

A READING GUIDE FOR

DIG DEEP BEFORE YOU LEAP

BY CL. REDDON



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IN THE INTRODUCTION TO HIS BOOK, CL Reddon expresses his views on the issues that cause failed marriages in our society. He highlights that many couples, including himself, marry for the wrong reasons, leading to broken marriages, families, and dreams. “In a society filled with broken marriages, families, and dreams, the last thing we need is another example of a married couple that could not get the institution of marriage right.”

STAR OF A STORY

“She wanted to marry me because she wanted a spouse that would take care of her and her two children. I on the other hand wanted to marry her because I enjoyed our sexual experiences. Yep! I married solely for the sex...It is a dumb reason for getting married. But people do it every day.”

1. CL. Reddon’s book draws on his personal experience with failed marriages, a topic that he explores in depth. He shares the emotional toll that his divorces had on him and his family, as well as the mistakes that he made in those relationships. Reddon reflects on how his early expectations of marriage were unrealistic and how he struggled to balance his own needs with those of his partners. However, he also shares how these experiences helped him grow as a person and gave him the wisdom to help others who might be going through similar struggles.
2. The prevalence of broken marriages and relationships in society is a topic that CL. Reddon delves into in his book. He discusses how, in modern times, relationships and marriages seem to be more fragile than ever before. Reddon highlights the various reasons for this, such as changing societal norms, the ease of divorce, and the breakdown of traditional values. He notes that these factors have resulted in a society where many people jump from one relationship to another without ever finding true love or lasting happiness. Despite this, Reddon believes that there is hope for those who want to find lasting love, and he provides practical tips and advice for people who want to make their relationships work.
3. The inevitability of flaws in any relationship is another topic that Mr. Reddon discusses. He believes that no relationship is perfect, and that it is important to recognize this fact. However, he emphasizes the importance of striving for perfection in relationships. He suggests that couples should work together to identify and address the flaws in



their romance. Mr. Reddon provides guidance on how to communicate effectively, how to manage conflicts, and how to build a strong foundation for a lasting relationship. He argues that while perfection may not be attainable, couples who work hard on their relationship can achieve a level of happiness and fulfillment that they might not have thought possible.

BUILDING YOUR FOUNDATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

“When it comes to divorce, it does not matter if a couple was married seventy-two years or seventy-two days, saying good-bye, and ending a relationship is never easy.”

4. Mr. Reddon’s realization that he married for the wrong reasons is another topic that Reddon explores. He discusses how societal pressures and personal insecurities led him to make poor choices in his relationships. He reflects on how he sought validation and fulfillment from his partners instead of finding it within himself. Reddon encourages readers to examine their own motivations for entering relationships and to be honest with themselves about what they truly want and need.
5. CL introduces his ideology and philosophy behind premarital investigation and counseling. He believes that premarital counseling can help couples identify potential issues in their relationship and address them before they become larger problems. This can help couples to build a stronger foundation for their marriage. He also believes that premarital counseling can help couples to develop better communication and conflict resolution skills. CL. Reddon explains that his divorce experience has given him unique insight into the importance of premarital investigation and counseling. His story is intended as a warning to those considering marriage, as well as introducing the idea that strong relationships between people in general are the remedy for the social ills of modern society. He believes that premarital counseling is not only beneficial to couples preparing for marriage, but it can also be a valuable skill for improving relationships in all aspects of life.



6. Mr. Reddon deliberately explores the pain and difficulty of divorce. He describes divorce as an agonizing process that is never easy, regardless of how long a couple has been married. He speaks from personal experience as a two-time divorcee. He emphasizes that divorce affects not only the couple involved, but also their family and friends, leaving a lasting emotional impact and scars that remain long after the legal proceedings have ended. In addition, the point he makes is that divorce is not only the separation of two individuals, but it is a complex and multi-layered process that has ripple effects throughout the lives of those who are directly and indirectly involved.
7. There are many personal and psychological factors that contribute to failed relationships. Based on his assessment, Reddon attributes his unwise relationship choices to feelings of rejection, loneliness, desire for sex, narcissistic personality disorder, failures in his personal life, and low self-esteem. As a result, he often sought out partners who could provide emotional validation and a sense of worthiness. Despite his attempts to find value and validation in his relationships, Reddon's efforts ultimately ended in failure. Consequently, he began to believe that he was undeserving of love, leading to a cycle of self-destructive behavior and further rejection. Reddon believes that these issues are often caused by trauma experienced during childhood and adolescence. This struggle for validation in Reddon's life seemed to stem from a deep feeling of inadequacy, causing him to question whether he was truly deserving of any kind of love or acceptance.

