found him and asked him to come home, but Mark was so ashamed of what he had done to them, that he refused. Mary and the children forgave him and showed God's love to him. He was so touched and moved by their love that he came weeping before the LORD asking for forgiveness and repenting of his sins.

The family brought their dad home and he promised that he would never do such a thing again. He humbled himself by becoming a servant leader, serving his family with love. They lived happily in the love of Christ.

Mark and Mary's marriage was restored by Christ's love.

Come, let us repent of our old lustful nature and return to Christ's love which purified us to make our marriages pure and holy in God's eyes (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Hebrews 13:4)! There is hope for our marriages! There is forgiveness for adulterers.

Satan comes to destroy marriages, but Christ comes to give life and to restore our marriages. Bring your marriage to the cross of Jesus Christ. Let Him rule in your personal life. Let Jesus be the King and Head of your families and homes!

By Pastor Isidore Aufa

## ASK A PASTOR

**Is there a time when I am allowed to beat my wife? For example, what if she has slept with another man?**

Regardless of the situation, you are not allowed to beat your wife at any time even if she has committed adultery. The Bible only commands us to love our wives. We can't allow situations to motivate our love. Jesus has taught us that only on the grounds of marital unfaithfulness can a man divorce his wife (Matthew 19:9). If you do divorce your wife then it's better you remain unmarried (1 Corinthians 7:11). You have no right to beat your wife. Through the prophet Hosea, God has shown us His unfailing love. The Bride of the LORD had committed adultery yet He loved her still. – **Pastor Tony**

There is nowhere in the Bible that says that you can beat your wife, not even when you find out that she has slept with another man. The Bible tells us that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25). In the Old Testament, God told Hosea to go and show love to his unfaithful adulterous wife again and to love her again and again as the LORD loves the Israelites even though they turn to other gods (Hosea 3:1).. – **Pastor Isidore**

**What should happen to a pastor who commits adultery?**

He has to repent from what he's done. He must also be put off from ministry because he is not giving a good example to the congregation, especially the men, if he still keeps preaching. – **Pastor Tony**

1 Timothy 3:2 tells us that the overseers are to be the husband of one wife. If a pastor commits adultery, it is a public, serious and gross sin. The pastor must be dealt with by the church leaders. He must be suspended from his work as a pastor. If he does not show true repentance, he must be deposed (removed completely) as a pastor. Even if he does repent, some might not trust and respect him anymore, so that he cannot work as a pastor. If he truly repents, the elders of the church may suspend him for a period of time, and when they see that there is sufficient evidence of repentance, the suspension may be lifted and he can be restored back to his office again.

– **Pastor Isidore**



# Pre Marriage Questions

Are you thinking about marriage? What things are important to discuss before you are married? Ask these important questions to your future husband/wife before you make one of the biggest decisions of your life!

## Theology

- ▶ Do you believe in the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) as revealed in the Bible?
- ▶ Do you know and believe the good news of Jesus Christ; born as man, crucified for sin, risen to life, and ascended as Lord?
- ▶ Are you committed to following Jesus Christ?
- ▶ Do you submit all your thinking and all your actions to God's Word?

## Worship and devotion

- ▶ How important is it to you to regularly attend worship and church events?
- ▶ What daily personal devotional practices do you have? (prayer, Bible reading, memorising Scripture verses)
- ▶ Are we praying and reading the Bible together now? Who will lead this when we are married?

## Husband and wife

- ▶ What is the meaning of headship and submission in the Bible and in our marriage?
- ▶ How will we share daily tasks like dishes, laundry, cleaning, firewood, changing nappies, etc?
- ▶ How will we spend quality time together?
- ▶ Who is going to look after the money?

## Children

- ▶ If you could choose, how many children would you have?
- ▶ How will we teach our children to love God?
- ▶ What are appropriate ways to discipline our children?
- ▶ What about school? Is it important for them to go to a Christian school?

