

ON CHOOSING A MARRIAGE PARTNER



**3rd Biggest
Decision
of Our Lives**

The cost is too great - the pain can be so enormous - the damage forever - for us not to be extremely careful and as wise as we can about this major-major decision . . . Probably the 3rd biggest decision we will ever make in our lifetime . . . carrying with it some of the most profound effects on our lives and upon the lives of others . . .

“Till death do us part.”

Our marriage choice is probably the 3rd most important - **and dangerous** - decision we can make in our lifetime. Making a bad marriage decision can be one of the most painful and costliest decisions we can ever make - even in Christian circles.

Bad marital relationships and decisions (especially those that end in divorce) frequently cause tons of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and monetary - pain, anguish, trauma, broken people, broken hearts, and damaged & wounded lives. This can greatly be avoided.

Doing this one simple strategy can greatly help us ensure a healthy, fulfilling, and sustainable marriage:

Marry someone who has regularly scheduled – personal, private, God-times in their life. . . Prioritized times to seek God and interact with Him and His holy words, found in the Bible - Attending Church is Not Enough!

This is my greatest advice to young Christians that want to someday marry.

Of course, people can and do change courses in their lifetimes – even in Christian circles. For whatever reasons, even some that started out so strong, so dedicated, and so righteous – quit, and decide to live for themselves, and forsake trying to do what is right.

This is not a guaranteed cure-all . . . but it sure can have great results for many!

As a new Christian, I wanted to get married. In potential female candidates, I secretly looked for insight into their private (current and past) personal history and relationship with God. I tried to find out if they had regular and/or scheduled private God-times. This was my top-priority in finding the best wife. **No compromise on this one.**

I knew if they were regularly seeking and listening to God - *and I was doing the same* - we could overcome and “get-through” any problem that was going to come or that we ever faced!

If we are seeking God's perspective on an issue, and our spouse is seeking God's perspective on the issue, then our marital problems can be solved a lot more easily. (*Many times, both positions are right!*)

Wisdom can be defined as merely God's perspective on something - the way God sees it or views it. God promises to give us Wisdom if we ask Him, and ask in faith,

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." (James 1)

So obviously, if two people, as a lifestyle, are *desiring*, seeking, and finding Wisdom on a regular basis (people that want to continually see God's perspective on things), their marriage is most likely going to be a lot easier and happier and fulfilling.

There are many books on marriage and marriage counseling. Another small, simple, easy exercise in weighing a marital prospect, is to actually write down on a piece of paper several columns of lists. One column would be “**What We Would Like**” for a spouse. Another would be a list of “**Non - Negotiable**” of things we **have to have** in a spouse. If a potential spouse falls short on this list – they are “out.” Period. Another list would be the Pros and Cons of a current prospect.

This seems so simple, but many people I have talked with have never done this or were never intending to do this. This kind of thing – writing down your **preferences** in a spouse, your “**no compromise**” **needs** in a spouse, and **list-assessing** an actual potential spouse - hits you right in your face with factual accountability, and can help us to see more clearly - and help us keep emotion and hormones from blinding us.

Beware! Pre-marital sex does not just kill our personal relationship with God – it is a sin that has caused many-a-woman to marry a man out of guilt and condemnation! A lifestyle of premarital sex clouds our judgement and sullies us spiritually. It is not good to make a marriage choice or commitment while in this state!

It has been said . . .BEFORE YOU GET MARRIED

Discuss: Bills, Parenting Styles, Credit, Debt, Religion, How to Deal with Family, Children, What Beliefs will be instilled in your Children, Childhood Traumas, Sexual Expectations, Partner Expectations, Financial Expectations, Family Health History, Mental Health History, Bucket Lists, Dream Home, Careers & Education Political Views, and Whatever Else Comes to Mind. . . . "Love" is not enough.

It is no small miracle for 2 different people “becoming one.” The Bible talks about marriage being a **mystery**. There are going to be problems and differences whenever two people, *just being of the opposite sex alone* (very different creations), coming from totaling different homes and backgrounds – in becoming “one” . . . and getting along well in a deep friendship. Then there are going to be a multitude of problems and crises *from life itself*, in addition to this huge hurdle.

The #1 Biggest Decision of Our Lives is repenting from all our sins, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, (and thus deciding to become a Christian), and entering into true Eternal Life.

I believe the #2 Biggest Decision of Our Lives, after becoming a Christian, can be deciding to dedicate the first and best of our time, preferably on a daily basis, to seek God and interact with Him and His Scriptures **privately** - as a top-life priority. There is an absolute astronomical, mind-bending difference in a person's life between choosing to make this decision - or not.

Choosing a marriage partner is probably the #3 Biggest Decision of our Lives. Let us be very careful in our choice.

matt violassi