IDENTIFYING SIGNS THAT YOU ARE ENGAGED TO A POTENTIAL SPOUSE ABUSER

“As we struggle with life’s challenges, as we deal with life’s circumstances, God is the coach, urging us to dig deep and be our best selves. Marriage and a desire to spend the rest of your life with someone is not just about knowing what you want, it is also about utilizing wisdom, knowledge, and The Creator to guide you.”

8. Based on written accounts of covetous behavior, which date back to the sacred scriptures introducing the original man and woman of the earth. Such accounts reveal



that covetousness has been a human tendency since the very beginning. Consequently, it is not surprising that throughout human history, many have been driven to acquire more than they need through selfish or immoral means. Specifically, Mr. Reddon argues that lust destroys and prematurely terminates romantic relationships between men and women. This can be seen as a consequence of an individual's excessive greed or desire for power and control. As such, it is important to acknowledge the impact of covetousness on relationships and strive to keep it in check in order to avoid such negative outcomes.

9. Likewise, Mr. Reddon proposes that to ensure stable relationships, people should embrace the philosophies of sacred teachings, wisdom, and that of divine knowledge and instruction. By so doing, this will aid in the development of strong, meaningful relationships that are built on trust and respect. This, in turn, allows for relationships to be solidified through the formation of strong emotional bonds, allowing for greater understanding and communication between both parties. Additionally, embracing these philosophies and values can help foster a much deeper bond between people, allowing them to connect on a level that is beyond just the physical and mental, creating a spiritual bond that is much more meaningful and powerful. He contends that The Creator's teachings must be harvested and applied to one's heart before it can take root in that individual. By doing so, we can begin to understand and appreciate the deeper connections that lie within us, promoting a sense of unity and belonging with those around us.
10. Reddon introduces the REI philosophy (Research-Investigation-Evaluation) to his audience. Identifying a person as a good or a bad marriage candidate requires research, investigation, and evaluation, which allow everything to be revealed from a concealed state. Understanding what stability means is essential to achieving a healthy relationship. By utilizing the REI philosophy, Reddon encourages his listeners to take a deeper look into potential partners, so that they may uncover the important details about them and form a more stable and successful relationship. For example, Reddon highlights the importance of understanding a person's values, beliefs, and goals in order to gain a better understanding of how compatible they are with the potential partner. He advises listeners to ask questions such as 'What do you value most in life?' and 'What are your long-term goals?' in order to gain an insight into the other person. Additionally, Reddon suggests that people reflect on their own values and beliefs, and how they fit with the other person, as this can help to quickly identify if there is a potential for compatibility in the relationship.



SELECTING A MARRIAGE PARTNER: CHARACTERISTICS TO CONSIDER

“Winning in life means being selective, even when it comes to choosing your spouse. Settling for less in a relationship can lead to regret and heartbreak.”

11. When selecting the right partner for a relationship, Mr. Reddon emphasizes how everyone can be a winner when they have a winning mindset in every aspect of life, including relationships. In order to win, individuals must have a winning mindset and select their spouse as carefully as they choose their teammates. This means that individuals must take into consideration the values, goals, and objectives of their potential partner before committing to a relationship and ensure that they share similar values and objectives. This is the foundation to a successful relationship, as it allows both parties to work towards the same goals and objectives together and helps to build trust and respect between them.
12. A marriage’s success or failure is influenced by personal responsibility, says Mr. Reddon. Personal responsibility is key in a successful relationship. Each party must take responsibility for their actions, and work together to create a healthy, loving environment. Communication, compromise and mutual respect are also necessary components of a successful relationship. Before considering marriage to anyone, it is advisable to investigate whether they possess attributes or characteristics that indicate personal responsibility, such as having a job or owning a business, being financially independent, etc. Therefore, it is important to recognize that the individual’s personality, lifestyle, and lifestyle choices can profoundly impact a marriage’s long-term outcome.
13. To avoid the hassles, heartaches, financial loss, and eventual heartbreak of divorce, Mr. R also discusses the reasons for divorce in the United States. He suggests that people should conduct a thorough research, investigation, and evaluation of the person they intend to spend their lives with. Mr. Reddon emphasizes the importance of a premarital investigation, which involves talking to family, friends, and former partners of the person, as well as researching their past financial decisions, criminal history, and any other relevant information. As CL suggests, a lack of commitment is the leading cause of divorce in the nation, and people should pay more attention to real-life factors than just their feelings when determining marriage success or failure.



