

FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE

Love, Sex & Dating: Part 1

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“Godly people are careful” about the friends they choose. But the way of sinners leads them down the wrong path.” (Proverbs 12:26, NIV)

“The LORD God said, “It isn’t good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him.”” (Genesis 2:18, CEV)

PRE-REQS FOR CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP

1. YOU MUST HAVE BIOLOGICAL COMPATIBILITY.

“As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”” (Ephesians 5:31, NLT)

BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

A biblical marriage is the covenantal union of one [biological] man with one [biological] woman for life.

“Marriage should be honored by all...” (Hebrews 13:4, NIV84)

2. YOU MUST HAVE SPIRITUAL COMPATIBILITY.

“DO NOT be mismatched with unbelievers. Can right and wrong be partners? Can light have anything in common with darkness? Can Christ agree with the devil? Can a believer share life with an unbeliever?” (2 Corinthians 6:14–15, HCSB/GW)

“...I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.” (Romans 1:12, NCV)

3. YOU MUST HAVE DIRECTIONAL COMPATIBILITY.

“Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?” (Amos 3:3, NLT)

“Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, partners in a heavenly calling...” (Hebrews 3:1, NET)

4. YOU MUST HAVE EMOTIONAL MATURITY.

Whoever I marry must not have...

- **UNCONTROLLED ANGER.**
“Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered,” (Proverbs 22:24, NIV)
- **ADDICTIONS.**
“Do not join those who drink too much...or gorge themselves...” (Proverbs 23:20, NIV)
- **UNHEALTHY SELFISHNESS.**
“The greedy stir up conflict, but those who trust in the LORD will prosper.” (Proverbs 28:25, NIV)
- **A MATERIALISTIC DRIVE.**
“The greedy bring ruin to their households, but the one who hates bribes will live.” (Proverbs 15:27, NIV)
- **A DISHONEST HEART.**
“An honest witness can save your life, but liars can’t be trusted.” (Proverbs 14:25, CEV)

“Are you immature? Learn to be mature. Are you foolish? Learn to have sense.” (Proverbs 8:5, GNB)

PREPARING FOR THE RIGHT MARRIAGE PARTNER

1. Make Jesus the **FIRST LOVE** of your life.
2. Don’t date until your own **EMOTIONAL WOUNDS** have been addressed!
3. Clarify your **LIFE DIRECTION** first!
4. **GO SLOW**. Find out all you can about a person & *their family!*
5. Commit to God's **STANDARDS** in a partner.

NEXT STEPS:

CREATE A PROSPECTIVE PARTNER PROFILE
ATTEND MARRIAGE PREP

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Smalley, Michael & Amy. Don’t Date Naked.
 Warren, Neil Clark. Finding the Love of Your Life.
 Cloud, Dr. Henry. How To Get A Date Worth Keeping.
 Morgan, Hayley and Lookadoo, Justin. Dateable: Are You? Are They?
 Warren, Neil Clark. Two Dates or Less: How to Know if Someone is Worth Pursuing.
 Pokluda, Jonathan “JP.” Outdated: Find Love That Lasts When Dating Has Changed

Stanley, Andy. The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating: Exploring the Challenges, Assumptions, and Land Mines of Dating in the Twenty-First Century