

SEVEN MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS CHRISTIAN SINGLES ASK ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

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There are many questions that single Christians normally ask irrespective of nation, culture and civilization. I am going to be answering the seven most important ones in this teaching.

1. Is it right to marry a non-Christian?

Many young people though they have read or been told what the scripture says about Christians marrying unbelievers, they still ask the question and fall in love with unbelievers and desiring to marry them.

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

It is important that you understand that you cannot be wiser than God your Maker and Creator of relationships. He is the God whom we worship and look up to for instruction, direction and blessing. He blesses those who love Him enough to obey His instructions. All God's instructions are given in love with great insight and wisdom. God sees what we don't see and He knows what we don't know. So, He is in a better position to instruct and guide us in the truth.

In His wisdom and great insight, he instructed His church not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. Marrying an unbelieving man or woman is not right. It is wrong because it is against God's instruction. You may not know what God knows or see what God sees, that does not mean you should not obey His command. You are to trust in the sincerity of and honesty of God, and believe in Him and obey Him in this matter no matter how strong your love for this unbelieving fellow is.

Marrying someone who is the temple of idols and demons, while you are the temple of God is not wise. You need not just a spouse, but a spouse who believes what you believe, and have the same kind of spirit that you have. You don't just marry someone because he or she is a Christian, you marry someone who believes the same truth that you believe. You must understand that everyone thinks, talks, feels, and acts based on beliefs and spirits that lives within them and influence and control their lives. So, if you marry someone who has the wrong spirit and believes the wrong things, he or she is going to be influenced and controlled by the beliefs and spirit within. The result will be conflicts and pain. And God

wants to spare you this. You can't be wiser than God. Accept His instruction and marry only a born again Christian who believes the same teachings and truth you believe, and fit your kind of person.

2. Is it all right to marry a woman that is older than me?

There is no place in the word of God where it is written that a man should only marry a woman that is younger than he, or not marry a woman that is older than the man. You can marry an older woman, but after you have answered these questions and considered these points I am about to point out.

- a. Are you sure you will not be intimidated by her being older than you?
- b. Have you considered the fact that she may look upon you as her junior brother, and will be tempted to talk and treat you with that in mind?
- c. Have you searched your heart to be sure that you will not start bullying her in order to assert yourself as the head of the house, because something in you is threatened and wants to intimidate and subdue her?
- d. Will she submit to you without reservation and fear, though she knows you are younger than her?

These questions are important and you need to honestly and diligently ask yourself these questions and sincerely answer them. If your answers are positive, then you can go ahead and get married to her. If they are negative, then you have to reconsider and quit the relationship. The age difference is not the problem. What the problem is, are the issues that I have raised. Look at them and make up your mind afterwards.

3. If we don't have sex before marriage how will I know if the person I want to marry is potent and can bear children?

So many singles want to test (have sex) before marriage. This is wrong, for God calls it fornication. Sex is only permitted within marriage. When it is outside of a marriage, it is evil and sinful no matter your reason for doing it. Testing to see if the guy is potent and the lady can get pregnant is not an act of faith or Christian. Someone can get pregnant and have a baby, and afterwards, unable to get pregnant again. There have been people with such experience. A man can be potent for a long period of time and afterwards become impotent or weak sexually. Testing before marriage does not guarantee potency and fertility in marriage.

Eph 5:3

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

KJV

1 Thess 4:3

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

KJV

It is clear that the fear of having an active sex life is always on the mind of some singles. It is also clear that the issue of having babies is a serious matter in some cultures. Be that as it may, testing is not approved by God but condemned as fornication which is a sin before God. Go into your marriage in faith. But if you must investigate, go for medical tests to prove potency and fertility in your partner rather than sexual experience.

4. What is the right age to get married?

Many times, I have been asked this question by some singles during our single's meetings. My answer has always been the same. First, it is not about physical age, but about maturity and readiness to face marital challenges. There are those who have advanced in age, but sometimes reason and act as teenagers. For such, maturity in age is not enough.

