

Before YOU SAY “Yes, I DO”

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“And the lord God said ‘it is not good that man should be alone’ (Gen. 2:18).

“To the married I give this command not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife” (I Cor: 10,11)

“I hate divorce’ says the LORD God of Israel, and I hate a man covering himself with violence as well as with his garment, says the Lord Almighty” (Malachi 2:16)

God created marriage because he did not design man to survive alone” Aloneness create durability. The desire to be married is godly and not evil. The way you go about it can be evil. The selection of a partner is not an easy thing either, because the choice you make can make you to want to live life more than the years allocated to you by your Creator or end it before the appointed time.

God loves marriage. He hates divorce. Therefore, you must be careful before you say, “I do”. That you are getting old and all your mates have gotten married does not mean you should jump into marriage. In the Old Testament, God declares, “*I hate divorce*”. In the New Testament, Paul says the lord commanded that no woman should separate from her husband, if you do, then remain single or reconcile, and no man should divorce the wife. Any one, who is thinking of pleasing God and making it with Jesus must think twice before saying, “Yes, I do”.

Marriage is all about relationship and not a mere reproduction center for human babies. Marriage is a sowing ground where you sow your patience, love enthusiasm and watch it grow and multiply in those around you who celebrate your presence. There is therefore a need to find someone that is compact to your kind of person.

1. Think twice if he/she is uncomfortable in the presence of God.

Anyone who does not love the presence of God will transgress his word and is capable of any evil. Anyone, no matter how beautiful or handsome who does not love God’s presence, will see preachers as enemies, will become intimidated by your church attendance, will always accuse you of infidelity each time you come back home late from evening service. Such people have lots of struggles in life, and greatness becomes nearly impossible.

2. Think twice if you do not possess a passionate desire to give to him or her.

The proof of Love is the desire to give. Jesus explained it this way: “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. (Jn.3: 16)*

Too often, marriage becomes an exchange. Exchange is the evidence of business not love. You should desire to give time, the greatest gift God gave you. The proof of love is the investment of time.

3. Think twice if he/she does not possess a passionate desire to give back to you.

I am not referring to expensive gifts, huge amounts of money or clothes. A listening ear, flexibility, patience and willingness to be corrected are gifts.

4. Think twice if your personal achievement does not create excitement in him or her.

5. Think twice if what excites and captivates you does not excite and captivate him or her

When visions and passions conflict, there is sure to be quarrels in the home. You cannot know a man well by studying him, but by studying his focus.

6. Think twice if you have lost your desire to impress him or her.

Something is wrong when you no longer desire to present your best to your mate.

7. Think twice if he /she never ask quality questions concerning your greatest dreams and goals.

Questions reveal desire. Questions reveal humility. Questions reveal interest. Questions reveal acceptance of who you are.

8. Think twice if you do not see continuous improvement in the relationship.

Improvement is revealed by the decrease of conflict.

9. Think twice if he/she ignores worthy counsel from qualified mentors in his or her life.

Rebellion against the counsel of their pastor or mentor reveals he or she is living an undisciplined uncovered and unadvised life. It is a sign that tragedy looms.

10. Think twice if his or her pastor cannot recommend him or her.

11. Think twice if he or she shows little or no pain or remorse concerning his/her past mistakes and sin.

Those who are truly repentant truly hurt. Repentant people are not arrogant. Repentant people do not blame others for their decisions. Memories of mistakes should produce sorrow and heartache. Uncorrected behavior becomes repeated behavior. The fear of God will keep a mate faithful. Beauty will not.

12. Think twice if you are able to deceive and manipulate him easily.

You will never respect any man you are capable of deceiving.

13. Think twice if he or she enjoys the climate and atmosphere of rebels.

People who are not offended by sin should be avoided. Anything that grieves God should grieve you. Don't marry anyone who is comfortable with sin and sinners. You will regret it if you do.

14. Think twice if the atmosphere of unbeliever's excites him or her.

"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers...." (2Cor. 6:14)

If you love the presence of God, marry the person who loves the presence of God. Anyone who loves a smoke-filled, curse-saturated, filthy-joking, beer-drinking crowd should not be your mate. You have no future with someone who insists on fueling their passion in the atmosphere of the ungodly.

15. Think twice if he /she have an obsession to attract the attention of the opposite sex.

16. Think twice if breaking the law is humorous and exciting to him or her.

17. Think twice if he/she shows little respect for the agenda and schedule of others, especially yours.

Your respect for the schedule of others reveals much about your priorities.

18. Think twice when it is obvious that you will never become his/her focus and assignment.

19. Think twice when he/she embraces an accusation against you before he/she have heard your side of the matter.

20. Think twice if he/she has not exited previous relationship peaceably.

21. Think twice if his/her parents have contempt for you or your assignment in life.

The bloodline is more powerful than anyone can imagine. It is a spiritual thing. It is a spirit connection. If you marry someone who rebels against the parent's wishes, when crises comes, he or she will reach back to the bloodline for affirmation.

If you marry someone whose parents look condescendingly upon you because of your lack of education, social class or finances, remember that they will be the third party always speaking into the heart of your mate.

22. Think twice if he/she refuses to sit consistently under the mentorship of a spiritual leader.

Changes will not occur without worthy mentors or uncommon pain. Unwillingness to sit under the mentorship of a proven man of God is a devastating revelation of potential failure.

