

S O L ' ,

Edition Three | 2023

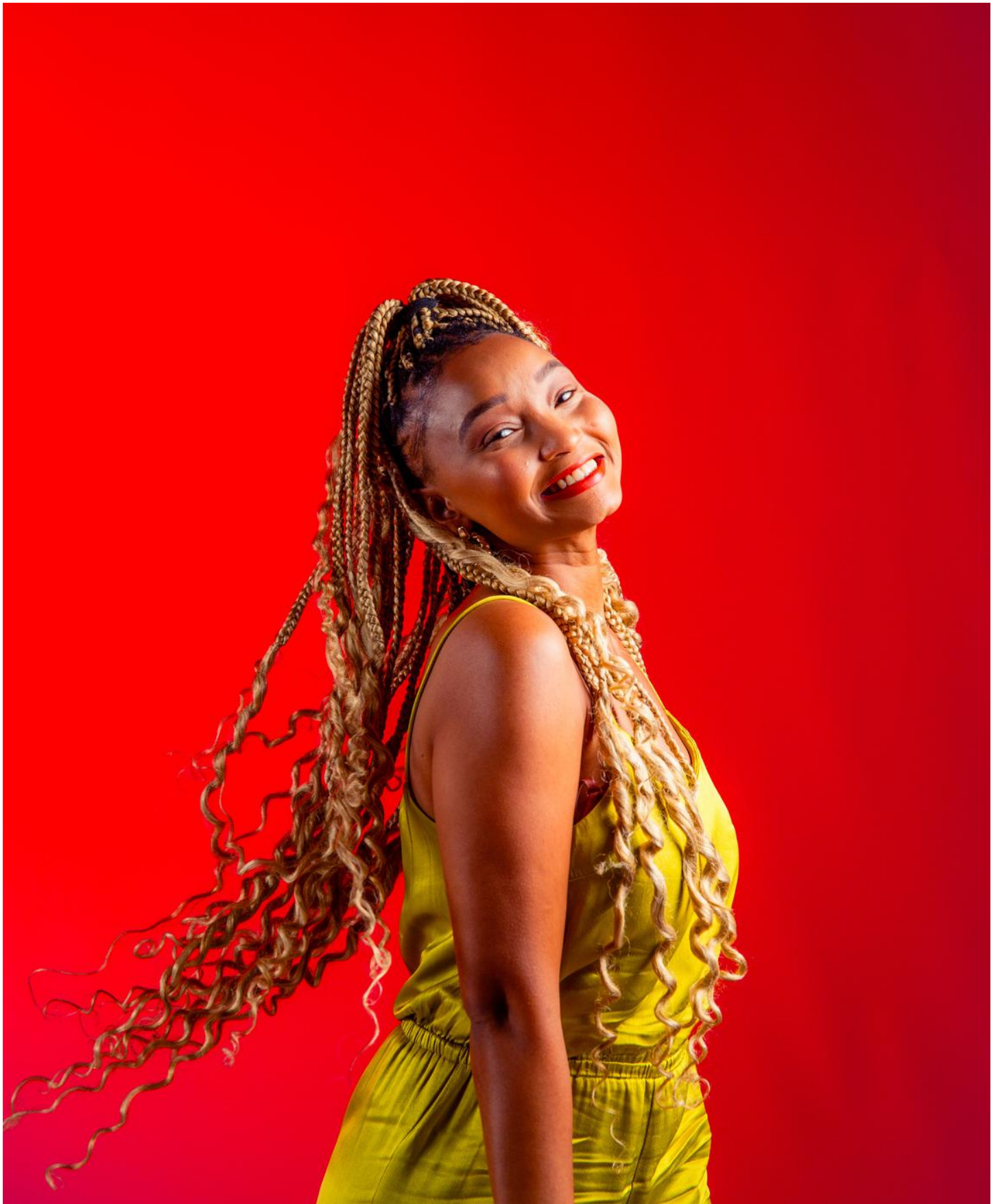
THE MODEL TAKEOVER

S O L ' | STYLE FROM WITHIN

MOTSO MOLATE

UNVEILING THE CREATIVE TAPESTRY: EXPLORING THE MULTIFACETED WORLD OF A
QUEEN OF THE ARTS





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FROM THE EDITOR

Number 3, we are on edition number 3! Things keep moving up, and I am blessed to do what I love. Spring is in the air, and people (myself included) are ready to ditch the jerseys and wear something cute, lightweight, and colourful, and that is precisely what this edition is about: Colour.