THE HIDDEN HAZARDS OF PREMARITAL SEX

*“Marriage is not just about finding the right person,
it’s about becoming the right person for your spouse.”*

14. CL Reddon is discussing the importance of marriage in this chapter of his book, highlighting its stability, fulfillment, and completion that it provides. Reddon emphasizes the importance of following God’s law over societal norms and discusses the dangers of sexual immorality before marriage. Reddon further encourages couples to seek guidance and wisdom from the Bible to ensure that their marriage is built on a strong foundation of faith, so that it can bring the greatest joy and contentment to the couple and their family.
15. Among human relationships, marriage offers stability and fulfillment unmatched by any other. Reddon believes a strong and lasting marriage provides a secure foundation for both partners to thrive. This foundation encourages the growth of both individuals and their relationship, enabling them to achieve greater satisfaction and joy together. In contrast to other relationships, marriage is often a source of stability and contentment that can lead to increased self-growth and interpersonal connection. Reddon believes that marriage facilitates an interpersonal connection that is deeper than any other form of relationship. Through marriage, partners learn to understand and support one another, creating a strong bond that enriches and strengthens their relationship.
16. CL Reddon highlights that that sexual promiscuity before marriage is a serious issue and should be avoided at all costs, as it violates God’s moral code for humanity and can have long-term consequences. Therefore, it is essential to focus on developing healthy sexual boundaries and to choose a partner who is willing to do the same. Abstaining from premarital sex is not only a moral issue but can also have potentially damaging effects that are best avoided. Abstaining from premarital sex is not just an ethical decision, but also an action that can protect individuals from the physical and emotional repercussions of such behavior.



17. For celibacy to be maintained and to avoid temptation, CL Reddon stresses the importance of cultivating a support system, staying away from situations that can cause you to lose focus, and engaging in dialogue with God. A strong foundation of discipline and dedication to celibacy can be built by developing self-control and being aware of your surroundings. Additionally, Reddon emphasizes the need to do inner work and focus on the deeper reasons why one wants to remain celibate. By reflecting on the purpose and value of celibacy and developing a clear understanding of the boundaries, one can cultivate the strength necessary to remain on the path of celibacy.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY IN YOUR MARRIAGE

*“Adversity is a constant companion in the journey of life,
and married couples are not immune to its effects.”*

18. CL. Reddon argues that marriage is not immune to trials and tribulations, and that humanity’s rebellious nature is responsible for much of the adversity we encounter. Despite this, CL. Reddon maintains that marriage is still a source of stability and security and can provide a safe haven in the midst of life’s storms. He suggests that contemporary devices may affect or disrupt marital unions. However, CL. Reddon believes that, with commitment and understanding, couples are able to withstand and overcome these challenges and build a strong, lasting bond. He urges marriage candidates to be well-prepared for life’s adversities and distractions. CL. Reddon emphasizes that couples should be aware of the potential adversities and distractions that may arise in a marriage, such as infidelity, financial pressures, and differences in opinion. He believes that couples should be prepared to handle these issues and work together to keep their marriage strong.
19. As part of his discussion of how weaponized human weaknesses and necessities can affect a marriage, Mr. R provides a list of possible intrusions, including appearance, materialism, low self-esteem, and sexual abuse. As a team, he advises couples to overcome whatever challenges they face and guard their relationship against these intrusions. He emphasizes that couples should take proactive steps to address these



issues, such as open communication and setting boundaries. Open communication and setting boundaries are key when it comes to protecting a marriage from weaponized human weaknesses and necessities. Couples should be aware of the potential intrusions, such as appearance, materialism, low self-esteem, and sexual abuse, and work together to address them. Taking proactive steps to protect the relationship is essential to overcoming any challenges that arise.

20. CL also examines the issue of adultery in marriage, which accounts for 50% of divorces in the US. Acting fast to secure the bond between couples is the best way to overcome any difficulties. Additionally, CL delves deeper into the problem of infidelity in marriage, which is a major cause of divorce in America. For men to avoid the sin of adultery, he argues that they should ask themselves whether they can remain faithful to their partner and redirect the energy that drives them to pursue a woman to another place.

MAKING YOUR MARRIAGE UNBREAKABLE THROUGH PREMARITAL COUNSELING

“Premarital counseling is like an insurance policy for your marriage - it can help prevent problems before they arise.”