- One has to be mentally (psychologically) mature to face the pressures and challenges of marriage.
- There is what I call emotional maturity – ability to handle your emotions and bring it under control no matter what the situation may be.
- Financial maturity is essential. It is not proper to go into marriage when you are not financially strong enough to carry the responsibilities of maintaining and running a home.

The age factor is usually the last thing I consider, while others consider it as the first thing. When you have developed and upgraded yourself to maturity level, then you can ask about the age question. Adulthood begins at 18 years of age.

“The age at which one is considered a legal adult in the US is typically 18. What defines a legal adult is ability to legally work, participate in contracts, vote, marry, give sexual consent, and join the military. Being a legal adult under 21 does not give one the right in most states to purchase alcohol, however.

The age one becomes a legal adult in the US is largely the age at which most children are considered adults in the world. A few countries set this age lower, but in most of the Western world, one is considered an adult at 18.

For many parents the term legal adult does not mean their children possess certain adult characteristics. For example, being an adult implies being able to make mature decisions, participate in civic matters, have self-control, and be responsible. Some 18-year-olds simply lack these characteristics and need further time to develop them. It concerns some parents that an 18-year-old can make life-altering decisions, like marrying early or joining the military, which may not have been made with significant forethought”. *(From wisegeek.com)*

“The age at which a person is considered an adult varies significantly in the different countries of the world. Much depends upon what constitutes being an adult. Most look to an age at which children can legally work, marry, vote, buy alcohol, be drafted, or be charged with a crime, as the adult age.

Great variance exists as to the age when one can work in different countries. When this is a factor of considering one an adult, the age can range from no laws at all, as in countries like Papua New Guinea, Yemen and Liberia.

Other countries set minimum age requirements for child labor. The lowest exist in countries like Syria, Paraguay, or Bangladesh, where minimum age is 12. Many work in developing countries begin work prior to reaching the minimum legal age, however. Most countries set minimum age at 15-16 years old. In a few cases, the minimum age may be 14. This compares to US figures where minimum age ranges from 15-16, and generally, one must have permission from parents to work prior to being 18 and being considered an adult.

Age of marriage, which is often considered the time at which one becomes an adult in certain countries, also shows great variance. In some countries there is no minimum age. Again, most countries set the minimum at 18. There are huge exceptions to this rule.

For example, in many African countries, such as Niger, Mozambique, and Mali, over 50% of girls are married prior to turning 18. In Yemen, 64% of girls are married before 18, and in Bangladesh, 81% of girls marry before 18. These figures often coincide with child labor laws that allow children to work at a young age. In these cases, many girls marry just after menarche (their first menstruation), and some marry prior to puberty. A married person, is for most intents and purposes, considered an adult.

In most countries, legal voting age is also set at 18 and defines who is an adult. A few countries espouse an earlier or later voting age. Some countries like Austria and Germany allow 16 year olds to vote in municipal elections. In Italy, however, one cannot vote to elect a senator, unless one is 25. Liechtenstein voters must wait until they are 30 to vote.

Another common litmus test for determining when one is an adult is the age at which one can purchase alcohol. The US figure of 21 is actually quite high. In some countries, alcohol can be purchased by anyone, but it is not treated with the same “rite of passage” reverence given by countries with a minimum drinking age. In the majority of countries, drinking age is 18. A few countries, including Spain, France, Austria, and Germany set drinking age at 16. Some countries allow children under the drinking age to consume alcohol but not purchase it.

Age can affect when children are considered criminally responsible, or an adult in the eyes of the law. It is perhaps not surprising that countries with low age for marriage, drinking or child labor assess criminal responsibility as early as seven. Yet, the United States also considers seven year olds as criminally responsible, and possibly able to be charged as an adult. This is rare, but not impossible. Frequently, age of criminal responsibility rests at around 7-14 years old.

