

THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

I. Maturity

If you are not married, you must wait until you are *old* enough and *mature* enough.

A person's age is not always a good measure of the level of maturity.

II. Are You Old Enough?

How old should you be before you are old enough?

Husbands and wives must be old enough to act responsibly.

III. Do What Is Right

Marriage requires a person to be moral.

Before getting married one must be old enough to know what is right and what is wrong.

He or she must be willing to live a life that follows what is right.

If a person wants to continue to do things that are wrong, should that person consider getting married?

II Chronicles 20:31-32 31 So Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-five years. His mother's name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi. 32 He walked in the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them; he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.

Normally, we are going to imitate our parents.

If our parents lived wrong; the influences of doing what are right is against us...

One should be old enough to control his behavior.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

God can teach us what is right.

I Samuel 12:23-24 23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. 24 But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

Spiritual Maturity

I Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Matthew 10:37 Jesus said, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

*Matthew 19:29 Jesus said, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or **wife** or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit everlasting life."*

Our love for God must be much greater than our love for anyone else.

Matthew 6:33 Jesus said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

We grow spiritually by serving the Lord, by studying the Bible, and by prayer.

Count The Cost

Luke 14:28-30 Jesus said, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it -- lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'"

Both the man and woman should ask, "Am I able to afford to get married?"

"Am I able to be wise in the way I spend the money that the Lord has provided me?"

"Am I able to save money for future needs?"

One should be prepared to live without assistance from parents before thinking about getting married.

Give Up Childish Ways

I Corinthians 13:11 The apostle Paul wrote, *"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."*

We must be emotionally prepared before we can hope to be happily married.

Do We Really Love Each Other

Love is not just a warm feeling that a person has for someone else.

The Bible teaches us that love is an attitude where another person's needs are placed ahead of our own.

(I Corinthians 13:4-8b.) 4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails

In Conclusion

In conclusion let us remember that a successful marriage requires preparation.

Before getting married, people must be prepared

- physically,
- morally,
- spiritually,
- economically,
- and emotionally.