

# WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN AN INTENDED SPOUSE

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*Prov 18:22*

*22 He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.*

*NIV*

To find a wife is a good thing in the sight of God and man. When a man does, he obtains favor from the Lord. This scripture reveals it is the job of a man to find a wife for himself. It is also a fact that he needs the help of God to help him since he does not know all things or what will happen in the future, and therefore may not be able to make the right choice without the help of God.

Jesus taught us to watch and pray.

*Matt 26:41*

*41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.*

*NIV*

So while you pray, your eyes must be open to make the right choice of a wife or a husband.

Marriage is a lifetime project. Marriage is serious business. Once the vow of marriage is taken, God is not expecting you to quit until death separates both of you. Therefore, careful thought should be taken before proposing, accepting a proposal or final vow of marriage is made.

Many are more concerned with beauty, handsomeness and financial power than the character of the person they are interested in. A girl may be very pretty, but troublesome. A girl may speak fine English and communicate well, but very selfish and outrageously wicked. A girl may have a good figure that is so attractive to every male that sees her, but dangerous when she is angry, and talks like a parrot. A girl may appear quiet and sweet on the surface, but a master in quarrelling and keeping malice. A girl may be a good singer in church, but does not know what it means to submit to authority. A girl may be well dressed and always look neat outside, but at home, disorganized, dirty and lazy. A girl may always talk faith in church and among friends, but at home, a grumbler and complainer. To crown it all, so many are pretenders to cover up their shortcomings, which they know that when exposed before marriage, may end their relationship.

Handsomeness is not a sign of maturity or a proof that he can take care of a woman. To be handsome is not the same thing as to be caring and patient. To be handsome is not a guarantee that the man will not manhandle his wife. To be

handsome does not mean that he will protect your interest as a wife. ‘He is very handsome’ does not mean he will bear with your failures, mistakes and weaknesses. “He has money enough to take care of me and my family” may be a fact, but it is not as important as him being faithful and loyal to you as a husband should. Money seeks to control the one who has it. Money attracts many girls. As you check his pocket, check his fidelity. Is he a womanizer? Does he have the tendency to look outside your home?

You can see that outward features though necessary, are not the most important. What make relationship succeed or fail are the character, habits, behaviors, mental attitude and weaknesses of the people involved in the relationship. What you should be looking out for more are the aforementioned. Haven’t you noticed that the suspicion rate is higher in the homes of those who married ‘Beautiful Ladies’ and “Handsome men”. What should have brought rest makes them restless. Look beyond these things.

If the reason for marriage is money, what will happen to your marriage if something goes wrong and there is a loss of job, business failure or something evil? Certainly, the fake love will be revealed and the marriage will collapse.

If you married for beauty or handsomeness, what will happen to your marriage if there was an accident; fire burn, chemical burn from creams or motor accident that affects the pretty face and figure? A good relationship is built on good character and nothing else.

### **WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR**

Before you start looking for someone to share your life with, there is a need for you to study yourself to know who you are - what kind of personality you have, your temperament, likes and dislikes, vision and dreams in life. You must know yourself to know what kind of person that will fit into your life perfectly.

**CAUTION:** As you go through this study with me, please take note of the things in your life that disqualify you as a good spouse and correct your life immediately. This teaching is calling for qualification from all intending to go into marriage.

**1.** Having gotten an understanding of who you are, you are to look out for someone who can fit your kind of person. You need a helper that is suitable to your person (Gen. 2:18). Don’t look for someone you can manage, but one who fits you.

**2.** Look out for someone whose vision agrees and complements your vision. To marry someone going in an opposite direction is an invitation to crisis. Marry someone with a vision to please God with his or her life and make it to heaven. Marry someone who has a vision of what he wants to become and achieve in life. Never marry a man who has no vision. Every man must have what he is pursuing in life or living for.

**3.** You need a workingman not necessarily a rich man. You must be sure the man you want to marry is gainfully employed and have the capacity to provide for your family. Do not go into a marriage when there is no assurance of income, otherwise, your love will soon turn to hate.

**4.** Look out for someone you will not be ashamed of in public because of his or her looks, character or personality. If he or she is not appealing to you, you will always be distracted by others.

**5.** Look out for someone who knows how to communicate well:

- Speaks clearly and in a simple way.
- Not a talkative.
- Not a busy body - do not talk about things that don't concern him or her.
- Not quarrelsome.
- Someone who knows the appropriate time to introduce a subject to get a good hearing and conversation.
- Does not talk arrogantly and sarcastically.
- Knows how to speak with wisdom.
- Does not always insist that her opinion must be accepted.