There is a lot to tell you, let us dive right in (that saying "Let's dive right in" is from a Scottish digital creator, Rachel Spicer @rachelspicer, who I love and who is so cute and cool).

It is Spring, and since we are on a roll when it comes to putting together these editions, I have decided to call this cover *The Model Takeover*. As you might have guessed, our cover girl is a model but more than that she is multifaceted in all things art. I am excited for you all to get to know her.



When creating this cover, I sat with the team about the theme. There were a lot of ideas and suggestions, and then I sat with the most critical team member, which is God. I prayed and decided that I wanted to call this *Debunking and removing the curtain from both sides*. I know it is quite wordy, but keep reading, you will not regret it.

We all get judged, and we are all scared of being judged. As much as we do not admit it, Christians judge and it is not good. However, it is the human in us. I wanted us to get candid about some of the things that we judge others on because they do not live a life with Christ and when they do, we judge them on how they live a life with Christ. Still, not everything is up to your standard; please note how I said "*your standards*". Today, we judge her because she makes excellent content, life must be a breeze, and because she smokes, and he works and is proud of his body. We seem to forget that God is the only one who can judge, at the end of the day, we need to understand the importance of not judging and debunking the things that we think make a perfect Christian.

We are all trying to do the that best we can. S O L' is here to remind you that yes, it is not easy; yes, you will fall into old habits. Still, God is good, and as long as you stick by him, you grow with him and only look to him for everything. It does not matter what you may do or what people say about your relationship with Christ. Debunking is for those who think they can cast the first stone, go on, and pick up the rock.

EDITION THREE:

EL ROI

EL ROI - THE GOD WHO SEES ME (GENESIS 16:13)

I saw this on someone's WhatsApp status, and it jumped at me faster than you can say a "new IG reel audio". I screenshot it and did not know when to use it, but when we started working on this edition, I knew it was the perfect word for it: El Roi. God sees you, and that in itself is a beautiful thing. As you enter spring, a time for colour, festivals, and fun, remember that God has seen us through cold jerseys and chasing for an ounce of sun that we may see. Do you know how amazing it is to understand that the creator of heaven and Earth sees you, cares for you, and understands you? This is why the theme is close to me because sometimes when people do things a certain way, or you do not get it, you have the quick mindset to judge them, but we need to debunk and remove the curtain from both sides. You may not know what someone is doing, and why they are doing it, but if we are being quite honest, it is not your business. It is your business to encourage, cheer, and educate, but it is not your place to judge. It is unfair to think that their relationship with God does not hold ground because they do something that does not align with you.

God sees us, and we need to remove the curtain for both sides and rather create spaces where we see them for who they are. Also understand that being God's child and having Him by your side is an experience like no other, and that even

when you do have Him by your side, it is not rosy. You will lose, you will cry, and you think it can not get worse, and it does, but God sees you, holds you, and is with you.

The next time you think, "OMG she calls herself a Christian and does that," remember how it is a personal relationship, and it always will be, and it has got nothing to do with you. Your job is for people to see God within you, to see that you are not perfect but it is all because of God; it is all because God sees you.

FOUNDER | CHIEF EDITOR
MWENYA CHITAMBLA



**UNVEILING THE CREATIVE TAPESTRY:
EXPLORING THE MULTIFACETED WORLD OF A
QUEEN OF THE ARTS**



MOTS0

MOTSO MOLATE: A QUEEN OF THE ARTS

Please give us a little insight into who you are and where you get your inspiration to do your work.

I am a creative mainly based in Johannesburg but born in Pretoria. My journey started in high school, where I did visual arts, and that is where my love for the arts came through. I went on to study graphic design, which was not what I wanted to study initially, I wanted to study fashion.

I went into graphic design and felt it did not fit me. Finally, I got the green light from my parents to go and study fashion, and I completed it in record time. I learnt a lot from my degree. I learnt how to be a good trend forecaster. For example, if a brand wants to work with me, I can forecast trends for them.

