

THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A SPOUSE

I. Change

This lesson will be understood differently by those who are already married.

For those of us who are married, the Lord expects us to learn to be happy with our present husband or wife.

God commands the husband to love his wife.

The wife is commanded to love her husband.

You cannot force your spouse to change.

We must love them the way they are.

II. Looking For A Mate

Proverbs 12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.

(Genesis 29) Jacob was attracted to Rachel because of her beauty.

Do not marry the first girl that looks pretty to you.

Do not marry the first boy that is kind to you.

It is best if we marry someone that we find reasonably attractive.

- But remember there are other things that are more important than beauty.

Proverbs 11:22 As a ring of gold in a pig's nose, so is a beautiful woman who lacks good judgment.

We become truly happy when we are serving the Lord through serving other people.

Proverbs 31:10-31 Who can find a good wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants. She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet. She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

III. Spiritual Concerns

Most Christian young people at some time will ask, "Is it okay to marry someone who is not a Christian?"

I know, as well as you know marriages where one is a believer and one is not, and the marriage worked out well, and they had a great marriage!!!

Will it be easier?

Let God answer that Himself!!

Genesis 28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan."

Judges 3:6 And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.

I Kings 11:4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.

Likewise, I know, as well as you know marriages where both have a different religious mindset, and the marriage worked out well, and they had a great marriage!!!

Will it be easier?

Let God answer that Himself!!

God commanded through Moses, (Deuteronomy 7:3-4) "Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly."

Judges 14:3 Then [Samson's] father and mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well."

Samson's wish to have Delilah as his wife is an example of the disaster that can come from marrying someone who does not love God the way you do.

What if you are already married to someone who is not a Christian?

What does God want you to do?

I Corinthians 7:12-14 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

I Corinthians 7:16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

Remember that many people have been won to Christ by a spouse.

1 Peter 3:1-2 Likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.

No matter whom your spouse is or who your spouse will be, the most important thing of all is that you make God more important than anything else.