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Devotion and Domesticity: The Reconfiguration of Gender in Popular Christian Pamphlets from Ghana and Nigeria

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Drawing upon interviews with readers in Ghana and Nigeria as well as a large number of locally published marriage articles, this article considers attitudes toward the printed word among Christian readers in West Africa. Gender is an especially important issue in African 'how-to' books, particularly those produced by Pentecostal and evangelical authors. While the majority of these authors adhere to Pauline strictures on wifely submission in their writing, the female authors discussed in this article make use of biblical and romantic discourse in order to reconfigure both men's and women's marital roles. In so doing, they construct marriage as a site to deal about the contradictions and paradoxes of contemporary Christian gender ideologies in West Africa.



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