I am also a stylist, but my main love is photography, which stemmed from my photography major. This lovely lady, Natalie, was my photography lecturer and she encouraged me to keep growing and learning the craft. Eventually, I got into it, also taking note that it is the only thing I am getting distinctions for, I decided to follow that direction.

After the pandemic, breaking into the photography industry as a woman was not easy, so I went into digital marketing.

On the 1st of January 2023, I quit my 9-5 and decided to be a full-time photographer and to trust God.



What are the trends that shape your summer style?

I call myself a maximalist, I like lots of colours, and do not limit myself when it comes to colour. I will wear patterns on patterns and colour on colour. Even when the trend of colour blocking went in and out of fashion, I wore a lot of colour. I have never been a minimalist in any way. Colour shapes my summer trends, colour is the most important thing! Pantone releases a colour of the year annually, which shapes my style. The colour of the year is Viva Magenta actually.

Tell us about your rise to being a model and content creator.

In high school, I used to be a model. My mom would take me to my model gigs. I went to boarding school in Pretoria, she would fetch me for castings, and that is where I started modelling.

I got my first billboard on the N1 when I was in matric.

In terms of content creation, it came naturally for the brands I like, and I began to attract them. I started going to the brand events, and that is where it started. I have hopes of working with more fashion and travel brands.

What are some of your biggest fears or concerns you had when you started out?

I still have those fears, but I would say being judged. When you look at the content creation space, they seem to have it all figured out. I would advise anyone, to just start. I decided to dive into it, do it, and try to be as creative as possible. I am not where I want to be, but I am learning a lot and loving it.



What is one thing you love about the work you do?

Photography brings me so much joy. I can look for inspiration from the greats who have done it and put together images and make them my own. I make sure I do everything from the styling to the photography, and I know how it looks. I can even get crafty, and I will do something here or there to make sure the set looks precisely how I imagined it and the inspiration I put together.

Everyone around me inspires me, I love that I can put together everything and it can work out visually how I imagined.

In one sentence, how would you capture Motso?

The Maximalist Fairy.

Describe your relationship with God?

My relationship with God is something I can not put into words at times. The way God has moved and touched me in my life, is amazing. I grew up Christian, and eventually, I started reading African literature and thinking that white people brought Christianity to us, but it has always been there. God has always been within us and around us.

My relationship with God is something I can not explain. God is my best friend; He is always around me. I can always feel him, and sometimes, when I am unfortunate, I cry and talk to him like he is right next to me (which he is). Sometimes, God and I are not on the same page but, he is a friend to me; he is my spiritual father and everything. I would be nowhere without God.

How do you balance being an influencer and the work that comes your way with your faith?

Balance is something I am still trying to learn. I am a

typical creative, it is a constant rollercoaster. I try to keep consistency on certain things, and one of those things is praying because I do not think anything works out in my career without prayer.

God provides. Every brand and person I have worked with is because of God. The rooms I am in sometimes shock me, and I think to myself, *"God, am I even worthy?"* but it is all about prayer, and I talk to him all the time. No matter where I am, I can talk to him. I add God to everything, he is not separate from my work.

In the work you do, how do you decide on the work you take on?

What gives me peace is knowing the plan that God has for me, and I must trust and believe that he will see me through with this plan. I know God's plan for me. I think he has told me, and I am sticking to it.

What are some of the things you are learning to give to God?

My time! I am creative, sometimes I can be inconsistent with many different things, time is an essential thing to give to God. I am spending time with Him, with the people from church, and with like-minded people. Definitely time.

Share up to five fun facts about you - hidden talents, big accomplishments, or other things you do that people may not know about!

- I was good at sports in high school.
- I won an award for being the best visual arts learner.
- I received website designer of the year when I was in university.
- I love food, but I would not say I like cooking.
- I had a dog when I was in a primary named Toska, and he died two weeks after I got him, but he was adorable.



BEYOND THE SURFACE

BY RUFARO FANADZO
**BREAKING DOWN JUDGMENTS AND CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
IN CHRISTIAN FASHION**

In a world that is often quick to pass judgement based on appearances, the way we dress carries a significant impact on how we are perceived. As believers, it is essential to delve deeper, recognizing that our choice of attire is a canvas for expressing our faith, individuality, and embracing the beautiful diversity that God has created. This article explores the judgments we face due to our clothing choices, focusing on plus-size women and celebrating the uniqueness of all body sizes and shapes within the realm of Christian fashion.

