

Potential Immorality Among Some Serving in Ugandan Lutheran Churches

Why am I addressing this topic? Because it has recently come to my attention that in some cases:

- A man (seminarian / vicar) and a woman intend to get married.
- They cannot afford to get married at the present time (due to the bride price, the cost of the introduction ceremony, and the cost of the wedding ceremony).
- They may not have a recognized marriage: customary, civil, or religious
- They live under the same roof.
- They have sexual relations.
- They have children.

What can be the results?

- **Human tradition / culture may be held higher than God's word, which is a very serious matter:**
NAS **Mark 7:7-8** "...in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."
- **The man and woman may be living in sexual immorality, which is a very serious matter:**
NAS **Ephesians 5:3, 5** "...do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints... For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person..., has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."
- **The congregation members may be encouraged to do the same, which is a very serious matter:**
NAS **Matthew 18:6** "...whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea."
- **More children may be added to the growing number of orphans:** "...some reports suggest that the number of orphans in Uganda has increased from around 1,000 in the 1990s to 50,000 today..." (Google AI).

What are some proper Biblical examples?

- **Jacob – Rachel:** NAS **Genesis 29:16** Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ And Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful of form and face. ¹⁸ Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man; stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her. ²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time is completed, that I may go in to her."
- **Joseph – Mary:** NAS **Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to

take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." ²² Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." ²⁴ And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *her* as his wife, ²⁵ and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

- **See this brochure for more:** <https://blc7500.com/Brochures/15181/DownloadText>

Please help me to rightly understand the practice in Uganda by answering these questions:

1. Is the information in this paper, correct? Yes No If not, please explain what is wrong.
2. If it is correct, how can changes be implemented to align with the Bible?
3. If some are living in immorality, should they abstain from sexual relations until they have a recognized marriage? Yes No
4. Should the pastors teach their members what the Bible says and encourage them to follow it? Yes No
5. What is your marital status:
 - ☐ Single
 - ☐ Together, But Not Married
 - ☐ Living in a Recognized Marriage – customary or civil or religious

Since my congregation has given money to various Lutheran men in Uganda over the years, prior to our knowledge of the potential immorality, we are humble and yet caring and bold to address this topic.

Moses said to the people: ^{NAS} **Deuteronomy 6:24** "...the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as *it is* today."

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert Green

PS: If you are willing, please respond to the five questions above via Facebook Messenger or via mail:

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