A person may also be considered an adult if he or she is drafted or volunteers for military service. In most countries this age is 18, though a few countries set the age at 16 or 17”. *(From wisegeek.com)*

It is clear that adulthood begins at 18 years of age. That means an 18 year old can marry if he or she is fully developed mentally, emotionally and financially to face the responsibilities and challenges of marriage. Since adulthood begins at 18 years of age, and marriage is for adults, then one can marry at 18. The only problem is that many 18 year old behave like teenagers in the way they reason, talk and act.

Age is always the last things to consider when maturity for marriage is being considered. Be sure you are fully mature. Your personality and character has been worked upon and you have trained your ability to control your thoughts and emotions, so you can live right. Age by itself does not contribute to success in marriage. What makes marriage successful is your level of knowledge, values in life, discipline and submission to the principles of God in every area of your life. Concentrate on those.

5. **What about distant relationship? Is it advisable?**

Distant relationships do work for some people, but does not work for some. There is nothing wrong in having a distant relationship. One of the problems is that there is a lot of deception and lies being shared by those in it because of distance. The other problem is that there is certain knowledge that can only be gained about your partner through face to face encounters, which distant relationship does not provide. This is the reason why it is advisable that before a marriage is finally decided upon, that you meet face to face a couple of times. Your meeting will expose some things that you need to give attention to, and make the right decision for or against marriage.

Distance cannot, and will not hurt a bond between two people that is based on **mutual respect, trust, commitment, and love**. Although you may feel like you are losing faith in your relationship at times, hold fast and trust your heart!

I, like you, truly believe that love & relationships are what make your life special, and that one's built on love & understanding are always worth preserving, regardless of the miles that may separate two people. So, don't throw away an existing relationship simply because you live or work apart. All across the world, there are couples just like you who are crazy about each other but are forced by circumstance to live apart. Just let God guide you and help you.

6. **What do I do seeing that my parents do not approve of the person I want to marry?**

This is a major problem that many singles face. The truth is that parental consent is very essential and highly recommended. In marriage, it is not just you and your spouse that are involved in the marriage, your families are also involved because you are leaving your family to marry into another family, and they want to know which family. It is also a fact that sometimes, our parents see what we don't see and they know what we don't know. Based on their insight and fears, they may refuse to give their consent. When this happens, it is important that you take your time to discuss and pray with them about it. I never advise that you ignore your parents and get married to the one you love, for tomorrow you may need them, and be unable to get them to help or relate with you the way you would have loved to. In order not to become enemies to your family, I encourage you to wait for their approval.

Pray rather than fight your family or parents. Ask God to convince them that you have made a good choice. Lovingly seek their approval. Take time to open their eyes to see what you have seen that they don't seem to see. Make effort too to see what they have seen – look at their reason for objection closely, and do not allow your emotions to stop you or close your eyes to what you ought to look at. If you are right and they are wrong, Continue in prayers and wait patiently for God to touch them. Seek counsel from your Pastor and let them help you sought things out with your parents.

7. I truly love her but my pastor and all who have prayed with me tells me she is not the will of God for my life. What do I do?

A young man took a girl to his pastor for introduction and prayers, after the pastor prayed, he told him, he should not marry the girl or he will have many problems. Not satisfied, he went to another man of God. The man of God said the same thing. He pleaded with him to change his mind and stay away, because he will have serious problems with the girl in his life. Others he sought discouraged him, but he loved the girl too much he couldn't see what they are seeing and wouldn't listen to a contrary opinion. What God said or revealed didn't matter to him. What mattered was his dream of a life with his girl. He finally got married, then his nightmares began. The summary of the story is that the girl was terribly possessed with marine spirits and she is not willing to be freed. The spirit husband of the wife made his life a living hell. The lady was constantly under torment and afflictions which was planned by her spirit group to drain the man of his finances and cripple his business. Now he sees clearly and is advising others to listen to their pastors when they speak on their choice of a life partner.

Your pastor is not a matchmaker, but a spiritual guide. He is standing between you and God and helps you to see from God's perspective and make the right choices in life. He is there to warn you of danger and point you in the right direction. Listen to him and allow him help you find happiness, peace and God's will.