



## CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERIES (CLASS #7)

### *Counseling Topic: "From Singleness to Marriage"*

*Go for God!*

~ Decisions? Decisions? - Singleness or marriage?

- 1 Corinthians 7:7-9- *For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

D) GOD'S PLAN FOR MATCHMAKING (Genesis 1:26 - 2:25) (Four factors):

- FACTOR #1 – Do you see God's IMAGE?

Genesis Ch. 1:26-27 - "let us make man in our image, according to our likeness" –

- What is the image of God?

C.I. Scofield writes, "This image is found chiefly in the fact that man is a personal, rational, and moral being. While God is infinite and man finite, nevertheless man possesses the elements of personality similar to those of the divine Person: thinking (Gen. 2:19-20; 3:8); feeling (Gen. 3:6); willing (Gen. 3:6-7). That man has a moral nature is implicit in the record and is further attested by New Testament usage - Ephesians 4:17-24 - *This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

Colossians 3:9-11- *Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.*

~ BE THE IMAGE — FIND THE IMAGE:

I – Are they INSPIRED? – By Following His Word; Engaging in Prayer; United in Fellowship (Acts 2:42).

M – Do they MINISTER? - Mark 10:43-45 - *but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you*

*desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

**A** – Are they a cut ABOVE? - Colossians 3:1-3; 12-14 - *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. . . . Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.*

**G** – Do they offer GRACE? - “Good news & peace” for humanity, regarding God’s Riches At Christ Expense. Live a life of grace, not dictatorship, nor power and control, not my way or the highway. Are you the fear factor, or the faith builder? Do you forgive and forget, or seek revenge and leverage? Condemnation or restoration?

**E** – Do they have an ETERNAL perspective? - John 12:25- *He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.* Matt 5:12- *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven,* Christians must develop the “image of God” in their life, and then look for that special person to marry. It is said that “Marriage . . . is not so much finding the right person as it is being the right person.”

> What Are Wrong Motives for Marriage? (by June Hunt)

- "I want to marry because all of my friends are getting married."
- "I want to be married because it's a couple's world."
- "I want to be married so I won't feel like a failure."
- "I want to fulfill my romantic dreams."
- "I want to get out of my painful home life."
- "I want to get even with the person who rejected me."
- "I want a better family life than I had while growing up."
- "I want to prove that I'm stable and can make a commitment."
- "I want to prove that I'm not struggling with homosexuality."
- "I want the wholesome family ideal."
- "I want to please my family."
- "I want to please my friends."
- "I want to please the person I'm dating."
- "I want to please God, who said, 'It's not good for man to be alone.'"
- "I want to have sex whenever I desire."
- "I want to have children."
- "I want my children to grow up in a two-parent home."
- "I want someone, so I won't be alone."
- "I want someone to benefit my career/ministry."
- "I want someone to need me."

- "I want someone to make me happy."
- "I want someone to take care of me financially."
- "I want someone to take care of me emotionally."
- "I want someone with whom I can grow old." <sup>1</sup>

- **Be warned and be careful, listen to:**

**Proverbs 21:2** - *"All a man's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart."*

**Jeremiah 17:9-10** - *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."*

- **FACTOR #2 – Are they FRUITFUL?**

**Genesis 1:28-31** - God has blessed us and commanded us to *"be fruitful and multiply . . . fill the earth and subdue it.* Is he or she fruitful?

**Galatians 5:22-23**- Make the grade, A to F- *love* \_\_\_\_, *joy* \_\_\_\_, *peace* \_\_\_\_, *longsuffering* \_\_\_\_, *kindness* \_\_\_\_, *goodness* \_\_\_\_, *faithfulness* \_\_\_\_, *gentleness* \_\_\_\_, *self-control* \_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 5:9** - *righteousness* \_\_\_\_ & *truth* \_\_\_\_.

- **FACTOR #3 – Are they DELIGHTFUL?**

**Genesis 2:1-17** - The Garden of Eden (Delight). True love must have a choice. Love without choice is slavery. Our Father's love gave us the invitation and protection, "You may eat . . . you may not eat." Pay close attention, *"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

What kind of trees do you partake of? Remember Jesus said "a tree will bear its fruit! **Matthew 12:33** - *"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit."*

- **A Garden of delight is found in tending and keeping, how?**

**Psalms 1:2-3** - *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.*

**Psalms 37:4** - *Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

**Psalms 40:8** - *I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.*

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<sup>1</sup> *Biblical Counseling Library - Biblical Counseling Keys – Premarital Counseling: Are You Fit to Be Tied?.* by June Hunt

- **FACTOR #4 – Are you INSEPARABLE?**

Genesis 2:18-24 (Two observations in verse 19 - Adam did not take a beast or a bird as his mate. Do not be attracted to someone *bestly* (prone to violence) or *flighty* (temperamental). In verse 21 God gave Adam a deep sleep, he was at rest, if you are not at rest (peace) in regard to your relationship then stop it.

In verse twenty-two we discover that God brought the woman to the man. The woman that God brings into your life will be a “suitable helper.” Each person in the relationship should be a helper and a blessing!

In verse 23 Adam is excited about his bride saying, “*this is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.*” He sees his bride as one who is part of himself, Ephesians 5:28-31 - *So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

> **Our attraction to that special someone should be four-fold:**

- (1) Spiritual attraction to God (love for God);
- (2) emotional attraction from the heart (love for others);
- (3) intellectual attraction (same interests);
- (4) physical attraction (you define).

> **Some advice to Singles** - You will not find Mr. or Mrs. Right at Club Flesh (which is wrong!) Do not be unequally yoked!

Let us read in 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1; – Remember character is everything!

Also in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-10 - We are brothers and sisters in Christ until marriage.

**II) TAKE EIGHT STEPS TO THE ALTAR, THEN SAY “I DO”**

> Fill in “YES” or “NO” for that perspective spouse (If you are married do a self-check):

\_\_\_\_\_ Step #1 - Do they (“I”) LOVE GOD with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength; and love their neighbor as themselves? – (Spiritual) – Matt. 22:37-40

\_\_\_\_\_ Step #2 - Do they (“I”) PRAY? – (Inspirational) – John 15:16- *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go*

*and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Step #3 - Do they (“I”) **READ THE BIBLE?** – (Discipleship) – John 15:7-8- *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Step #4 - Do they (“I”) **GO TO CHURCH** without you? – (Fellowship) – Heb 10:24-25- *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Step #5 - Do they (“I”) **BEAR FRUIT** of a Christian? – (Character) – Galatians 5:22-23- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Step #6 - Do they (“I”) **WALK THE TALK?** – (Lifestyle) – Ephesians 5:1-21 (Walk in love, light & wisdom.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Step #7 - Do they (“I”) **WORK?** – (Responsible) – 2 Thess 3:10- *For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Step #8 - Do they (“I”) **LOVE?** – (Heart) – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13- *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails . . . And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

### > **HOW TO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!**

When you and that special Christian someone has taken *all* eight steps down the straight and narrow path to the altar, and God has clearly spoken to you, and there’s no other person you’d rather spend your life with, and you have no doubts, and you’re 100% sure that you are head over heels for this person, then, and only then, should you say ***“I DO” & “I LOVE YOU TILL DEATH SHALL WE PART, AMEN!”***