**6.** Look out for someone whose temperament is under control:

- Someone not given to anger.
- Someone who does not rage when offended.
- Someone who does not go violent when angry.
- One who does not talk anyhow, curse, or extend his/her words to in-laws when angry.
- One who has learnt to forgive and forebear no matter what.
- One who does not bear grudge or keep bitter record of wrongs.
- One who does not hide annoyance while nursing evil and revenge.

**7.** Look out for someone who is selfless and understands that love means sacrifice. A self-centered person is only after what he or she wants, and does not think of collective interests. Selfishness can be seen in his or her goals and pursuits, actions and reactions, and in relating with family members and would be in-laws.

**8.** Look out for a neat, tidy and organized person. Many run away from their homes because they are not clean enough. And some cannot invite certain people to their homes because they are ashamed. Get organized and be tidy yourself.

**9.** Look out for someone that you know will give you pleasure:

- Though a hard worker, but can play also.

- Not the over-outgoing type, but understands the value of relaxation and fun in relationship.
- Someone who can make you laugh and not sad.
- A motivator and encourager.
- Someone who will always be there for you no matter what you face from time to time.
- Not the “too much party” type, but knows when and how to celebrate good moments, victories and achievements.

**10.** Look out for someone who knows how to and is always willing to resolve every problem in relationship:

- One who does not point the accusing finger until he or she has examined him or herself.
- One so humble that he or she is willing to accept blame and make up for his or her mistake for peace to reign.
- One who knows how to say sorry in the way it will be accepted.
- One who can be called a “Peace Maker and Keeper”.
- One who pursues peace and does not wait to be approached first for peace.

**11.** Look out for someone who understands what it means to be one in marriage:

- Who does not see his and her income and possession as personal but for the family.
- Who looks out for collective interests.
- Strives to keep the marriage together.
- Always careful to do things that will keep the marriage together.
- Treat spouse’s family as he or she treats his or her own.

**12.** Look out for someone who fear God and loves Him with all his/her heart:

- Someone who believes in the word of God and is committed to practicing it in every area of life, including marriage.
- One humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at the word of God.
- One who is determined to follow Jesus cost what it may.
- One who does not just go to church, but committed to the growth of the Church.
- One who is a tither and giver to the cause of the gospel.
- One who is interested in winning souls and impacting lives for God.
- One who hates every form of evil but loves righteousness.

You are safe with such a person. For it takes the love and fear of God to make relationship like marriage work excellently well.

**13.** Let every man look out for a woman that will submit to their authority as God has commanded that there be orderliness and success in the marriage. Never marry a man you cannot submit to.

**14.** Let every woman look out for the man who will love her with all his heart as he loves himself and as Jesus loves the church and gave himself for her. Test his love and prove it to be genuine. Avoid those looking for sex before marriage. Anyone asking for sex before marriage is likely to cheat on you when you are married. Run from such if the person is insisting on it.

**15.** Look out for those whose associates are not ungodly, wayward, immoral, blasphemous men and women. Friends are influence. If the wrong people are speaking into the life of your intended spouse, he will manifest the wrong character, and that definitely will affect your relationship.

*1 Cor 15:33*

*33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."*

*NIV*

### **CONCLUSION**

You may be wondering how you can gather all these information about your intended spouse, I want you to know that as you prayerfully relate, these things will begin to reveal themselves naturally. It is therefore your responsibility to work on the information gathered to your advantage. If efforts are made to correct and effect change in your partner and in your life and it is not working, it is important that you make a decision either to bear and continue or to save yourself from future embarrassment and quit the relationship. Under such a circumstance, the latter will be the best decision.

I do agree that it is difficult to find a perfect mate, but it is necessary that you critically look at the weaknesses that is manifesting and the disagreements and quarrels to be sure that you will be able to tolerate it. If you know you cannot, then quit. If there are more arguments and differences than agreements and happiness, then, you have to reconsider the need to continue the relationship. You alone will have to make this choice. Prayerfully decide what to do.

Do not stubbornly ignore the signs the Holy Spirit may give you that the relationship will not work. Be sensitive to Him for He will always help you out with revelations of things you do not know about your intended spouse.

Do not also ignore the ministry of your local pastor in guiding you in your relationship seeing that he will give account of your life to God as a sheep under his care.

*Heb 13:17*

*17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

*KJV*

Be careful of pretenders, prayerfully investigate everyone that you are interested in or interested in you. Don't play games with this. Marriage is your life till death. Take your time to make your choice. May God help you in Jesus name.