

THE GOLDEN QUESTION

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In life, there are questions we must ask ourselves and sincerely answer if we are to move forward and have good success. As singles, this question is so important, that when accurately and sincerely answered, it will revolutionize and change the course of a man's life.

THE QUESTION

Which is the most important question, who do I marry (finding a marriage partner)? Or, Making myself marriageable (preparing myself to be marriageable)?

This question requires careful and sincere consideration. Many today are more interested in finding a partner than in preparing and perfecting themselves to fit in and handle marital life. Who to marry is not the first thing to consider. Those who concentrate on that, busy themselves in finding a partner or making themselves to be noticed without making adequate preparation for the real marital life. People today are ready to do anything, especially the ladies to get a partner.

When you concentrate on finding a partner rather than making yourself marriageable, you are likely to become troubled and frustrated, especially when it is taking time in coming. Many today have gone ahead and married outside the will of God because they were anxious to get married. Many married the wrong persons who did not fit into their kind of life and today they are miserable, or have quit the marriage.

Before, it was unthinkable for Christians to divorce their partners, but today, it is a common thing among Christians. This is a proof that rushing into marriage is not the best, but making preparation to have a good marriage is to be desired. Who you are is what you are going to reproduce in your marriage. Relationship is all about living out your personality. Therefore who you are and what you decide to become is very important.

KNOW THIS

1. **People are watching you.**

Some study from afar. Some study at a close range. Some enquire from those that have information about you. Why? They want to see if you qualify. That is why you must give attention to preparation.

This kind of people may confront you before or after their investigation, or they may not if the result of their investigation is negative. You may never know that someone is asking questions about you behind your back. This information should make you to be careful how you live your life. Many witnesses who will definitely testify about your kind of person without consulting you surround you. Wake up to this reality now. You are being watched. There are admirers around you who will want to come into your life, but will want to be sure that you are what they want.

2. **Not everybody believes in picking a partner by vision and dreams.**

It is not everybody who believes that the person they will marry must come to them by revelation of one sort or the other. They believe in finding for themselves a partner. They believe in getting

close enough to know if the person has what it takes to fit into their lives before proposing or accepting. They do not want a situation where they are made to marry someone they are not too sure they love enough or flow with, because of a vision or dream. For them it is friendship before marriage. They prefer a progressive relationship.

As the relationship progresses and they see what they don't like, or can't cope with, they may decide to quit the relationship. That you are in a relationship does not mean that the relationship will never break. It will only last if your life suits the man or woman you are in relationship with. This proves that you need to prepare yourself before looking for a partner.

3. Not everybody will want to continue a relationship when it is obvious that the conflict rate is high.

It is not advisable that a relationship with a high conflict rate continue. The high rate of conflict is a sign that it is a mismatch. To continue it is an invitation to crisis. Although there are a few people who will blindly continue such a relationship, because they are afraid they may not find another partner, or are not prepared to wait long to get married, or waited very long before they found the person they are presently in relationship with. Some may want to continue because they have faith that God will change the person they are involved with. The high conflict rate may be a sign that the marriage cannot work. Be wise and check your spirit to be sure what to do.

Not everybody will continue, as a result you must take time to work on yourself to be marriageable. Work on your character and behavior.

4. Your manners matter.

Some people don't have good manners. They don't know how to talk to people with respect and dignity. Some don't have eating manners. As a result they eat in an offensive manner. Your manners reveal who you are and how you carry yourself. It is very necessary that you develop good manners to enable you attract the right kind of person. Many people have run out of relationships in the past because they couldn't cope with the bad manners of the person they were involved with. People have fought over eating habits, snoring while sleeping and some things that look insignificant.

5. Your dressing matters.

You dress the way you want to be addressed. Your dressing tells a lot about you, your dreams and aspirations. When you dress shabbily, you drive would be spouses away from you. Dressing is for presentation. Present yourself well. They see what you wear before they get close to know who you really are. If you give the impression that you are a wayward girl or boy, you have yourself to blame for that. If you give the impression that you are a dirty and an untidy person, it is your fault when nobody comes near you. If no girl recons with you because they see you as an irresponsible man, check your dressing first.

This is not a call for extravagant dressing style, pre-occupation with what you wear and how you look, or overspending on clothes. But that you be decently dressed. If you have a few, make them tidy and neatly ironed. Carry yourself with respect.

6. Your use of language and talking habit is always considered.

Nobody wants to marry a talkative or a gossip. Everybody loves a moderately spoken person, whether male or female. The Bible tells us that it is better to live on the rooftop or desert than to live in the same house with a quarrelsome woman (Prov. 21:9,19). Nobody wants such a woman or man. People are watching you and are asking questions about you. So when next you want to complain that you are getting old and nobody is coming your way, check yourself first to find out if you are not the one driving him or her away.