## Lifestyle

- ▶ Who will we live with?
- ▶ Where will we live? Is this a good place to raise a family or serve the Lord?
- ▶ How do you make money decisions? Are you a spender or a saver?
- ▶ How much of our fortnight will we give to the church?
- ▶ Who makes the decisions about how we spend money?

## Entertainment

- ▶ What are the criteria for movies that we watch?
- ▶ What will our guidelines be for our children? How will we enforce this?
- ▶ How will we model and teach our children to have discernment in choosing entertainment and leisure activities?

## Conflict

- ▶ What makes you angry?
- ▶ How do you handle your frustration or anger?
- ▶ Will we go to bed angry at each other?
- ▶ Who will help us if we are angry or not getting along?
- ▶ Work
- ▶ Do you like your work? What is your dream job? How will you achieve this?
- ▶ How are we going to earn enough money to support our own family?
- ▶ What are our responsibilities to family?
- ▶ Will we have a garden and raise livestock? Where? Will this provide enough food for our family?

## Physical and spiritual health

- ▶ Do you have, or have you had any, sickness or physical problems that could affect our relationship? (Allergies, cancer, eating disorders, STDs)
- ▶ What do you think about exercise and healthy eating?
- ▶ Do you have any habits that are bad for your health (chewing buai, smoking)?
- ▶ Do you have any sinful habits (getting drunk, looking at pornography)?

## Past life

- ▶ Do you have a criminal record?
- ▶ Have you been physically or sexually abused in the past?
- ▶ Have you been sexually active with another person before?
- ▶ Who will we talk to about these concerns to receive Christ-centred, Biblical counselling?



▲ Photo by Moss Doersken

# Sampela Askim Long Askim Sapos Yu Tingting Long Marit

Yu tingting long marit? Pastaim yutupela marit, wanem ol samting i bikpela long toktok wantaim? Ol disisen bilong marit i wanpela bikpela disisen long laip bilong yu. Bipo yu marit, askim dispela ol askim long man o meri husat yu gat laik long maritim.

## Ol bilip bilong ol Kristen

- ▶ Yu bilip long God Triwan (Papa, Pikinini na Holi Spirit) olsem Baibel i tok long Em?
- ▶ Yu save na bilip long gutnius bilong Jisas Kraus; Em i kamap man, Em i dai long sin bilong yumi, na Em i go antap long heven olsem Bikpela?
- ▶ Yu gat bikpela laik tru tru long bihainim Jisas Kraus?
- ▶ Olgeta tingting na pasin bilong yu i save stap aninit long tok bilong God?

## Lotu laip bilong ol Kristen

- ▶ Yu save go long lotu na ol program bilong sios? Dispela ol samting em i bikpela samting long laip bilong yu?
- ▶ Yu save mekim wanem long lotu long God insait long laip bilong yu yet long wan wan de? (pasin bilong beten, pasin bilong ritim Baibel, pasin bilong putim ol tok bilong God long tingting)
- ▶ Yumi save beten na ritim Baibel wantaim nau? Husat bai i go pas long ritim Baibel na beten taim yumi marit?

## Ol man na meri marit

- ▶ Baibel i mekim wanem tok long wok bilong man olsem het na wok bilong meri olsem em i mas stap aninit long man? Wok bilong man na meri i marit bai i kamap insait long marit bilong yutupela olsem wanem?
- ▶ Hau bai yumi tilim ol wok olsem wasim plet, wasim klos, klinim haus, kisim paiauwut, senisim nepi, na kain samting olsem?
- ▶ Hau bai yumi mekim haptaim long stap wantaim wanpela narapela?
- ▶ Husat bai i bosim mani bilong yumi?

## Ol pikinini

- ▶ Sapos yu inap makim, hamas pikinini yu tingting long kamapim?
- ▶ Hau bai yumi skulim ol pikinini long laikim tru God?
- ▶ Hau bai yumi stretim ol pikinini taim ol i bikhet o mekim rong?
- ▶ Yu ting wanem long skul? Yu ting em bikpela samting tru olsem ol pikinini i mas go long wanpela Kristen skul?

