

Choosing a Mate

by Wayne Goff

*I have lived long enough to see the **results** in the lives of my friends, relatives, and classmates from the choices they have made in marriage. It is difficult to “see” the future, but one can certainly learn from the mistakes of others and from the past. How should one choose a mate?*

Put God First

You would think this would go without saying, but very few young Christians think of God's will for their lives when dating and choosing a mate. They have a delusional belief that “Mr./Ms. Right” is just going to be perfect and somehow things will work out just fine! But keep in mind that there are some **reasons** why God should be first in one's life and in choosing a life mate:

- **God created marriage and understands it best, Genesis 2:18-25.**
- **One should study, learn and observe God's instructions for marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33) because it *mirrors* Christ's relationship to the church.**
- **One should find a mate who will be an aid in getting them to heaven, 1 Peter 3:7.**
- **One should strive to observe the sanctity of marriage, maintaining its sexual purity, Hebrews 13:4.**
- **One should view marriage as a life-long commitment, broken only by the death of one's mate, Romans 7:2-3.**
- **One should seek a mate whose moral values are infused in their heart by God's Word, James 1:21.**
- **One should find a mate who will be a good parent, Ephesians 6:1-4.**

These are *the lasting values* that will make marriage strong, enjoyable and fruitful. Only if one seeks the Lord's will in choosing a mate can these things be secured. There are **no guarantees** in life; even the *faithful* mate can fall away (Hebrews 6:4-6). But make an effort to find a good person.

Be Realistic

Young people always think they are marrying “Prince Charming” or “Cinderella.” The saying, “love is blind” is particularly true to those who have never been married and have done little or nothing to prepare for marriage. There have been numerous poor choices made by otherwise good people in marriage. You would think we would study a few of these cases found in the Bible:

- **Esau married a couple of Hittite women who became “a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah,” Genesis 26:34-35.**
- **Abigail was “a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance” (1 Samuel 25:3) who somehow married a wealthy man named Nabal who was “harsh and evil in his doings.” She confessed to David that her husband was a “scoundrel” and a “fool” (Nabal means “fool”)! I have seen this mistake made by numerous women in my lifetime and always wonder how it happened.**
- **Solomon “loved many foreign women” who turned his heart away from Jehovah, 1 Kings 11:1-4. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 7 that “he who is married cares about the things of the world — how he may please his wife” (v. 33). That's a huge problem if his wife is carnally-minded!**

Unbelieving mates are no excuse for divorce, 1 Corinthians 7:12-14; 1 Peter 3:1. One can live a godly life before their mate and children and possibly convert them. But it will make life as a Christian much more difficult and lonely.

Wake Up!

So young people, take off those “**rose-colored glasses**” and view your future mate with great objectivity. Make a **list of good qualities** that you desire in a mate, and look for that person *objectively*. Ask spiritual leaders for their help

321403