

Marital Cohesion Among Young Couples Today, Reflections From Genesis 2:20-25

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Abstract

The study was conducted among young couples in selected Circuits of the Tema Diocese of the Methodist Church Ghana. The aim was to explore factors enhancing cohesion among them and how they can unite to fulfil God's purpose for them in the light of Genesis 2: 20-25. Specifically, it sought to assess what young couples understand about marriage today, what they understand about Genesis 2: 20-25 in relation to marital cohesion and what are the effective factors for enhancing marital cohesion in contemporary times. The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. The quantitative data was collected from 40 young couples below 35 years in the Tema, Spintex, Tema west, Ashaiman and Tema Circuits of the Tema Diocese. Qualitative data collection involved key informant interviews with 11 young married adults also below 35 years and 3 adults above 40 years of varied experiences.

The findings indicate that respondents understood marriage differently as living together as man and a wife with someone you love, achieving one's ambitions in life and fulfilling God's word. Majority of them enjoyed being married, while a few of them did not. Majority of them also understood marital cohesiveness as: oneness, unity, togetherness and doing things together. Majority of them also understood the importance of Genesis 2:20-25 in relation to marital cohesiveness as a panacea for companionship, equality of both man and woman, physical and financial independence from parent. Most respondents reportedly practiced marital cohesion by loving and respecting their partners, living away from their parents, trusting and being transparent with each other. The effective factors that enhance marital cohesion were found to be love, respect, and submission. Despite these, majority of respondents reportedly faced challenges in their marriage regarding cohesiveness. Some of these were: selfishness and pride shown by some of their spouses, The study has relevant implications for implementing programmes to strengthen marriage and family life in our churches particularly to ensure that young people prepare well before marriage, unite to ensure proper cohesion and success of their marriages.

Key Words: Marital, Cohesion, Young Couples, Reflections

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