## Ol wokabaut

- ▶ Bai yumi stap wantaim ol lain bilong husat? Ol lain bilong man? Ol lain bilong meri? Narapela lain?
- ▶ Bai yumi i stap long wanem hap? Dispela hap em i gutpela hap long kamapim ol pikinini o mekim wok bilong Bikpela?
- ▶ Yumi save lukautim mani olsem wanem? Yu save bungim mani o yu save yusim tasol?
- ▶ Bai yumi givim hamas hap fotnait i go long sios?
- ▶ Husat bai bosim hau yumi yusim fotnait bilong yumi?

## Ol amamas samting

- ▶ Wanem ol mak bilong ol muvi yumi bai lukim?
- ▶ Wanem ol stiatok bai yumi putim bilong ol pikinini i ken bihainim long lukim muvi (wanem em i gutpela na wanem muvi i no gutpela)? Hau bai yumi strongim dispela tingting? Bai yumi mekim wanem taim ol i brukim lo bilong yumi?
- ▶ Hau bai yumi lainim ol pikinini bilong yumi long ol i ken kisim gutpela tingting bilong skelim wanem ol pilai bai ol inap long pilai, wanem ol musik ol inap long harim na wanem ol muvi ol inap long lukim?

## Ol hevi bilong femili

- ▶ Wanem ol samting o pasin i save mekim yu belhat?
- ▶ Yu save bosim o daunim belhat na belhevi bilong yu olsem wanem?
- ▶ Bai yumi i go long slip taim yumi belhat yet, o nogat?
- ▶ Sapos yumi i belhat wantaim wanpela narapela o yumi i no stap wanbel, yumi bai i go long husat long kisim helpim?

## Ol wok

- ▶ Yu laikim wok bilong yu? Yu gat bikpela laik long mekim wanem kain wok? Hau bai yu inapim laik bilong yu long painim gutpela wok?
- ▶ Hau bai yumi kisim wokmani inap long sapotim femili bilong yumi yet?
- ▶ Yumi yet gat wanem wok bilong lukautim famili bilong yumi?
- ▶ Bai yumi wok gaden na lukautim abus? Long wanem hap? Dispela bai i ginivim ap kaikai long famili bilong yumi?

## Ol helt bilong bodi na spirit

- ▶ Yu bin gat sampela sik bipo o yu gat sampela sik na hevi bilong bodi i stap yet long yu, o nogat? Dispela ol sik bai inap pasim yumi long stap gut wantaim? (ol sik olsem kensa, ol sik bilong kaikai, ol sik bilong pamuk)
- ▶ Yu ting wanem long eksasais na pasin bilong kaikai gutpela kaikai?
- ▶ Yu save bihainim sampela pasin nogut bilong bagarapim helt bilong yu olsem buai or smok?
- ▶ Yu save spak o lukim ol piksa nogut?

## Ol samting i bin kamap long laip bilong yu long bipo

- ▶ Ol polis i bin holim yu o kalabusim yu bipo? Long wanem?
- ▶ Wanpela i bin mekim pasin nogut o pasin sem long yu taim yu yangpela?
- ▶ Yu bin mekim maritpasin olsem bungim bodi wantaim wanpela man o meri bipo?
- ▶ Bai yumi i tokim husat long ol dispela samting bilong kisim gutpela skul long stretim ol hevi bilong bipo?



# ASK A PASTOR

## Can I divorce my wife because she's barren and marry another woman so I can have an heir from her?

You can't divorce your wife on the grounds of barrenness. A man can divorce his wife if she commits adultery with another man (Matthew 19:9). You can't divorce your wife only because she doesn't bear you children. God, in His perfect plan, has many reasons why He does not give children to a married couple. In all cases, it is a test from God. Will you love your wife even if she bears you no children? Will you follow God's will, even when it hurts?

– **Pastor Tony**

Many Papua New Guineans think that the main purpose for marriage is to have children. A man must have children, but especially son to have recognition in the community. And so, if the wife is not able to bear or have children, she is seen as something nothing. Many men leave their wives who cannot give them children. And even worse, some divorce their wives because she has not given them a son.

