

How to...Find a Mate

April 12 & 13, 2008

A bowl of vegetables with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate.

Proverbs chapter 15 verse 19 (491)

7 Fatal Errors...

1. The decision to marry is made too quickly
2. The decision to marry is made too young
3. One or both are too eager to get married
4. One or both move into marriage to please someone else
5. Experience with each other is too limited
6. Unreal or uncommunicated expectations
7. Unaddressed personality, character or behavior issues

Opposites may attract...but similarities are the key to survival!! Here are some crucial similarities needed to make relationships successful...

1. Spiritual Compatibility

- ***Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?***
Amos chapter 3 verse 3 (693)
- ***Don't team up with those who are unbelievers.*** *2 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 14 (885)*
- If you are a Christ-follower, find another Christ-follower to date, do life with
- If spirituality is important to you, find someone who also believes it is important

2. Character

- ***Choose a good reputation over great riches; being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.*** *Proverbs chapter 22 verse 1 (496)*
- ***The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them.***
Proverbs chapter 20 verse 7 (495)

3. Growing Emotionally

- ***Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life.***
Proverbs chapter 19 verse 20 (494)

4. Willing to work on communication

- ***Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.***
Proverbs chapter 12 verse 18 (489)
- ***Wise words satisfy like a good meal; the right words bring satisfaction.***
Proverbs chapter 18 verse 20 (494)

5. Physical Attraction

- ***Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. She is a loving deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated (ravished, drunk!) by her love.*** *Proverbs chapter 5 verses 18 & 19 (484)*
- ***You are beautiful, my darling...your eyes...hair...smile...lips...cheeks...neck...breasts ...thighs...you have captured my heart...you are my private garden....***
Song of Songs chapter 4 (513)

Some Advice...

Commit to Growth - Don't stop growing, learning about yourself & your spouse, keep dating...even after marriage, make your relationship a priority, keep having fun with each other, laughing, keep serving each other

Don't live together prior to marriage – those who do have a higher divorce rate than couples who don't live together prior to marriage. Couples who live together but never marry are less fulfilled in their relationship than married couples are

Wait for marriage to become sexually active – pre-marital sex is a huge regret among many married couples & it causes much guilt & shame in marriage. It often keeps you from giving yourself freely sexually to your spouse

- ***Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 18 (873)***
- For singles who are sexually active, the sooner you stop, the sooner your healing begins

Refuse to get stuck, not deal with something - HUGE red flag...someone who refuses to talk about something, deal with something, someone who keeps secrets. When you give-up on an area of your relationship, your relationship is in trouble!

Listen to God's whisper in your life – Don't overlook anything that “doesn't feel right,” don't rush, don't lower your standards...BUT your expectations may need adjusting

Only date / marry someone who will help & encourage you to become the person God designed you to be

Only date those who have the ability to love & honor their parents...while leaving them

- ***This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Genesis chapter 2 verse 24 (4)***
- It is impossible to “become one” with someone who won't leave Mom & Dad

How do I do all of this??

- God knows your desires & He loves to give you good things (*James 1:17*)
- The desire to be married is a good one (*Genesis 2, Proverbs 18:22*)
- Pray & ask God for wisdom (*James 1*)
- Don't be scared to take the initiative after asking God to open doors for you
- You must go where those you want to meet will be (both physically & on-line)
- Honor God in all you do...there are no short-cuts

Next week: How to experience wholeness in a broken world