

Selecting A Mate
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Introduction: One of the greatest challenges facing the Lord's church in this age is the challenge of building Godly homes.

- A. Godly Homes do not come by accident.
 - 1. Anything good we do have is a result of the application of God's wisdom.
(James 1:5 Prov 4:5-7; Prov 5:1-3)
- B. The influence of our society is strong.
 - 1. Society has its pulpits, TV, movies, magazines, etc.
 - 2. Our society has taught about marriage. What are the results?
 - 3. What is the common theme in movies? Just fall in love, get married and all is well!
- C. The future of the church is a stake.
 - 1. In Edward Gibbon's book, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, one of the five reasons of its fall was: "The rapid increase in divorce, the undermining of the sanctity and dignity of the home."
 - 2. So it is with the church. Example: A boy and a puzzle, "If you just put the boy together the world takes care of itself!"

I. Some "Minimum" Considerations

A. Is this person eligible to marry? (Mt 19:9)

- 1. Those who may many fall into three groups.
 - a. Those who have never married.
 - b. Those whose mate has died.
 - c. Those who have put away their mate for the cause of fornication.
- 2. It is extremely foolish to date or keep close company with someone who is not eligible for marriage.
- 3. How many times have I heard "We are just friends" turn into something more.

B. Is this person a Christian?

- 1. Can anyone deny the strength in two faithful Christians serving God?
(Luke 1:6)
- 2. Paul did not think in terms of marrying anyone else. **(1 Cor 9:5)**
- 3. A marriage between a Christian and a non-Christian is regulated by the word of God and therefore is acceptable. **(1 Pet 3:1-2. 7)**
- 4. What will happen in the majority of cases?
 - a. See enclosed article on mixed marriages.
 - b. See enclosed article "Young Lady, Many a Christian" by Bill Hall.
 - c. If you are planning to marry a non-Christian please do these things.
 - i. Talk with several Christians who married non-Christians and find out what can happen.
 - ii. Give this as much time as you can. Marriage is forever!
 - iii. The rule of wisdom to follow: "Make all necessary changes before marriage.

C. Does this person have proper ambition? (Eph 4:28)

1. Many homes have been destroyed because of immaturity in money matters.
2. Does this one value the God given role of the man and the woman?

D. Does this person show proper respect? (Prov 13:20)

1. If this one always blames his parents and others for his lot in life, watch out!
2. Often times the attitude displayed in immaturity towards those in authority will be displayed towards you in marriage when you want to act responsibly.

E. Is this person dependable? (Eph 4:25)

1. Marriage is built upon trust. If he will lie to others, he will lie to you.
2. There is a teamwork in marriage that causes each mate to do their part. What if he is self centered?

II. Other Considerations

A. Is this one jealous or unusually possessive?

1. Jealousy and fear can create a prison within the marriage.
2. Do you want a mate or a self centered parent?

B. Is this one flirty?

1. Sadly there are many who will follow up on the offer to sin. (Heb 13:4)
2. Does this action build the trust that is essential in marriage?

C. Is this one quick tempered? (Eph 4:31; 6:4)

1. The display of uncontrolled anger in the home causes enormous damage.
2. We have minimized this danger, but God has not. (Gal 5:19-21)

D. Is this one a big spender?

1. The pressures to pay the bills in a marriage are great.
2. Many marriage problems **lie in** the proper communication and consideration of each other in this area.

E. Is this one disobedient to parents?

F. Is this one disobedient to authority?

G. Is this one a showoff, always seeking attention and a “know-it-all”?

H. Is this one given to lying?

III. How to Find a Mate.

A. Be the kind of person that you want to marry. (Ruth 3:11)

1. Your reputation will limit the number of those who will ask you out. This is good!
2. Far too many enter the dating relationship as a parent. They think they will “mother” this person to the point he becomes of good character. This is a mistake!

B. Go to places where good companions can be found.

1. **Parents!** There is much you can do here. Do you open your homes to Christian young people?
2. I have know of Christians who went to bars to find a date!

C. Pray to God. (Matt 6:33)

1. **We may have to wait.**
2. **If we never marry, then so be it. I want to go to heaven.**
3. **God** knows our needs and will respond to our faith in Him.

Conclusion: Are you a faithful Christian? (**Heb 11:6**)

A. Then place your trust in God and determine not to compromise in these areas.

B. In the end we will be the winners.

(Adapted from Bill Hall)

MIXED MARRIAGES

Bobby Key, who has preached for the church in Miami, Oklahoma for 20 years, has compiled some interesting facts on marriage. We have long stressed the importance of Christians marrying Christians, and this information shows how important it really is.

“143 Christian young people in the Miami congregation have married during the past 20 years. Seventy-nine married non-Christians; of these 57 left the church with 25 being divorced. Twenty-two are still faithful and 14 have converted their mates. Sixty-four married Christians, and of these, 59 are still faithful to the Lord. Two marriages ended in divorce.”

Young people, take another look at these facts, and be impressed with the fact that your chances of being faithful as a Christian, and your chances of making your marriage a successful one, are greatly increased when you marry a Christian. So, look again:

CHRISTIANS MARRIED TO NON-CHRISTIANS

79 - Total
57 - Left the church
22 - Faithful as Christians
14 - Converted their mates
25 - Divorces

CHRISTIANS MARRIED TO CHRISTIANS

64 - Total
5 - Left the church
59 - Faithful as Christians
2 - Divorced

These facts speak loudly. In the words of brother Key, “Let us continue to stress the importance of Christians dating and marrying those of like precious faith. it is hard enough to live the Christian life when both husband and wife are trying to serve the Lord; however, it becomes increasingly difficult when one is trying to pull the whole load”.

YOUNG LADY, MARRY A CHRISTIAN!

BILL HALL

Before any young lady marries a non-Christian, she should consider the following problems which so often face the Christian in a mixed marriage.

1. Problems in attending services. She should ask herself, “What will I do when my husband some Lord’s Day drives away in the car at 9:15, leaving me with no transportation to the service?” “What will I do when my husband announces that his company is moving us to some distant community where no church of the Lord meets?”

The husband may not be as co-operative as the young lady thought he would be.

2. Problems in giving. The young lady recognizes that if they are to reap bountifully, they must sow bountifully. She loves the Lord and His work, and wants to give liberally in support of it. Her husband, however, does not share her convictions and interest. He feels that a dollar is plenty to give.

3. Problems in training children. Yes, some have succeeded in bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord without the help of their companions. Eunice succeeded with Timothy. Other good women have succeeded. But the influence of a father is great, and many are the women who have not been able to overcome this influence to see their children become Christians.

4. Problems in overcoming the influence of one's companion. Marrying with the hopes of reforming one's companion is a dangerous thing. Often the companion is lifted to a higher standard, but seldom to the standard of a Christian. Instead, as the non-Christian's standards are raised, the Christian's standards are lowered, so that the two meet somewhere in between. The young lady should realize that the man whom she marries will be the greatest earthly influence on her life, and she should ask herself, "Will this man help me to go to heaven?"

5. Emotional problems. The problems faced in life are great, but the emotional problems faced in death may be greater. Recently a godly woman, having just received word of her husband's death in an automobile accident, cried, "Why couldn't it have been me or one of the children, for my husband was not ready to die?"

The young person reading this is probably thinking, however, that she will convert her husband. She may be able to do so, but statistics show that her chances really are not very good. For every one who has been successful in converting her husband, there are several who not only failed in converting their husbands, but were influenced by them to return to the mire of sin and to enter the ranks of the unfaithful.

No, the risk is too great. The only safe course is for Christians to marry Christians.