

Getting Serious About Getting Married

Prov 24:27 *Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.*

- I. How to prepare yourself for marriage: We stress the importance of *finding* the right person. Need to stress *being* the right person.
 - A. **Develop a solid relationship with Christ** - this is the primary relationship we all need whether married or not.
 1. Col 1:15-18 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*
 2. Marriage is about Christ & for Christ. He is the glue that holds everything together. He brings coherence, direction and purpose.
 - B. **Develop quality relationships with family and friends** - The people skills needed to dwell in peace w/ your future *mate* are the same one's needed to live at peace w/ your *parents, siblings* and *roommates*.
 1. Eph 6:1-2 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother...*
 2. Communication, kindness, sacrifice, forgiveness, patience.
 - C. **Learn to be sexually disciplined:**
 1. the person who learns self-control before marriage will find marriage to be a great blessing as a lawful outlet for sexual passion.
 2. However, the person who has given himself over to porn / romance novels, and a slept with everyone they dated, will find remaining committed to one woman/man is far more difficult.
 - D. **Prepare yourself to provide for a family** - this will look differently for young men and young women.
 1. Young women - Prov. 31 This passage denies that a *woman's place* is in the home. It *affirms that her priority* is the home. So what does she do? What is she like?
 - a. Her husband delegates responsibility to her (31:11), and is no fool for doing so (31:12);
 - b. she is a weaver (31:13);
 - c. she shops for food effectively (31:14);
 - d. she cooks and provides food (31:15);
 - e. she buys real estate (31:16);
 - f. she starts an enterprise with her accumulated capital (31:16);
 - g. she works hard, and manufactures quality merchandise (31:17-19);
 - h. she is helps the poor (31:20);
 - i. she thinks ahead, and clothes her family well (31:21);
 - j. she dresses herself well (31:22);

- k. she does not compete with her hus. or try to overshadow him (31:23);
 - l. she is wise and a teacher of wisdom (31:26);
 - m. she manages her household (31:27), to the praise of her husband and children (31:28-29);
 - n. and she fears God, placing no trust in fleeting vanity (31:30-31).
2. Young men - He has to be in a position to lead in a relationship with this kind of a woman! Titus 2:6 *encourage the young men to be self-controlled.* Proverbs enjoins the qualities of: Discipline, education, responsibility, self-sacrifice, work ethic.

II. How to pursue a mate:

A. Avoid the pitfalls of the modern dating system:

- 1. too young (instead of acknowledging that this is a mistake we give 13yr olds birth control)
- 2. too purposeless - not mere recreation, but to find a person to marry.
- 3. too many (serial breakups - prep for divorce)
- 4. too physical - if you are not married keep hands to self.
- 5. too individualistic – Prov 15:22 *Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.*
 - a. Call her parents ask permission to pursue (masculinity takes initiative)
 - (1) young men take a wife
 - (2) young women are given
 - b. Make yourselves accountable to a married couple at church.
 - c. Plan some of your “date time” to be in their home.
 - d. Take their kids out for some fun activities (how does the other person feel about kids - are they good around them?).
 - e. What kind of dating environment will best help you get to know the other person.
 - (1) Being with them in their home around their family.
 - (2) Or concerts, movies & restaurants.

B. Spiritual Fellowship - pray, read bible, go to church together

C. Ministry - visit sick, elderly, host Bible studies etc.

D. Communicate About meaningful practical questions:

- 1. Attitude towards children
- 2. What level of income do you expect
- 3. Wife working outside the home

III. Ten questions to answer before you decide to get married:

- A. Is Christ what holds this relationship together ?
- B. Are we growing in friendship, fellowship, and romance?
- C. Are we communicating well?
- D. Are the wisest people who know us well supportive of the relationship?
- E. Is sexual attraction playing too big (or too small) a role ?

- F. Have we established a track record of dealing with problems in a Biblical way?
- G. Are we headed in the same direction in life i.e. same goals, dreams, plans?
- H. Have we resolved any complications/entanglements from past relationships?
- I. How are the relationships with our future in-laws developing? Are we prepared to cut the apron strings?
- J. Do I respect Him as a Leader and head? / Am I willing to serve her and sacrifice for her and take care of her needs.