But the Bible tells us that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16) and whoever divorces his wife and marry another commits adultery (Matthew 19:9). It is sin in the eyes of the Lord to divorce. A barren wife, a wife who cannot give you a child or even son, is no reason in God's eye for divorce.

Yes, of course, children are important in our lives, but our wives are more important because it is the number one relationship after God. God has bound us together as one flesh and what God has put together, let no one separate, let nothing separate, including barrenness.

Having children is not the only reason why we marry. The number one purpose for marriage is to give glory to God. Ephesians 5:22-33 says that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her and wives are to submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ. Marriage is to be a picture of Christ and His church here on earth. A husband and a wife is a complete family. Yes, children are a gift from God, but even if you have no children, you can always thank the LORD for giving you your wife because with her you can become a picture of Christ and the church, and can shine God's glory here on earth now. – **Pastor Isidore**

## My husband is a drunkard who never supports me or my children. How can I respect him and submit to him, like Ephesians 5 teaches?

This is a very hard situation, but do not let the situation dictate your duty as a wife. Keep doing what you are doing even if he doesn't acknowledge your efforts.

If he asks money to buy beer, gently tell him that you have to provide for the needs of your children. Keep doing the good work you're doing, but don't let him involve you in his trade.

He might not recognise that you are submitting to him by providing for his children, but God sees what you're doing.

– **Pastor Tony**

Even though your husband is a drunkard and never supports you or your children, you are still called by God to submit to him.

Many women find it hard to submit to their drunkard husbands who are not helpful or are not believers.

The Apostle Peter says, "*Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that if any of them do not believe the Word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of the wife*" (1 Peter 3:1-2).

Actions speak louder than words. You do not know for sure, but God may use your actions and prayer to win over your unbelieving husband. – **Pastor Isidore**



**The following people were involved in the translating, editing, and production of this magazine, and we acknowledge them with thanks: Pastor Isidore Aufa, Pastor Ryan deJonge, Pastor Aisi Kosa, Pastor Tony O. Aufa, Pastor Nawai and Sister Daiva Renagi, Pastor Ian Wildeboer, Ruth deJonge, Natalie vanderHeide, Sarah Heys, Julian Slobe and Lionel 't Hart.**

**Note: All Bible texts used in this magazine have been taken from the New Living Translation.**

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# MEET THE AUTHORS



## Pastor Tony

Pastor Tony O. Aufa serves the Logos Reformed Church in the Markham Valley, Morobe. He is married to Regina, has one child, and his wife is expecting a second in 2019. He is from the Veifa'a village in Mekeo, Central Province, and grew up in Port Moresby.

Pasto Tony O. Aufa em i pasto bilong Logos Reformed Church long Markham Valley. Em i marit long Regina na i gat wanpela pikinini, na meri bilong em bai karim narapela pikinini long 2019. Em i bilong Veifa'a ples long Mekeo long Sentral Provins, na em i kamap long Pot Mosbi.



## Pastor Isidore

Pastor Isidore Aufa serves the Living Water Reformed Church in Lae, Morobe. He is married to Clotilde and has four children. He is from the Veifa'a village in Mekeo, Central Province.

Pasto Isidore Aufa em i pastor bilong Living Water Reformed Church long Lae, Morobe. Em i marit long Clotilde na i gat foapela pikinini. Em i bilong Veifa'a ples long Mekeo long Sentral Provins.



## Pastor Aisi

Pastor Aisi Kosa serves the Covenant Reformed Church in 9 Mile, Port Moresby. He is married to Karo and has four children. He is from Hila village, Lufa district, in Eastern Highlands Province, but has lived in Port Moresby most of his life. Pasto Aisi Kosa em i pasto bilong Covenant Reformed Church long 9 Mile long Pot Mosbi. Em i marit long Karo na i gat foapela pikinini. Em i bilong Hila ples long Lufa long Istan Hailens Provins. Em i kamap long Pot Mosbi.



