

WHOM SHOULD I MARRY?

Advice for those seeking a spouse



“He chose- poorly”. That is one of the most iconic lines from the movie, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. It was a classic line because it was a massive understatement as we watch the villain’s face melt away after he chose the *wrong* chalice. “He or she chose poorly” could be said of many of the choices that supposed Christian young people make in marriage. They choose poorly, and you see they end up with a lifetime of trouble, heartache and perhaps even a shipwrecked faith.

I write this for the young people in the church, particularly the church where I serve. How do you choose a future spouse? Or perhaps we ought to ask, “What choice in a future spouse will please Christ and will then lead to my having a marriage that honors Christ? After all your Lord commands you to “Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you”.

We tend to think about our happiness first as we think about marriage. But what will please God is the first issue at hand. If that is not asked, then we will choose poorly.

What are the chief things to consider when we choose a spouse?

LOOK FOR A TRUE CHRISTIAN

They must be a genuine believer in Christ. Paul commands this in I Corinthians 7:39. Also, they must not be merely a Christian in name or in the larger context of what the world labels as Christian (i.e.- anything that speaks of Christ like Roman Catholicism, Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, Prosperity Theology) but someone who is clearly an *evangelical* believer in Christ. One who affirms that they have been redeemed by Christ alone, by His grace alone, and through faith alone. One who knows that there is no other Name given among men by which we must be saved.

You will face a massive temptation to be led by your heart and your emotions. Don’t. Do. It. I cannot say this plainly enough. I have seen too many people who let their emotions lead them into a relationship that was a disaster in the end.

You must also find someone who is a growing believer. Not a nominal believer, but one who has (1) a clear heart for the things of God and (2) a love for the Gospel and (3) a commitment to the local church. Be ruthless as you look for a spouse in these three areas. Too much is at stake. There is no room for compromise in these things. Don't. Do. It.

LOOK IN THE MIRROR

You must be a believer who is growing in your faith, or you are not ready to get married. You are not ready. This means that you must be one who is seeking to grow in Christ more than anything else in life that you are presently doing. It means that you can only do this if you are involved in a local church where the Bible is fully preached and the Gospel is proclaimed. If you are not involved in a local faithful church- you are not ready to get married. Don't. Do. It.

IF YOU ARE A MAN

You must be one who is prepared to lead, provide and protect. Above all you must be willing to shoulder the responsibility for the spiritual direction of your home. God has laid this firmly on your shoulders. Do not fail at this. Too much is at stake. You will be held accountable for your home's spiritual direction.

Look for a woman who is willing to be led by you. Do not be deceived by her beauty or her charms. Her chief characteristic must be that she is a woman who fears the Lord.

IF YOU ARE A WOMAN

You must be willing to be led spiritually by your husband and look to him to ensure there is provision for your family (Note: this does not mean a wife should never work outside the home). You must be willing to be protected and expect to be protected by him. You must be willing to help and support your husband in his responsibilities. Be ready to come alongside him and help. You must be willing to let him lead your home as he leads you in the Lord.

Be devoted to your home and let your husband be devoted to protecting your home. Look for a man who is ready to lead. Do not think you can shape him into a leader. You cannot. He must be ready to go. He can and will grow in that role, but he must be on the path already at the start.

A POOR CHOICE THEN IS:

Someone who is not a believer.

Someone who is not a very strong believer.

Someone who does not see the purpose of marriage to first honor Christ as a godly husband or godly wife as defined by Scripture.

Someone who is not clearly committed to the local church

THREE FINAL THOUGHTS

1. Do not choose a wife who is bitter at her father. A woman who is angry at her father will most likely be angry with her husband. She will often transfer that anger toward her husband.

2. Do not choose a man who is angry at or afraid of his mother. He will be a man unable to lead because he is allowing his mother to consume much of the emotional energy of his life. He will be a fearful, weak and unhappy man. The relationship between mothers and daughters and fathers and sons are also important and can negatively affect a daughter or a son. Yet my experience has been that these two cases are more detrimental to the marriage relationship.
3. Know as well that you are not just marrying the person, but in many ways, you are marrying the family. You will be enmeshed with this family for the rest of your life.

No choice you make will be of more importance than this, except for your coming to repentance and faith in Christ. Choose wisely.