

Counterfeits, Wedding Planning, and Marriage: By Erica Jermanus

This book is for those who are engaged to be married or who may be newly married.

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Chapter 1: Counterfeits and Engagement

I want to talk about counterfeits and how many Christian women are deceived by them. Many Christian women are dating and in relationships with counterfeit men, and this goes the same for the men with counterfeit women. These counterfeits appear to be real and genuine Christians, but are really false or fake. They are just pretending on the outside. They may appear to be a Christian but they do not show it by their actions. Are they bearing the fruit of the Spirit? Are they walking in the love of God? Are they being obedient to the Lord's commands? That is what to look for in a man or woman or even in a friendship with someone.

Many Christians end up dating these counterfeits and falling for them because they are so cunning and appealing to their interest. Satan knows he can trick men and women to fall for these counterfeits because they may have money or a good looking appearance. The people the devil uses are cunning and crafty and have hidden motives and a hidden agenda. But for many women it is too late because they end up getting engaged to these counterfeits and get married to them. Then, after they are married, they find out that the

person is not who they say they are and that they were pretending the whole time. The counterfeit was pretending to be someone they are not. They were putting on a mask the whole time the woman was in that relationship with that man.

The counterfeits show their true colors after marriage. That is what the enemy does with his workers. He will use counterfeits in a genuine Christian's life to lead them away from the real spouse or friendships that God wants to send. He will try to get these counterfeits to distract the real Christian from Jesus Christ and their God-given purpose. The enemy will try to get these Christians to not fulfill their purpose or passion in life. So these Christians will be deceived and blinded by a counterfeit relationship, and this can go the same for counterfeit jobs and careers too. The enemy will get the Christian distracted with people, places, and things that are outside of God's will for them.

A lot of counterfeit men try to impregnate the women when they are in a relationship or married, so that way the woman is stuck with a child with that counterfeit man. That is why it is so important to consult with God first before you decide to date or be in a relationship

with someone and before you decide to marry that person. Ask the Lord, is this the person you have for me? Is this person sent from God or from the devil? Does this person have a hidden agenda or hidden motives? Is this person really a genuine Christian? Are they really who they portray themselves to be or just pretending? God will reveal the person's true intentions to you. He will show you the truth about a person. God will give you discernment about a person, place, or thing. It is just up to us to listen to what he is trying to tell us and to obey him.

God will go so far as to save you from that marriage. He will correct you and show you that person is a counterfeit before you decide to marry them. He will pull you out of that relationship before it is too late because he cares for you and loves you. He wants his very best for you. But oftentimes we settle for less than God's best. There are other times the Lord will let you marry that counterfeit because it is a desire of your heart. He wants to give you the desires of your heart. So he will let you settle for the wrong person to show you that it is not what he had in mind for you.

God will let you go through the pain and suffering of that relationship and marriage because he wants to teach you a lesson. There are times when God will warn you when you are about to be in a relationship with someone or about to marry them. He will warn you that that person is not the one he has for you. It is just up to us to heed the warnings that he gives us and to listen to his voice when he speaks to us. It is also important that we go to the Holy Spirit with the big decisions in our lives before we actually follow through with those decisions. The Holy Spirit will lead and guide you as you continue to listen to his voice.

Chapter 2: Real Spouse Engagement

When you have waited on God for the right man at the right time, the enemy is going to try to send the counterfeits first before the real deal. When you have waited patiently and God sees that you have been putting him first, then he will send you your spouse that he has picked out for you. You will just know when that spouse comes because that person will be right for you, and God will confirm it in many different ways. You will know for sure that person is for you because you will have peace about it, and you will not doubt it.

When you have met your spouse and been dating or courting for some time, the Lord may have you two get married right away. He may not have you in a relationship for a long time because you and your spouse belong together, and he has put you two together. So you will want to get married to your spouse, and you might want to have children with your spouse, so if you have children, then you first need to be married. You may be planning a wedding right now, or you are thinking of having a wedding and have not started planning yet.

