

Preface

GREETINGS. I AM PASTOR BENNETT, and I was born and raised in California's Bay Area. I gave my life to Christ at the age of nineteen and received my calling to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ at age twenty-one. I evangelized for sixteen years before accepting my calling of pastorship in 2002, when I founded Walls of Faith Ministries. It was God who called me to the unchurched generation and to urban communities, where I have witnessed and counseled many abusive marriages and relationships. At the present, this is where I am still plowing and cultivating families, and rebuilding communities, one person at a time.

I was married at the tender age of nineteen, and to this union were born five beautiful and handsome children. Having grown up without a father in the home, I was determined not to let my children experience that same upbringing, and it was only God who strengthened and allowed me to fulfill that heartfelt desire. Yet even while I was counseling and advising others as a pastor, I too was a spouse experiencing and suffering from various forms of abuse in my marriage. Disheartened by the

constant years of abuse, my marriage ended after twenty-eight years, of which the last eight or nine were the most painful of all. However, it was those pains that birthed this book and that have given me a platform to speak to others, and to that end I address you.

For the countless couples struggling to determine whether their union will last, *The Apostasy of Marriage* offers spiritual strategies for a happy and fulfilling relationship, as well as an outline of the common pitfalls that prevent us from maintaining a healthy marriage. With analogies, examples, and your own personal experiences to guide you, the book serves as a reminder that to attain a lasting marriage, we must go back to the designer—God—and revisit and implement his principles and guidelines. This book was written for the many who are experiencing what is called a “bad” marriage or relationship. If you are married, single, involved, or thinking of starting a relationship, you should strongly consider the points made in this book.

This book gives valuable information for males and females, related to our human nature, spirit, and emotions, and our responsive instincts in the confines of a relationship, such as how we feed each gender’s design through the principles of marriage. It speaks explicitly to those who have experienced various forms of abuse. You will be able to use this book as a tool for gauging where your marriage is today; it will also benefit you in resolutions for your marriage by highlighting and

addressing areas of the relationship that affect each gender.

The book's content will also serve as a tool in guiding individuals in the selection process for relationships and eventually assist them in determining who the best companion is for marriage. An example of this would be to determine if the man or woman is affectionate or non-affectionate. There is no right or wrong with either attribute; the majority of it has to do with upbringing. However, one of each is not a good fit and can make either spouse feel uncomfortable, even appearing uncaring toward their own children.

The intent of this book is really to exhibit the principles of marriage, how we should live with the one we entered into a union of marriage with, and how to be able to decide for yourself where your marriage is today. No one should have to live their lives in bitterness and pain from a marriage. Life is too short, and though we may have to suffer sometimes in life, it shouldn't deliberately come from our spouses. ...