## Pastor Nawai and Daiva

Pastor Nawai serves the Bethel Reformed Church at Beretete, close to Sogeri, Central Province. He and his wife Daiva have 4 of their own children as well as 2 adopted children. He is from the Aroma area in Central Province.

Sister Daiva is his wife and is mixed West Papuan and Koiari and grew up in the Beretete area.

Pasto Nawai em i pasto bilong Bethel Reformed Church long Beretete, wanpela ples klostu long Sogeri, Sentral Provins. Em i marit long Daiva na i gat foapela pikinini bilong ol yet na tupela ol i adoptim pinis. Em i bilong Aroma long Sentral Provins.

Sista Daiva em i meri bilong Pasto Nawai, na em i miks West Papau na Koiari and em i kamap long Beretete.



## Pastor Ryan

Pastor Ryan deJonge serves with Reformed Ministries in Lae. He and his wife Ruth have 6 children. He is from Canada and served as a pastor there for 7 years before coming to PNG.

Ryan deJonge em i wok misionari wantaim Reformed Ministries long Lae. Em i marit long Ruth na i gat siksipela pikinini. Em i bilong Kanada na bin wok pasto long hap bipo.



## Pastor Ian

Pastor Ian Wildeboer formerly served with Reformed Ministries in Lae, and is now serving as a pastor in Hamilton, Canada, his home country. He and his wife Nadia have five children.

Pasto Ian i bin wok misionari long Reformed Ministries bipo, na nau em i wok pasto long Hamilton, Kanada, em i as ples bilong em. Em na meri bilong em Nadia i gat faipela pikinini.

# The Reformed Churches Bible College

A place to LEARN, GROW, SERVE

*Preparing God's people for works of service.*



## What is the aim of the college?

The RCBC is a place for Christians to come and be prepared spiritually, mentally and physically to equip them to work in God's kingdom. The college aims to train its students through studies, practical ministry work and physical work in college gardens.

The courses taught at the college are intended to help students to develop a close personal relationship with the Lord. This is the first and most important part of the training at the RCBC.

## Where is the college?

The Bible College is at 14 mile Port Moresby. The college has two classrooms, nine student houses for student accommodation with haus kuks, a common kitchen, toilets and showers and access to water and electricity.

## What courses are offered at the college:

The College offers a Certificate and a Diploma of Reformed Studies. Students need to successfully complete the Certificate program before they can apply for the Diploma Program.

In the certificate courses the following courses are taught:

- Old and New Testament
- Christian Doctrine
- Church History
- Leadership Skills
- English
- Ministry in the Church
- Health and Hygiene
- Children and Youth Ministries
- Evangelism and Outreach
- Peace Building
- Christian Marriage and Family Life
- Music

The Diploma course (3 years) is for men who wish to become pastors in the Reformed Churches of Papua New Guinea.

## ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

All those who wish to study at the Bible College should be committed Christians who are active members in their local church.

Applicants need to have:

- A letter of recommendation from the leaders of their local church. That local church will remain responsible for the conduct and well-being of that student and will receive reports of the student's progress
- An academic transcript of the last grade attended
- A certificate of good health from a health clinic. Applicants need to be able to read, write and understand English and Tok Pisin.

Applicants are expected to have had a formal education of preferably Grade 10 or higher.

All applicants and their families need to be physically healthy.