Chapter 3: Wedding Planning

I know wedding planning can get stressful, especially if you are having a big wedding with a lot of people. You may not know where to start. Here are a few steps to begin with. First, you want to set a budget and make sure you have enough funds for the wedding. If not, you may need to do some saving or pray and ask God to provide the money for the expenses. Don't be surprised at what God will do to provide. He will show up for you out of the ordinary.

Then, you want to set a guest count. You want to decide how big of a wedding you want to have. You may want a smaller family gathering rather than a big extravagant wedding. That is fine too. But decide how many people you want to be at your wedding or gathering. Make a list of the people you want to have at your wedding. Then, you may want to send out invitations in the mail or give them phone calls and ask them if they would like to accept the wedding invite. By the way, the number of people that show up for the wedding is the number you will expect to pay for.

Next on the list is to book a venue. When you book a venue, that is when you can have a confirmed wedding date. You want to pick where you want to have the wedding, whether you want it at a beach or at a church. You also want to take the weather into consideration. It might rain or be cold depending on the location and time that you have the wedding. Then, after that, you want to book and arrange everything else, such as the food, photography, DJ, etc. Also, smaller details such as dresses, bridesmaids dresses, and wedding rings you can plan for a later time once you first book the bigger things.

Before you start planning the wedding, you may want to write down your vision and what you want to see for a wedding. Maybe write down what you want to do on your wedding day and write down where you want to go for your honeymoon. Write down what you want it to look like before it happens. Once you have your vision written down, then you can see it play out in real life. Habakkuk 2:2 says, "And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it."

Pray and ask the Lord what his will, plan, and purpose are for your life and for your wedding. Allow him to be in control of your wedding. Allow him to choose the location, day, and time. Allow him to pick the right people that show up at the wedding or gathering. Allow your wedding to be a God-centered wedding.

If you are having a DJ playing music, you want to make sure the music is worship and praise and godly music and not sinful or worldly music. You also do not want alcoholic drinks at your wedding if you are striving for holiness and righteousness. I am not saying you shouldn't have a glass of wine, but if you want to live

godly, you will not want to drink. You want to be holy and set apart from the world.

Also, you are very selective with who you allow in your inner circle. Maybe you want your wedding to be intimate and small. You do not want to invite people that you know are not good influences at your wedding. You want the people at your wedding to be people that are godly spiritual influences. You may not even want a wedding or rings. Maybe you just want a small family gathering at a restaurant or a banquet hall. That sounds perfect to me.

When planning your wedding, you want to have a to do-list. That way you do not forget anything that you need to do before the wedding day. You can also utilize wedding tools and apps. There are different apps online that can help you plan your wedding. Looking more into those apps, it will be a blessing to you and your wedding planning. You also want to plan an engagement party and hire a photographer to take wedding photos before and during the wedding. You can also consider a wedding planner that can help you arrange your wedding plans.

Chapter 4: Marriage

Marriages are not at all perfect and well put together. They will have their good and bad days and ups and downs. But the important thing is that a husband and wife keep God at the center of their marriage and children too. When God is at the center, the marriage goes smoother without as many problems because the marriage partners are prioritizing prayer, the word of God, and also service to each other and their children. The married couples will walk in love towards one another. They will fulfill their purpose by serving each other in marriage and motherhood as their first ministries.

There will be times when married couples will get into arguments and disagreements. But that is when they are to work out their differences together and compromise with each other. But they are not to compromise Jesus Christ, and he should be first and number one in the marriage; then everything else will flow from the relationship that they have with God. The wives are to submit to their husbands, and the husbands are to love their wives and not be bitter towards them.

Ephesians 5:22-25 says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

Mark 10:7-9 says, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

When a man and women get married, they leave their parents and their parents' house, and they become joined together as one with each other. They become one flesh. No one can separate them because God has joined them together. Many marriages today are not ordained by God, and that is why there is so much divorce and separation in the world today. A lot of it has to do with the enemy Satan causing division and separation amongst married couples. When you allow God to choose who you marry, then that is when the

marriage is ordained by him and the couples are joined together. If the married couples do separate they will come back together again because God brought them together in the first place.