

BEFORE CHOOSING YOUR PARTNER

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“My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.” {Proverbs 2:1-5}

Wisdom is profitable to direct. Wisdom is needed in making a choice about who to spend the rest of your life with. The choice you make determines how your marriage will look like. You are the one who decides who to marry. And you are responsible for the outcome of your choice. There is a need to seek God’s guidance before making a choice of a life partner.

Marriage is a lifelong affair. Divorce is not supposed to be in the program of a Christian single who loves the Lord and want to please him at all times. Therefore effort should be made to make the right choice to avoid regret and pain.

SIX QUESTIONS YOU MUST ANSWER BEFORE PROPOSING

1 Does the girl you want to propose to love God’s presence?

A woman who does not love God’s presence is not good enough for you as a Christian man. Anyone who does not love God’s presence will not fear God, and the word of God will not make sense to such a person. To marry such, is to have someone in the house that will resist change and the principles of God. Marry someone who loves God’s presence.

2 Ask yourself, ‘would she respond to my love and counsel?’

You should not marry any woman, who cannot respond to your love. Some people usually do not respond when being loved. The only thing they know is what they want from you. Marriage must be built on pure love and not selfish love.

3 Would she submit to me?

Never marry a woman who will not submit to you no matter how much you love her. Authority is important. There must be submission to authority for success to be attained in a marriage. There must be order in the home. God arranged it that way. Marry a submissive woman it will make your marriage sweet and peaceful. I didn’t say you should look for a maid or slave.

4 Is she teachable?

A teachable woman is correctable and improvable. You need to marry someone who loves the word of God enough to practice it. Someone who is not teachable cannot be improved. And it is the desire of every man that the wife improves to become what his dream of a wife is.

5 Ask yourself, ‘is she organized and homely?’

Every woman should be organized. Many women are not organized that is why they find it difficult to keep the home tidy and they see it as a hard job. Womanhood is homeliness. Marry a woman who is homely.

SIX QUESTIONS YOU MUST ANSWER BEFORE ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL

Before you say yes I do to a man who proposes to you, you need to ask yourself these questions, and sincerely answer them.

1. Does he love God's presence?

God wants every man to be a man of his presence. Don't marry a man who does not love God's presence. In God's presence, change occurs. In God's presence, people are transformed to be like God intended them to be. In God's presence, perfection of our character occurs. Any man, who does not love God's presence, will not fear God nor regard his word. Don't marry a man because he has money, or because he has good prospects. Marry a man because he loves God's presence, because God will continuously change him and put his fear in his heart. Never marry a man who visits the church, and finds praying and bible study boring.

2. Does he work?

A man who does not work is not qualified for marriage. Marriage is for only those who work because they need to work to feed their family. Never accept a proposal from a man who is not working or about to pick up a job, or else your marriage will be filled with crisis. Money answers to the needs in a home, so the man must work to make money available. Some men marry ladies because they have money or because they come from a rich home. You need a man who can take care of you. It takes a working man to do that.

3. Can he cultivate me (bring out the best of me)?

Every woman needs a motivator to help her become what God wants her to be. You need a man who can motivate you. You need a man who is willing to cultivate you until you become fruitful. It takes motivation to remain a good wife and a good mother. Check the man out very well, how he comments on your dressing, looks, career and your general well being. This will give you an idea of whether he will be able to cultivate you.

4. Can he protect me?

It is the duty of the man to protect his wife and children. So you need to ask yourself this question. You need a man who can take care of you and make you feel secure. How protective is he? Does he love the company of many women? Does he have the capability to give you financial security? If you marry him, what position will you be in his list of priorities? The answers to these questions will tell you whether to marry him or not.

5. Can he teach me the word of God?

Every man is supposed to be the teacher in the home because he is the leader of the home. You need to marry someone who knows the bible well enough to teach you. A man who knows the bible will follow the principles of God's word. And that is an advantage to you because the word will be affecting him positively.

6. Can I submit to him?

Never marry a man you cannot submit to. It will be fatal to marry a man you cannot submit to. It takes submission for marriage to succeed. Every woman should recognize that the man is the head of the home, and therefore must be willing to submit to him. To marry a man you cannot submit to for reasons best known to you is invitation to crisis. That marriage can never work. Those of you who want to marry a man you are richer than, or better placed than, or older than, you must make up your mind to submit to him before entering that marriage. As a human being, ego will always come up, and that can make you to become pompous and disrespectful. Therefore, settle it in your mind to remain humble and submissive all the days of your marital life.

FIVE QUESTIONS YOU MUST ANSWER BEFORE A FINAL DECISION ON WHO TO MARRY (FOR BOTH MAN AND WOMAN)

1. Do you love him or her with all your heart?

- How strong is the love?
- What you have in your heart is it love or lust?

You need to answer these questions sincerely and accurately for you to make a final decision. Once you are married you are married, there is no going back. There is no room for divorce in God's word, so you must be sure of the one you want to marry. Love must be the foundation of your relationship. And the love must be genuine and strong.

2 Can you respect, be proud of and introduce him or her to your friends, colleagues and family?

Any person you are not proud of or you are not excited about introducing is not fit to be your husband or wife. You must marry someone you can showcase to the world. Don't marry someone out of pity or because you want to please your family. Marry someone you'll be proud of.

3. Can you tolerate the person's weakness?

Everybody has a weakness. The person you want to marry and yourself has at least a weakness. You must assess the weaknesses of your intending partner and be sure you can cope with his or her weaknesses; otherwise, your marriage will end unceremoniously. You must also recognize your own weakness and consider the fact that you need someone who can also tolerate and bear with you until you are able to overcome. Look for the right person.

4. Will he/she fit into your vision in life?

Once a woman is married, her first priority after God is her husband; therefore the vision of the woman must be within the husband's vision. A home cannot survive two conflicting visions. You must discuss to find out the vision of the one you want to marry to be sure that it does not conflict. Where it does conflict, the woman should make adjustments or forget about the relationship. The woman is sent to the man to help the man. So the man's vision is more important. Don't marry a man who has no vision. If you love him so much, help him to develop a vision that he can pursue before ever

entering into marriage with him. It is suicidal to marry a man who is going nowhere and looking forward to nothing.

5. Is he/she God's will for you?

There is a purpose for every man on earth. And for every purpose there is always a provision of men and materials to fulfill it. You are here for a purpose and there is a husband or wife to help you fulfill your purpose. Only God knows that person. Though he has given us the free will to make our choice of a partner, he still tells us to seek his face so he can reveal his plan for our lives.

Jer 29:10-13

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

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Deut 30:19

19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

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Take time to seek God to be sure that whom you want to marry is the right person. You will not blame God or anybody for the choice you make. You will be responsible for the choice you have made. Take your time. Don't rush it.