

## Marriage - continued

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All other marriages are adulterous marriages and “fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4). Do not marry someone who does not have a God-given right to marry.

Second, marry a faithful Christian. Yes, a Christian married to a non-Christian is allowed by God (1 Corinthians 7:12-14). But, it is a less-than-ideal relationship that has built in problems (1 Corinthians 7:15; 1 Peter 3:1-7).

What about 2 Corinthians 6:14ff? Does this scripture prohibit marrying a non-Christian. No. First, Paul is giving a general admonition to the entire church in all their social relationships, not just dating couples thinking about marriage. Second, Paul speaks of an “unequal” yoke, not the absence of a yoke all together.

What about marrying “only in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 7:39). The context points out that Paul had in mind for a Christian widow to marry a Christian (if they marry at all, vv.8-9,39-40) because of “the present distress” (v.26). A Christian widow marrying a Christian under “the present distress” would be hard and marrying a non-Christians would be foolish. Marrying a Christian is the wise thing to do (1 Corinthians 9:5; 14:34-35; 1 Peter 3:7).

- continued next week -

## Sentence Sermons

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- Jesus died for you, will you live for him?
- Don't adjust scripture to fit what you believe, adjust what you believe to fit scripture.
- Praying frequently helps you to pray fervently.
- Many folks are more concerned with having their name stamped on the outside of their Bible than with having their hearts stamped with what's on the inside of their the Bible.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Who Are You Going to Marry ? - Part I

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Marriage, is a most important decision. In fact, marriage is the second most important decision you will ever make in life next to the decision to become a Christian. Critical decisions like these demand critical preparation. Your decision of whom to marry can even effect where you will spend eternity. Who are you going to marry?

Often more time goes into preparing for a 35 minute wedding ceremony, than goes into preparing for a life-long relationship! For example, the contents of one minister's marriage handbook is 85% about the ceremony and 15% about premarital counseling.

Marriage is often not considered an important decision because it can be broken so easily today by divorce. Marriage, however, is not to be entered into lightly. We can't just draw up a list of our own personal qualifications, find the person who meets those qualification, and pop the question. It's not a job interview! There's more to it than that.

Yet, as a Christian we can set some minimum, biblical qualifications that a "candidate" will have to meet. Once these qualifications are met, then personal preferences can come into play (like one's hobbies, personal tastes, age, looks, etc.). A good place to start is with seeking help from the Lord: "A prudent wife is of Jehovah" (Proverbs 19:14). Pray to God for

help with selecting a godly mate.

Here are five questions that some people in the world ask concerning marriage (adapted from Gary R. Collins, *Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide*, Revised Edition, pp. 377-382):

1. Why do people choose a mate? They do it for "love," selfish needs, social pressure, recovering from a rebound, or to have proper God-given companionship, mutual support and sexual expression.
2. Why do some people not choose a mate? They do it because the person is not eligible, they have lost their opportunity, they have mental / physical / psychological "defects," they lack emotional independence, or they have no interest in traditional marriage.
3. Where do people find mates? They find them among similar social, economic, educational, religious, occupational, or race classes of people.
4. Why do some people choose mates unwisely? They have unrealistic expectations, they expect to receive without giving, to prove their adulthood, to escape the stigma of being single. Others marry because of a rebound, to get a sex partner, to improve one's status, to bolster one's self-esteem, or to have financial security. Some marry because of drug involvement, an unwanted pregnancy, divergent religious beliefs or cultural differences, or because they never dated anyone else.

5. Why do some people choose mates wisely? They have solid religious convictions and good marriageability traits. Careful mate selection lays a solid foundation for a lasting marriage and a godly home.

Be careful. Dating leads to "falling in love", which leads to marriage. We must understand mate selection rationally before we experience it emotionally and romantically.

Avoid these stumbling blocks in selecting a mate. For example, be careful not to say, "There is just one for me." Or, "There is no one else for me." Don't just settle for any mate. And, be careful not to say, "Love is blind." It is amazing how you get 20/20 vision right after you are married!

Let us now consider some biblical principles in selecting a mate. First, my prospective mate must be eligible for marriage. By eligible, I mean does the person have a scriptural right to marry by God's law on marriage.

In the New Testament we are told that there are three persons who may marry: 1) one who has never married before (Matthew 19:4-6); 2) one who has divorced (put away) their mate for fornication (Matthew 5:32; 19:9); and, 3) one who's spouse has died (Romans 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39).