The power of perception

It is no secret that we live in a society where judgments can be formed based on appearances alone. Unfortunately, these preconceived notions often extend to how we dress, causing us to be labeled or misunderstood. Plus-size women, in particular, have historically faced biases that inaccurately link their appearance to their character, abilities, and self-worth.

Diverse body sizes and shapes

Every individual is wonderfully and uniquely made by God. The variations in our bodies are a

testament to His creativity and intentionality. From petite to curvy, from hourglass to apple-shaped, each body type carries its own beauty and grace. Embracing our differences is an act of gratitude towards our Creator, who designed us all in His image.

Challenging stereotypes

Fashion has the incredible potential to challenge and reshape societal stereotypes. By featuring plus-size women in modest yet stylish ensembles, we can disrupt the conventional narrative that suggests beauty is limited to a specific size or shape. These representations showcase the truth that God's love transcends physical appearances and that confidence radiates from the heart, regardless of body size.

Empowering plus-size fashion

Empowerment lies at the heart of Christian values, and this empowerment extends to the world of fashion. Plus-size women can confidently embrace trends, experiment with styles, and celebrate their bodies. With designers and brands now focusing on inclusive sizing, the fashion industry is taking strides

towards acknowledging the beauty in all its forms.

Celebrating modesty and individuality

Modesty is more than just the clothes we wear. It is an attitude that reflects our reverence for God and our understanding of self-worth. Plus-size women, like women of all sizes, have the right to express their unique style while adhering to modest values. The key is to find balance, acknowledging that modesty is a personal journey and can be embodied in various ways.

As followers of Christ, we are called to see beyond the surface and embrace the diversity that makes each of us unique. The judgments we face based on our appearance are merely fleeting, but the

light we carry within us shines eternally. Plus-size women have an incredible opportunity to challenge perceptions, break down barriers, and redefine beauty norms through their fashion choices.

Let us celebrate the women who boldly express their faith and individuality through fashion, regardless of size or shape. As we unite in recognizing the innate worth of every individual, we reflect the heart of a God who sees beyond appearances and loves us all unconditionally.

RUFARO FANADZO



NICOLE JACOBS

YOUR CHRISTIAN FRIEND

Podcast

NICOLE JACOBS

FINDING DIVINE INSPIRATION:
EXPLORING THE WORLD OF A
CHRISTIAN CREATIVE THROUGH THE
LENS OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND
CONTENT CREATION

Please introduce yourself.

I am Nicole Jacobs, a born-again Christian Creative from Cape Town. I have been a photographer for 6+ years and a content creator for just over 1 year. I love exploring quiet spots to eat and work. I have always had a love for the arts. This is why when I got older, I started visiting art galleries and museums because they became more accessible.

Please tell us how *Your Christian Friend* came about.

During lockdown, I had the urge to start a YouTube channel to spread the gospel. I actually got around to recording my first video but ended up deleting the footage because I was not happy with the outcome as I was filming on my phone.

The name was created because I always wanted a friend who would be real with me and not beat around the bush when it comes to salvation and when it comes to my spiritual life and my walk with God.

Growing up I never had the type of friend that would hold me accountable and then I realised that I would much rather be that friend for somebody and allow them to experience Christ's love through me and through His word.

That is how the name *Your Christian Friend* came into existence.

A few months later, after sending a voice note to a friend of mine, she asked me why I was not on the radio and why I had not recorded anything yet. It was there that the seed was planted. I was looking for a way to spread the gospel but did not know how to do it besides uploading videos.

Then God birthed the podcast. I did not have any fancy equipment, only my earphones and phone, I truly started humbly.

What is your aim with the platform that you are creating?

To spread the Gospel and to bring people to Christ, is my main objective.

What are 5 things you have learnt in your journey thus far?

I fear God more than man. Jesus is on His way, I do not care what anyone says about me, I am not afraid of being cancelled. Obedience to God is so much greater than validation from people.



Why do you think podcasting is the best way to communicate the Gospel?

