

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP

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1. Can a born again Christian marry a non believer?

2 Cor 6:14-18

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

*17 "Therefore come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.*

*Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you."*

*18 "I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty."*

NIV

The scripture is clear on the fact that a Christian should not marry an unbeliever. If they both married as unbelievers, that is a different situation and is allowed. For singles who are yet to be married, it is essential that a born again believer marry a fellow believer so they will have the same Spirit of God in them, believe the same thing and work towards the same destination – heaven. The believer represents light while the unbeliever represents darkness, and the two cannot work together. God concludes by calling the believer to stay away from copulating with the unbeliever and stay with God and His people.

Anyone who disobeys this instruction will like some who have did and are paying for it today, will have him or herself to blame. You can never be wiser than God. This has always been God's instruction to His people right from the Old Testament time till date. Israel was not permitted to marry outside their own nation. The same thing He wants every believer to practice by marrying only believers. If God is your Father and you His son or daughter, then you need to stay in the family of God and not marry outside.

• Who can be described as a believer and who is not a believer?

The problem we face every day is identifying who really is a Christian and who is not. Many people go to church, but not many are truly converted, as a result, it becomes very difficult to identify who truly is a Christian. Many come to church for many reasons. Some come to find a mate and that is just all they are interested in without actually giving one's life to Christ. The teaching of Jesus that we will know them by their fruit becomes very essential. To identify who truly is a Christian, you need to watch for the fruit of repentance. Again, we know that some

people are very good pretenders, so it may not be easy to identify if they are pretenders or not, so, the single searching for a true Christian partner should continually pray to God for guidance for He alone knows all men, who they are and what they are capable of becoming or manifesting in the future. You need to ask God to unmask the person seeking your hand in marriage to be sure who he or she is in the spirit.

That a person is a genuine Christian does not mean that it is the will of God that the two of you can succeed in marriage together. It is advisable that you involve God in the search for the fitting and compatible partner. It is only with God can you find the right fitting Christians partner.

2. How far can a Christian go in Christian courtship? What is allowed and what is not allowed in Christian courtship? How far is too far?

Rev 21:8

8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

NIV

1 Cor 5:9-11

9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people- 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

NIV

In many Christian relationships and courtships, many people go too far and do things that are not godly and acceptable by scriptural standards. They forget sanctity, separation and holiness for sensual desires. They strive to please themselves rather than God their creator and redeemer. For such their own happiness is more important and worth pursuing than glorifying God in their relationships. God is, and will always remain a principled and holy God, and anyone who seeks to worship Him must keep that in mind and make sure his or her life is pleasing to God and not self.

Love is real and active and need to be expressed always. When love is not expressed it appears that one does not love his or her partner. In expressing love, some times, singles do wrong things. They go too far and do things that God does not love, and offends Him. Moderation should be practiced in all things and at all times. Never overdo things. Never go too far. There are things a Christian can do and there are things a Christian should not do. There are things a Christian can say and there are things a Christian cannot say because they are not godly and holy enough for a Christian who is sanctified and kept for the Master's use.

A peck on the cheek is ok for a courting couple, but mouth to mouth kissing going up to a minute or more should be considered to be too far for a believer, because, such action can lead to fornication. Hugging and holding your partner may be considered to be all right, but it always leads to something more. It sets those involved in the act on sexual fire that they cannot quench,

and eventually consumes them. In everything, a man can go too far. It is important that we practice moderation in all that we do.

Consider the following as taboos for you as a Christian if pleasing God is on your mind. If the Lord is really your Saviour and Lord, it is essential that you determine in your heart to live for His glory all your life especially now that you are single.

- Sex before marriage
- Being naked before your partner
- Undressing or dressing up while he or she watches.
- Watching blue film together or pornography, especially together.
- Sitting on his laps,
- Long kisses, long embrace, fondling, and romancing.
- Keeping late nights with your fiancée.
- Camping at his place for a weekend or more.
- Moving in to live with your partner before marriage
- Getting pregnant because your parents or partner's parents demanded for it as a condition for marriage.
- Preoccupying yourself with sex talk