

# FAMILY MATTERS PART 9: HOW TO CHOOSE A SPOUSE WISELY

## 1. BEFORE YOU BEGIN THE SEARCH:

- A. Prayerfully \_\_\_\_\_ the process to God (Phil 4:6-7; Prov 18:22; Ps 127:1)
- B. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ your singleness (1 Cor 7)
  - i. Grow in the Lord (2 Pet. 3:8)
  - ii. Serve the Lord fully now (Josh 24:15)
  - iii. Become the kind of person you are looking to marry
  - iv. Don't date until you are ready for a mate. (Ps. 27:14)
- C. Choose singleness over an \_\_\_\_\_ marriage (Prov 21:19; Prov 12:4)
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ your heart and your body (Prov. 4:23)
  - i. Don't "follow your heart;" \_\_\_\_\_ your heart. (Jer. 17:9)
  - ii. Keep your body \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Thes. 4:3-5)

*Choose only a date who will make a good mate.*

## 2. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- A. Date \_\_\_\_\_ and prayerfully. Don't date recreationally!
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ be a follower of Christ (no exceptions!) (2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Cor 7:39; Deut 7:3)

**Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2 Cor. 6:14)**

- i. Must be able to \_\_\_\_\_ articulate the gospel and their salvation experience. (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9)
- ii. "What has Jesus been teaching you lately?" should have a quick, meaningful answer.
- iii. You really want someone who loves Jesus more than you.
- iv. Are they initiating spiritual conversations or only you?
- C. Choose a good \_\_\_\_\_ over good looks. character lasts; beauty fades (Prov 31:30, Ps 119:1; 1 Tim 2:9-10)
  - i. Your name is your \_\_\_\_\_. Prov 22:1, SS 1:3
  - ii. Look past those "sweet words" (Prov 26:23)

D. RED FLAGS:

- i. \_\_\_\_\_, wrath, violence, hitting or threatening to hit you (Col. 3:8)
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone (Prov. 6:16-19; John 8:44)
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ /arrogance/scoffs at spiritual things/narcissistic (Prov. 16:18, 21:4; 3:33-35)
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ /history of cheating (Prov. 28:6)
- v. \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 10:4, 18:9)
- vi. \_\_\_\_\_ from others (Prov. 12:15; 11:14)

E. Green lights

- i. Vibrant, \_\_\_\_\_ walk with the Lord (2 Pet. 3:8, 1:5; Col. 1:10)
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_ the fruit of the Spirit when no one is looking (Gal. 5:22-24)
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_, growing in wisdom (Prov. 15:32, 9:7-9)
- iv. Hard \_\_\_\_\_ /diligent (Prov. 22:29; Prov. 21:5)
- v. Actively \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and His people (Josh 24:15; 1 Pet 4:10)

F. Family dynamics/companions (Prov 13:20)

- i. How does he/she interact with their parents? (Eph 6:2)
- ii. How do his/her parents interact with each other? Divorced?
- iii. What are his/her closest friends like? (1 Cor. 15:33)

G. Don't marry \_\_\_\_\_; marry reality

- i. Women often marry men thinking they will change them. Men often marry women thinking they will never change. Neither are right!

<p><b>Do NOT Settle! You are a child of the King.</b></p>
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3. HOW DO I KNOW IF THIS IS "THE ONE"?

- A. CLEAR \_\_\_\_\_: You clearly see evidence of a vibrant, growing relationship with Jesus: taking personal responsibility to grow, godly character, regular in corporate worship, faithfully serving, seeking to grow in the community of faith.
- B. GODLY \_\_\_\_\_: Godly people around you affirm the match. If they don't, you are wise to listen to them; you are a fool to ignore. (Prov. 11:14; 12:15)
- C. GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_. Both of you have prayed and there is peace in your spirit. If there is a "catch" in your spirit, continue to seek the Lord in prayer.
- D. AGREEMENT: As a couple you have talked deeply about marriage and are in agreement.
  - i. GUYS: You should ALWAYS know the answer before you propose.
  - ii. LADIES: Beware of a man who does not know what to do with his life
  - iii. BOTH: You should know if you are heading toward marriage in \_\_\_\_\_ months. If you are saying you need to know more, you are not asking the right questions.