We live in a season and a time where different media outlets are easily accessible and the reason God gifted me the podcast is because many people that I know and many of the people in this generation are listening to podcasts that do not spread truth and where they do not identify people through the gospel.

I just thought that I would be the difference in this generation and be the voice of this generation by sticking out like a sore thumb by speaking about the word of God and mainly scripture. Whereas other Christian creators would speak about general things and not highlight glory to God but speak about everyday things that would not potentially help you grow spiritually and bring you closer to God but more so take your mind off doing what you are supposed to do by feeding you bubblegum gospel.

Why does the world need the Gospel?

The world needs the Gospel because it is going down in flames and the only thing that will save this world is Jesus Christ. The Bible says that Jesus said, *"I am the way the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through me"*, I am a firm believer in that and it is self-explanatory that no one can get to God and no one can have access to God except through Christ Jesus. Christ is the only way to heaven and if you are going to fill your mind with things that are not of God you are going to fall into an endless pit of despair and that is not what God wants for us. That is why this generation, I am speaking about this generation specifically, struggles with so many strongholds. We lack humility. There is so much pride in this generation that I am growing up in. We lack surrender, we lack submission to God and it is all wrapped up in pride and being self-seeking I only say this because I have been through this and I can only speak on this because I know what it is and I know what it feels like.

What are some of the obstacles you have faced and realize now, that *"It could only be God"*?

I was on live with one of my prayer sisters on Friday and we spoke about what caused me to stumble sometime in my life and the difficulty that I faced was grief. Grief makes you do crazy things. Grief makes you do things out of character, grief makes you think that you can do things on your own when in fact you cannot.

I was in a pit of despair, I was in the pit of pride, I was in the pit of borderline depression not knowing what depression even feels like because I was so numb. I can only say that God literally brought me out of it and God lifted me out like he did with Shadrack, Mishack and Abednigo in the fire furnace. And I can only say, "If it had not been for the Lord who was on my side, where would I be?"

What do you want your audience to take out of your podcast?

That glory always belongs to God and that you need to repent daily.

We are going into Spring, please give us 5 scriptures to mediate on?

John 1:1-5, Psalm 91:1, Ephesians 5:8, Romans 8:26 & Romans 8:18.

Give us a Bible verse you love?

My favourite scripture this year is Isaiah 45:2.





CONVICTION

BY SOL'

**HAVE CONVICTION AND UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN YOU STICK IN
THROUGH IT ALL, IT WILL BE WORTH IT BECAUSE YOU ARE WORTH IT TO
GOD**

I am currently reading Acts, a book from the Bible. If you know anything about this book you will know what I am going to say. For those that do not know, Acts is a book from the Bible and it follows Paul on his journey as he moves from city to city to preach the word of God and how he gets rejected, and jailed at times. Eventually, they realized the value of what Paul is saying, and one by one they give their lives to the Lord.

Paul goes to all these places and it gets rough but never does he have a "give up" mentality. He has such conviction in the word of God that nothing the people do in the cities make him think it is time to pull the plug on God. Such trust and faith in the Lord makes one wonder if any of us has ever had such conviction that when it is the roughest you still persistently say "I am not going anywhere, I am going to stay right here".

Today, we have moments of conviction. When it is good we have conviction but when you are unsure, when you remember that you were actually hurt by this thing or person, that conviction goes away. The question is, do you still have that conviction when it is ugly? When they reject you or when you are in jail, do you still have conviction in that mission?



We have become people of moments. We are consumed by happy moments, but when such moments are gone, we become sad. Which is unfortunate, because like their name, moments only last a minute but there are things that should last longer. There are things you should fight for and work for because they are worth it.

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does

not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'[a] As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'[b] (Acts 17:16-28)

You see, Paul has conviction that the Word of God would change the hearts of the people in Athens, he knew that the god they were serving would and could never do anything for them.

We need to get to a place where even though nothing is working for us, we have faith that God will. It will be hard and there will be moments where we think time is being wasted. At such moments, you need to remember just what and who you are doing it for. It is not for a moment but it is because you feel strongly about this and have faith in it.

What Jesus did when he walked on this earth, He has conviction in the Word of God and He knew that it was to save people because He was just like everyone else, (you see what I did there?).