**Principal: Mr Mark Mulder**

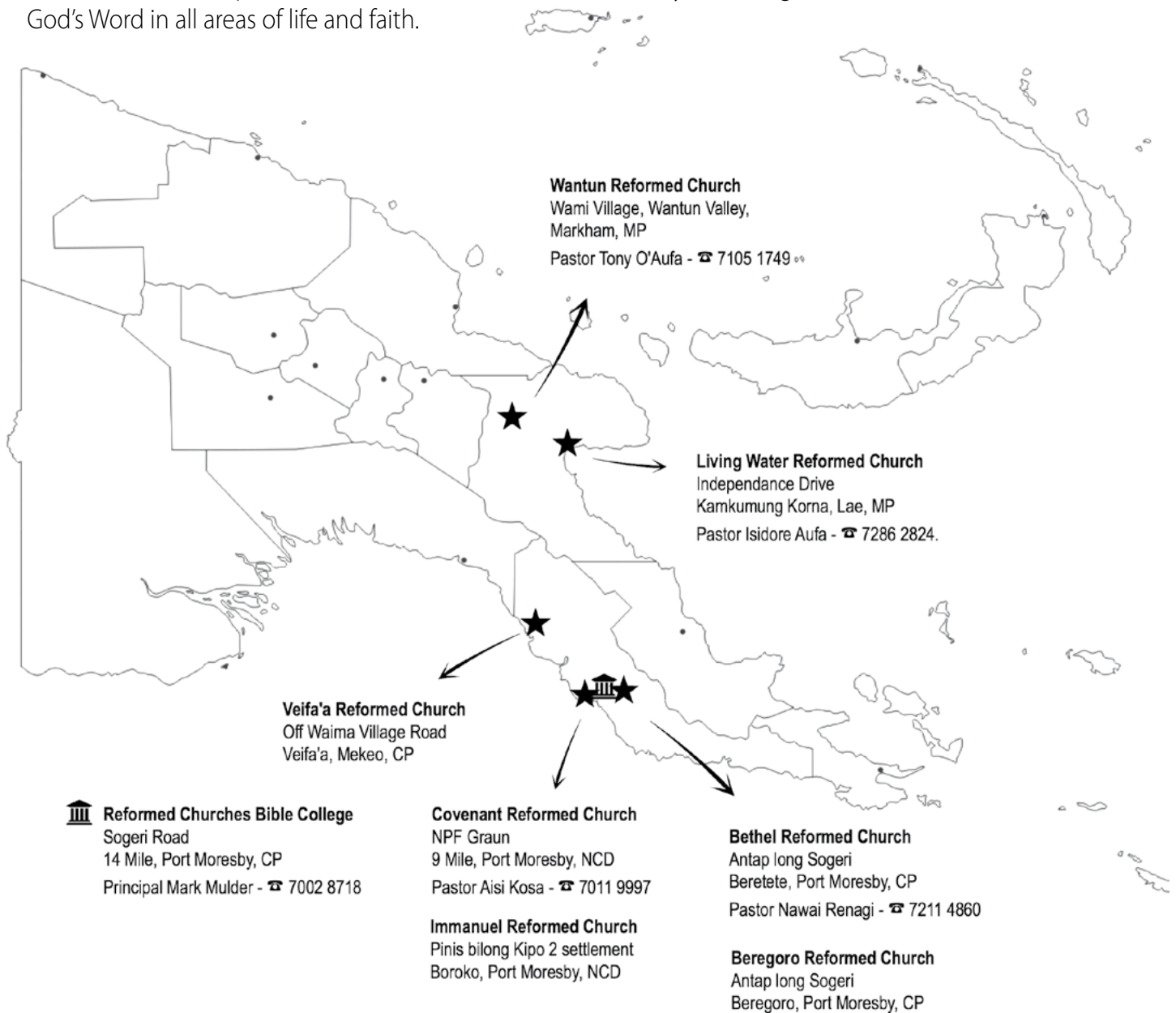
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# Reformed Sios i Stap Long Wanem Hap?

The Reformed Churches of PNG is a small denomination with churches in NCD, Central and Morobe Province. These churches have their roots in the Protestant Reformation in the 16th Century and are linked to Reformed Churches all around the world.

We desire to spread the truth of God's Word throughout every province of Papua New Guinea.

The word 'reformed' points to the fact that these churches always seek to go back to the truth revealed in God's Word in all areas of life and faith.



## Reformed Churches of PNG



### Reformed Churches on the Internet

RCPNG website: [reformedchurches.org.pg](http://reformedchurches.org.pg)

Sermons: [youtube.com/ReformedChurchesPNG](https://youtube.com/ReformedChurchesPNG)

Tulait magazine: [issuu.com/reformedministriespng](http://issuu.com/reformedministriespng)

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