

## Marriage - continued

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tinual jealousy and quick-temperament.

Now that I have learned three biblical principles concerning choosing a mate, what do I do now? Well, if you have not made a choice yet, take your time and choose wisely (at least in our society you get to choose)! Be patient and pray a lot.

First, set your standards before you get emotionally involved with someone and don't change your standards. Statistics show that most people come to counselors for marital advice after they are married, not before. Why wait for a problem to exist before getting help? Second, go where other like-minded Christians are and meet them.

If you have already made a choice and you now realize that it's no good, work it out, or break up. You can get over a break up in this life, but you will not be able to change God's eternal judgment against your bad marriage in the life to come. It is better to marry later in life, or not marry at all, than to lose your soul and the souls of your children because of a bad marriage.

Parents and grandparents, start teaching your children and grandchildren early in life what to look for in a godly mate. Singles, marriage is a wonderful, God-given relationship, don't ruin it by not knowing who to marry.

## Sentence Sermons

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- Can we honestly say to others what Paul said to us: Be imitators of me?
- We read the written word so that we can be like the Living Word.
- Let God make us in his image; not us make God in our image.
- God is a forgiving God, but not a permissive God.
- God is not impressed with our busyness, but with our fruitfulness.

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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 2

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In last week's bulletin we asked the question, Who are you going to marry? We looked at the importance of marrying someone who is eligible by God's law and marrying someone who is a Christian.

While it is important to marry a Christian, we must be careful not to marry someone who is a "Christian" in name only. We should not marry a "Christian" who is unfaithful, but a Christian who is faithful. Marrying a baptized believer does not guarantee anything. We must ask ourselves, Does this Christian show evidence in their life of the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23) and other Christian qualities?

What about marrying a non-Christian? Marrying a non-Christian has potential problems. The non-Christian might keep you from attending worship services (via transportation, job relocation, vacation, etc.). They might keep you from giving properly, prayer, Bible study, or doing the Lord's work (outside the church building). They might keep you from obeying God's word on marriage.

A non-Christian might keep you from being moral and modest in your dress, talk, or habits. They might keep you from godly friends or keep you from raising your children properly. Also, you may or may not convert a non-Christian. If you plan to change him or her, the statistics are not in your favor. And, there will al-

ways be the emotional turmoil in your heart of knowing that he or she will be lost in hell.

After marriage you will have two basic tasks: help your spouse go to heaven and help your children go to heaven. A good question to ask is this: Is this person worth going to hell for? Is it worth possibly losing my soul (and the soul of my children) for this person? Are there any danger signs here? Is this person a nice person, but not a Christian?

The third biblical principal (behind marriage eligibility and marrying a Christian) is maturity. Is the person mature enough for marriage? We all have basically two ages: 1) a physical age counted in years, and 2) a mental age counted in maturity. A person can be old enough to marry, but not mature enough to marry.

When we marry we need to have a mature understanding of marriage. Marriage is: a) divine in origin, b) united in construction, c) monogamic in form — one mate, d) mutual in consideration, e) patriarchal in government — the husband is the head, f) indissoluble in nature, g) multiple in purpose — for self and children, h) simple in constituents, and i) strict in regulations — governed by God's word (adapted from James P. Needham, *The Home As God Would Have It*, pp. 4-6).

We must marry a person with a mature acceptance of these marriage responsibilities. There are husband-wife roles, spiritual goals and values to be set, and the raising of children

properly. There are mature attitudes toward the spouse that must be displayed. A spouse, for example, must be respectful, dependable, trustworthy, and responsible in word and deed.

Here are some questions to ask regarding marriage maturity: Is this person able to work through problems, make choices, and live with the consequences of one's decisions? Is this person able to give and receive biblical "love" - a serving, sacrificial, and selfless love? Is this person able to acknowledge, control, and express emotions without tearing down? Is this person able to postpone immediate gratification when necessary? Is this person able to communicate rationally (listening carefully and speaking kindly)?

Is this person willing to objectively examine self and correct immoral flaws? Is this person willing to adjust and compromise in matters of opinion? Is this person willing to understand, be sensitive to, and empathize with the feelings, hurts and needs of a spouse? Is this person willing to commit to a life-long relationship that includes joys, risks, sorrows, difficulties, obstacles, and challenges?

Is this person concerned for more than just physical or social attractiveness. Charm, wealth, popularity, and beauty cannot take the place of genuine Christian character. Are there any danger signs here? Does this person show signs of con-