Have conviction and understand that when you stick in through it all, it will be worth it because you are worth it to God.

**We need to get to a place where even though nothing is
working for us, we have faith that God will.**

S O L'



UNVEILING THE REALITY OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

BY ANONYMOUS DEBUNKING STEREOTYPES THROUGH REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES AND BIBLICAL WISDOM

Marriage, a sacred bond between two individuals, it has been a cornerstone of human civilization for centuries. This institution takes on a unique spiritual dimension for Christian couples, intertwining faith, love, and commitment. However, like any aspect of life, Christian marriage is not immune to misconceptions and stereotypes. In this exploration, we will shed light on some of the stereotypes associated with Christian marriage and reveal how couples overcome them, guided by their faith and love for one another, with the support of biblical teachings.

Stereotype 1: perfection and bliss

Reality: embracing imperfections

One prevalent stereotype surrounding Christian marriage is the assumption that it is a flawless journey filled only with happiness and harmony. The reality, of course, is that every marriage encounters its share of challenges. Jane and Mark, a devoted Christian couple, faced financial difficulties early in their marriage. Instead of presenting an image of perfection, they leaned on their faith and each other, finding solace in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Not to forget the

daily challenges of worry as sometimes fear can get the better of us, where we question the when and why. At the start of their financial struggles Mark was always down and got easily agitated in small things. They would have small arguments because Mark felt like he was not being man enough, not being the provider that he is supposed to be to his family. Alone Jane would cry and pray to God to take control and to increase their faith that this too shall pass. The verse empowered them and encouraged them to work through their challenges, growing more potent as a couple.

Stereotype 2: gender roles and equality

Reality: shared responsibilities

Some may mistakenly believe that rigid gender roles confine Christian marriages. However, many couples today embrace a more equal partnership, recognizing the importance of shared responsibilities. Sarah and Michael, drawing inspiration from Galatians 3:28 – "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus", Michael had a problem with gender roles, he was slightly older than Sarah so he

was stuck with how he saw his Dad treat his Mother. Where the man has a say in major decisions and wives do all the house chores. Sarah did not mind “serving” her husband at the beginning of their marriage but as time went on she got burned out from all the chores she was doing by herself with no help especially when kids got in the picture. This caused a lot of talks, some nice and some not nice because Michael found it hard to hear and understand that he needs to help and not all house chores are a woman's responsibility.

Stereotype 3: unyielding faith equals unbreakable marriage

Reality: nurturing faith together

While faith is a cornerstone of Christian marriage, it does not guarantee a problem-free relationship. Couples often navigate moments of doubt or crisis, but these moments can strengthen their bonds. David and Rachel grappled with infertility, testing their faith in ways they never imagined. Turning to Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him" - they found hope in their struggle. This shared experience deepened their reliance on God's plan, reinforcing that a strong marriage is built not solely on unwavering faith but also on mutual support during trying times. This was the hardest struggle in their marriage as they tend to be human and lean on their own understanding. They consulted one doctor to another, seeking help. After years of trying and seeing how much they have spent on medical assistance, they leaned back to Romans 8:28, and the day did come when this verse made sense and was tested when they conceived not on their own time but God's timing.

Stereotype 4: lack of individuality

Reality: honoring individual journeys

Contrary to the stereotype that Christian marriage

suppresses individuality, successful couples appreciate and celebrate each other's uniqueness. Anna and James exemplify this balance by nurturing their passions while embracing their shared commitment to their faith. Inspired by Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labour..." - they understand that their individual growth contributes to the strength of their partnership. Partnership is important in marriage, knowing that all your daily challenges that you face are not yours alone, you have someone you call your husband/wife who can listen to you and support you. Partnership does not always mean agreement in all decisions or ways of doing things but it is when couples sit together and address each other with respect and show each other's views.

Christian marriage is a complex and beautiful journey that transcends stereotypes. Real-life examples show that the bonds forged through love, faith, and mutual support enable couples to overcome challenges and shatter misconceptions. By drawing wisdom from the Bible, these couples reveal the true essence of Christian marriage - a path where imperfections are embraced, roles are redefined, faith is tested, and individuality is cherished. Through it all, love prevails, and marriages flourish in the light of God's guidance.



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“God has always been within us and around us”