

BOOK REVIEW

Book Title:	Marriage and Family Life: Issues of Today, Hope for Tomorrow.
Author:	Francis Ikhianosime
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There is always an inseparable interplay of social, physiological, psychological, economic, moral, and spiritual needs of the human person and society in valuing the placements of marriage and family life for the humane and ethical sustainability of the world-created order. This concern for the realization of integral human development situates the trending philosophy and theology of human actions and choices of values in the institutions of marriage and family life. With consciousness for integral human development, we have come to realize that human actions and choices of values determine the kinds of marriage and family life we so desire and eventually contract. We, sometimes, distant or exclude God from and in our actions and choices of values. This is the concern of Francis Ikhianosime's book: *Marriage and Family Life*. With this book, we understand there is moral and theological order of our world of conflicting developmental ideologies, theories, and principles, simply based on the values of human marriage and family. We equally understand that human marriage between a man and a woman for the development of family life and socialization is beyond a civil choice and union, but a natural and

divine choice and union, carefully and ontologically designed for the sustainability of the human family and society.

There are many books to know the currencies of moral development in the fates of globalism and globalizing consciousness within the imposing scientific and technological culture, and Ikhianosime's book is one of them. As the name of the book implies, Ikhianosime, as a philosophical and ecclesiological scholar with a high dose of socio-epistemological blending and moral cognition in directing and promoting the factors of integral human development, assesses the social and theological currencies of marriage and family life in our Word of conflicting ideologies of development and advancement. The social and spiritual concerns for the sustainability of the marriage and family life remain the issues for today's humanities who are facing the actions and choices of values of their destruction and possible extinction, and simply with no hope of better tomorrow if the currencies of some of our dehumanized actions and choices of values are not checkmated naturally, rationally and theologically. Such interests on the true values of marriage and family direct the future of human socialization to be strongly dependent on the unflinching values and respects for natural law and morality, and on the obedience to the ecclesiological teachings on the social, economic, environmental, and political respects, promotion and protection of human life, rights, and dignity.

The book is of 26 chapters with prologue and epilogue, and carefully chosen and framed titles of the chapters. Considerably, the prologue considers the basic understanding of marriage and family life. Some of the chapters border on the sacramental nature and components of marriage and family life; the preparatory epistemic valuation of marriage; matters arising for married love, procreation, Planned Parenthood, single parenthood, and surrogacy. With ecclesiological and theological assessments, some chapters are concerned with some sociological and psychological challenges of same-sex marriage and other modern sexual orientations, polygamy, sex-addiction, abortion, teenage pregnancy, pornography, masturbation, alcoholism, and divorce. Other chapters border on managing the following: marital conflicts,

marital wretchedness, nagging tendencies, resentments in relationships, child abuse, domestic violence, child adoption, family disunity, childlessness, adolescent deviancies, troubled parenthood-motherhood and fatherhood, emerging Christian home, retirement, and old-age. The epilogue caps it up with the analysis of the challenges of the human family in the light of the *Synod of the Family*- which is mainly hinged on the roles of the family in God's plan; the challenges and counter-challenges of family erosion, and the sustainability of the family through the valuation of human life, rights and dignity.

With the book, Ikhianosime considers the trending unhealthy effects of moral chauvinism, nihilism, and relativism situated within the societal demands for gay union and other forms of contemporary sexual orientations heavily on the values of heterosexual marriage between a man and a woman and on the sustainability of the human family that should be based on the foundation of the natural law principles and morality. With the mindset of John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* and Benedict XVI's *Mission of Theology*, Ikhianosime questions the trending effects of societal advocacies in globalizing some uncommon and imperialistic moralities of gay-unions and forms of sexual aberrations rather than universalizing the dictates of natural law and morality, Ikhianosime reasonably proffers the ecclesiological's *Ethics of Living* that is based on the existential phenomenology of human actions and choices of values and the Biblical teachings on the ontological foundation of marriage and family life, morally and reasonably as a solution to many trending cultures of dehumanizing actions as against the values of human life, rights, and dignity. For marriage and family life are inseparable and compatibly natural in promoting integral human development through proper ethical valuing of human procreation and parenting.

In all, as a pro-lifer, Ikhianosime, with this book, based on his moral and religious convictions, is mainly concerned with the respect, promotion, and protection of human life, rights, and dignity through proper moral and religious institutions of marriage between a man and a woman and the sustainability of the family of

husband-man, wife-woman and possible child or children-human beings. Ikhianosime is about valuation of human life from conception to death, and owing to that, at no point or time when the human life should be considered meaningless, hopeless, and useless. For me, this conviction of his is what the modern world of ours, so directed by science and technology can offer needs to integrally re-humanize our society for a better hopeful tomorrow.

As a literary painstaking research effort, and as a result-oriented and resourceful material, it is a book that will ever remain relevant, and therefore, I strongly recommend it for students, tutors, and parents in the studies of philosophy, sociology, psychology, and theology of marriage and family life. Therein; Ikhianosime directs the world to have some sense of humanized conscientious contributions for true acts of globalizing human interests and universalizing natural law and morality in the hearts of all human persons through proper institutions of marriage and family life. For marriage and family life remain inseparable in saving the world from self-alienation, self-destruction, and possible self-extinction.