If you have been suffering from broken relationships, the easiest thing to say is the devil is behind it. But, before you blame it on the devil, check if you are not the one driving them by the bad things they are seeing in your life.

7. Neatness of your person, living room, kitchen and place of work matters

So many people appear neat and tidy in their dressing, but dirty and untidy at home. When you want to come into their apartment, they will ask you to wait a little, to give them enough time to tidy up a little before you come in. Some will first go and clean up the toilet when you request to use it. Cleanliness that you are not used to in your single life will be a burden when you get married.

Those who are not used to cleaning their house and environment during single life, always complain of too much work in the house and their husband trying to turn them into slaves. Some even find it difficult to wash their “under wears”. It is a shame, but true. What you fail to master now that you have more time and energy, will be difficult to master tomorrow. Nobody wants to marry a pig.

If you happen to marry a person who is untidy and lazy in cleaning where he or she lives, how would your house look like? If you marry someone who is the opposite of you in matter of cleanliness, be rest assured you will always have arguments and quarrels over these matters. You can see from all these that everything counts in marriage. Get prepared by working on yourself now. Make improvement where necessary.

8. Your hair, beard, armpit, mouth, teeth and nails are also considered.

Mouth odour is offensive and drives people away, so also the stench from the armpit. Un-kept hair, beard and nails are not appealing but repelling. Choose the one you want.

9. Ability to get along with people matters.

The problem with people is that they don't know that all they do counts against them or in their favor. Many do not realize that people are watching them and assessing them because they are

interested in them. When the Pastor teaches his congregation to behave well and obey the word of the Lord, they think the Pastor is trying to run their lives. They do not realize that the lives they live are for their own benefit or their own destruction. Life is all about relationships, and the word of God is given to us to help us relate well. To reject the word of God is to reject good relationships.

Learn to get along with people well, because in marriage you are dealing with a human and not an angel.

10. Your tolerant rate should be worked on.

Your temper should be worked on. Your ability to overlook an offence without bitterness and grudge should be activated. In marriage just like in every other relationship, people hurt each other. That you love somebody does not mean that you would not say or do what will offend the one you love. Love is proven to be love when offense is forgiven. Forgiveness is the glue that binds a relationship together. Without it, marriage is impossible. When next you are charging or want to charge like a bull, remember someone is watching you, and may be your admirer.

11. Your reaction when wronged or wounded is observed.

12. Conflict resolution ability and determination to see a matter resolved is very important.

Some people give up easily when they have a problem with their friend, this is an indication of weak conflict resolution ability and a determination to resolve crisis, which always come up in marriage. The earlier you develop yourself in this, the better for you.

13. Ability to keep good friends and refusal to let go unrewarding friendships should be taken into account.

Life is all about relationships. And relationship brings influence. Refusal to let go unrewarding relationships is an indication that external forces will influence you in your marriage to take the wrong steps. Ability to keep good relationship is an indication that you will be willing to keep your marriage intact.

14. What you say about your family and would be in-laws reveal a lot about your person.

Jesus taught us that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. What a person says reveal what is in his heart. So you can be assessed by what you say, and you can assess another by what he or she says. Too much attachment to your family is not good for marriage. The law says, "Leave" and "cleave". Refusal to leave one's family and cleave to one's spouse spells doom for that marriage.

Hate towards proposed in-laws is a sign that there will be confrontation between your spouse and your family. So you have to decide what you want.

15. Vision and goals in life are very important.

Marrying a man without a vision is like following a man who is going nowhere – who has no focus or direction in life. Where he ends up is where you end up. The importance of vision cannot be overemphasized. Have a vision and passionately pursue it.

16. The faith of the person cannot be overlooked.

Living your life with an unbeliever because of material things or other considerations is insanity, and will definitely bring problems. The scriptures command that believers should not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 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.” “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Cor 6:14-18)

Living with a doubter (a negative) person is like pulling a motor truck tied to your waist as you try to make progress in life.

CONCLUSION

Many other issues that time and space will not allow me to enumerate are to be considered before a final choice is made. You can see from all that has been considered that preparation to be a marriageable person is more important than concentrating all your effort in looking for a partner. If you will channel your effort to building and perfecting yourself, you will attract a quality partner.

What you respect, you attract and receive. What you admire and work hard for, you will attract. You will not invest to make yourself good, and attract a bad person. The bad will feel inferior and intimidated around you. Go to work on yourself now.