23. Think twice if little things make him/her terribly angry.

24. Think twice if he or she refuses to find a job or take his/her job serious.

It is a sin not to work. Laziness is never encouraged by God or His word. Productive women excite productive men.

25. Think twice if his/her dreams is not big enough to motivate him or her.

Never marry a man without a vision. Laziness, love of pleasure and busybody is a manifestation of lack of vision.

26. Think twice if he/she feels inferior to you.

True, everyone is superior to others in some way. But, it is important that those who walk beside you feel confident, qualified and called of God to be your mate.

27. Think twice if he/she does not long to understand and pleasure you.

You cannot relate well with the one you don't understand. Real love longs to pleasure another.

True love seeks every opportunity to communicate itself. Your mate should long to know the things that make you happy and do them.

28. Think twice if continuous strife exists between him/her and his/her parents.

Those who celebrate and submit to the authority over their lives ultimately succeed.

29. Think twice if he/she treats the favor of others with ingratitude.

30. Think twice if he/she does not have a hunger to know the voice of God.

Obedience to given instructions is the secret of every success. The Bible is God's voice. If a man or woman disdains (despises) the voice of Truth and wisdom, they will birth a parade of tragedies and catastrophes.

- Their decisions will create losses.
- Their weakness will flourish.
- Unlawful desires will rage like an inferno.
- Such a marriage is an invitation to spiritual suicide.

31. Think twice if you are not excited about introducing him/her to those you love.

It will be a tragedy to marry anyone you will not be proud of. When you are truly in love, that's all you want to talk about.

32. Think if he/she shows little respect for the battles you have won through your lifetime.

When someone loves you, he/she admires your achievements.

33. Think twice if conversation with him/her has become burdensome.

Right people energize you. Wrong people exhaust you. True love energizes.

34. Think twice if he/she makes major decisions without consulting you.

35. Think twice if your time spent with him/her always ends with personal guilt or disappointment.

- Be careful what you say and do when you are together.
- Sex before marriage is forbidden by God for his people.
- Fondling of your mate when not married is evil and an invitation to the devil to help you sin against God.

36. Think twice if people of excellence do not surround him or her.

Study the kind of people that your potential mate finds enjoyable. That is a clue to his/her life and your future with him or her.

37. Think twice if he/she is unwilling to follow your unselfish personal advice and counsel.

38. Think twice if you do not admire the mentor at whose feet he or her sits.

Every mentor is feeding either a strength or weakness in his protégé. If you oppose your mate's mentor, a happy marriage is impossible because there will be conflicts.

39. Think twice if you only enjoy his/her presence during your moments of weakness instead of your moments of strength.

Don't let anybody marry you out of pity. Don't marry anyone because you want to help the person.

40. Think twice if he/she continually give you counsel contrary to the word of God.

The word is truth. It will withstand any test. It destroys wrong desires within a man. If you obey it, it will bless you. If you disobey it, it will curse you. Your reaction to God's word determines God's reaction to you and your children.

41. Think twice if his/her presence does not motivate you to higher level of excellence.

You already possess weakness. You don't need anyone to feed them. Anyone can pull you down. That is why God gives you a mate to lift you up and help you overcome your weaknesses.

42. Think twice if you cannot trust him/her with the knowledge of your greatest weakness.

Your mate is in your life to strengthen you and not weaken you. If you believe it is necessary to hide your weakness instead of share it, you may have the wrong mate.

43. Think twice if you cannot trust him/her with your finances.

Do not marry anyone too immature to handle financial responsibility. Don't marry a waster. Do not marry a miser. Marry anyone who is committed to accountability and financial prudence.

44. Think twice if you cannot trust him/her with your most painful memories.

Every person is running from a painful memory. Memories are keys to understanding one another. Everyone needs somebody to help heal hurtful memories.

45. Think twice if you cannot trust him/her with your greatest fears or secrets.

Fear often limits us. It should motivate us to change. Whatever it is, – think twice if the love is not strong enough to destroy fear.

“Perfect love casteth out fear”(1Jn. 4:18).

46. Think twice if you cannot trust him/her around your closest friends.

Flirtation is deadly and a signal that your heart will definitely be broken.

47. Think twice if you cannot trust him/her in your absence.

Jealousy is a cruel dictator and tyrant. It is often unfounded and produced by a painful memory of disloyalty or betrayal.

48. Think twice if you cannot trust him/her to pursue God without your constant encouragement.

Never marry anyone who does not have a longing for God.

49. Think twice if you are managing a hurtful relationship simply because you are afraid you may not find another person, and because you are considering your age or under pressure from your family to get married.

It is better not to marry, than to marry and live in misery and pain.

50. Think twice if you are becoming peaceless over your relationship with him/her.

Peace of heart serves as an umpire in determining the will of God for our lives in all issues.

CONCLUSION

Define your present relationships honestly and clearly. If you persist in an unwholesome relationship, painful consequences will teach you.

Never lean on your own understanding. Lean on God's word. Ask the Holy Spirit to unmask everyone who seeks a relationship with you or is in a relationship with you. He will always reveal truth to the seekers.

Let the Holy Spirit guide you.