21. CL. Reddon highlights the importance of premarital counseling for couples who are considering marriage. According to Reddon, premarital counseling is a type of analysis that helps couples prepare for marriage and can help ensure that they have a solid, healthy relationship, increasing the chances for a stable and substantial marriage. However, Reddon acknowledges that some individuals may resist the idea of premarital counseling, believing that it is unnecessary or that outsiders cannot understand their relationship. Nevertheless, he stresses that premarital counseling is not an indictment against a couple’s relationship, but rather an early indication of their desire, love, and commitment to make sure that their decision to marry is based on facts and not just feelings.
22. Reddon also draws parallels between the importance of wise counsel in critical business decisions and the role of premarital counseling in determining whether marriage to each other is truly meant to be. He cautions against unscrupulous premarital counselors and



advises couples to select therapists or counselors with a graduate or postgraduate degree and who are credentialed by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). Additionally, he advises couples to ensure that their potential spouse is an active participant in the selection process and to ask pertinent questions during their search for a counselor to ensure that they are hiring someone who can provide value to their relationship and not merely for their pockets.

CAN YOU SAY “I DO” TO BAD CREDIT?

“Marriage is not just about the proposal, but the financial merger of two separate systems of accounting brought together as one.”

23. In this chapter of his book, CL Reddon discusses the importance of financial preparation before getting married. He emphasizes that the thrill of the marriage proposal is just the beginning of the process of uniting two people together as one, and that a huge part of this marital merger involves a couple’s finances. Reddon notes that two separate systems of accounting must be brought together as one, and that couples tend to forget this important component when deciding to marry.
24. To prepare for the financial merger, Reddon suggests that the first step is to know the financial strengths and weaknesses of both partners. He recommends having healthy discourse around important financial choices, such as getting out of debt, paying off a mortgage, investing for retirement, and establishing savings.
25. Reddon stresses that money always plays a role in relationships, and that having a solid financial foundation is crucial for a successful marriage. He notes that factors such as garnishments, wage liens, child support, debt, and bad credit can weaken even the strongest marriages, and that marrying for financial gain rather than love is a disgrace to the institution of marriage.
26. Reddon advises that individuals should never enter into marriage without being financially prepared and able to commit the necessary resources to support and sustain the marriage. He recommends being clear about short and long-term financial goals and implementing a plan to achieve them. He also suggests not co-mingling finances until after marriage and being a “Love Investigator” to determine if marriage to a particular person is the right choice.



FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN: MARRIAGE AFTER DIVORCE

“Accepting responsibility for your actions is the biggest step toward not repeating the same mistakes.”

In this chapter, author CL. Reddon discusses the importance of taking responsibility for one’s actions and resolving previous marital matters before entering into a new marriage. The following bullet points highlight some of the key takeaways from the chapter:

27. Accepting responsibility for one’s role in the previous marriage and learning from past failures is crucial to avoid repeating the same mistakes.
28. Resolving all matters associated with the previous marriage, including financial, custody, and emotional issues, is essential to create a clean break between the past and the future.
29. Identifying one’s strengths and weaknesses and getting to know the potential spouse on a deep and intimate level, being transparent and open about hopes, dreams, wishes, concerns, fears, and expectations, and attending premarital counseling are critical steps to finding true love and achieving marital success.

STEPPING UP TO STEPPARENTING

“Blended families can create beautiful memories and lasting bonds if everyone is willing to work together.”

In this chapter of his book, CL. Reddon discusses the challenges and rewards of building a new life together with children from one or both partners’ previous relationships. He highlights the emotional impact of the new marriage and blended family on the children involved, who may experience anxiety, uncertainty, and concerns about their standing in the new family. Here are the main points discussed in the chapter:



- Children's uncertainty regarding their place and standing in the new relationship is a significant source of anxiety.
- Before tying the knot, couples should consider how the new siblings will react to one another and allow relationships to grow and blossom.
- Couples should take their time to create a solid foundation for the blended family's ultimate success, especially for the children, who are still adjusting to the changes.
- Establishing a good relationship, rapport, and loving bond with the new stepchildren takes time and effort.
- Blended families are not always picture-perfect, and parents should expect push-back from the children involved.
- Conversations regarding discipline and child-rearing should be discussed before marriage to establish common rules, expectations, boundaries, and limits.
- The outcome of the conversation should create a unified front between the couple, and parents should protect their spouse by reinforcing the rule that their children will respect their new partner.
- Providing children with the right support will help them come around to the idea of the new marriage and accept the new family. Couples should communicate openly, honestly, and effectively to dispel any doubts or concerns.

Overall, Mr. Reddon emphasizes the importance of taking the time to plan and create a blended family's ground rules before getting married. The success of the new marriage and family depends on how well everyone adjusts to the changes and how much effort parents put into establishing a good relationship with their stepchildren.

