

Choosing Your Soul Mate

(Adapted from T.D. Jakes)

Introduction

"We've got chemistry, here!" Commercial...

"When choosing a mate, you need to ask yourself whether or not that person is the one you would want to hold your hand as you are lowering your parents' bodies into the grave for the last time."

-Pastor T.D. Jakes

Think about that for a few seconds...

How would we act if our searching for a mate was based on that one question?

Are you dating? If so, think about your boy/girlfriend.

Is he (she) seriously the one you would want holding your hand during the darkest hours of your life?

Is your present boy/girlfriend the type who would offer you assistance during your time of grief?

-Unbelievably, there are numerous men (women) out here who offer absolutely NO comfort to hurting men and women.

In marriage people are either happy or miserable. There is no in between.

That is serious! Because it is so serious, God desires that women (men) are exceptionally careful when choosing a mate.

Notice I did not say that women (men) should "Find" a mate! I said, "Choose."

There is a huge difference!

Psalm 65:4 (NKJV)

"Blessed is the man you *choose* and causes to approach you. That he may dwell in your courts and shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house".

Proverbs 18:22

"He who *finds* a wife finds a good thing"

My Interpretation: MEN find women. Women should not be out trying to find a man! HOWEVER, once found, the woman can then choose to be with the man or to wait to be found by a different man.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN CHOOSING A MATE:

Proverbs 20:6

“Who can find a faithful man?”

The fact that the question is asked is indicative of the fact that there are not many faithful men out there.

But, JESUS knows where the faithful men are! (AMEN!!!!)

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary offers several excellent definitions of the word FAITHFUL:

- (a) Steadfast in affection or allegiance
- (b) Loyal
- (c) Firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty
- (d) Conscientious

The scriptures say that a faithful man is difficult to find.

But, wouldn't you love to have a man (woman) with the qualities listed above?

They are rare. But GOD knows where such men (women) are located!

Ephesians 5:23-27

“For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word. That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

In this passage, God is offering us a blueprint on what to look for in a mate. Let's take a closer look...

1. The husband is head of the wife.

*Choose a man who is born-again.

*Do you feel comfortable submitting under his authority?

-It is dangerous to submit to the authority of a man who is not saved or who does not have a relationship with God.

2. The husband must love his wife as Christ loves the Church.

*That's tough!

*Look at the degree to which God loves His Church! He died for us!

*So, how does God love us?

-He is kind, patient and nurturing to the Church.

-Those are the qualities you need to search for when determining who to marry.

3. The husband must sanctify, cleanse and wash his wife with the Word of God.

*Only a born-again man can wash you with the Word of God.

*The dating ritual...

-Boy meets girl

-They date

-They start to care deeply for each other

-The subject of sex pops up

*Question: HOW will the man handle it?

*God says that it is the responsibility of the MAN to see to it that he presents the woman clean and holy.

-If he is fornicating with her, how can he present her as clean and holy?

-Sex outside the marriage bond is dirty. Therefore, if you find yourself with a man trying to fornicate with you, you have the wrong man!

*God says that He presents the Church (His Bride!) without spot, wrinkle or blemish.

-Your future husband must present you at the altar without spot, wrinkle or blemish. (Jodi and I...)

BECOMING ONE:

Ephesians 5:31

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church...”

GOD says that when you marry, you become ONE with that person.

God no longer sees you as separate, but He sees you and your mate as ONE person!

Think about your boy/girlfriend. Do you see yourself becoming ONE with them? If you have problems after marriage most often it's because something was broken before marriage (that was obviously ignored).

If you do not have a boy/girlfriend yet, GREAT! Now you know what to look for!

Barriers to Becoming One...

1. Settling and not being patient...

*Many in their quest for a mate are settling with people who are not worthy of them.

*The reason so many people are in unhappy marriages is that they latched onto the wrong person to please society, family, friends or themselves.

* If you pick the right mate from the beginning, you will not end up hurt and miserable (divorced).

2. In-Law Issues...

- *Check out the family of the person you are considering marrying!
 - Are there problems there?
 - Are they willing to release your perspective mate to love you?
- *If there are issues, they will not end after marriage!
 - Can you handle it?
 - Discuss it now!
 - Extended families are famous for breaking up marriages.

3. Failing Attraction...

- *How attracted are you to your future spouse?
 - Please do not marry if there is a shadow of a doubt that you are totally attracted to them.
- * If you marry a man who has the qualifications of the "faithful man" you will be attracted to him forever!
 - Too many women lose their husbands because after marriage they stop having sex.
 - Women who do not want sex with their husbands are women who married the wrong man.

Conclusion:

PLEASE do not marry the wrong person. Wait!

Song of Solomon 3:4

"I found him whom my soul loves."

The reason she found the one whom her soul loves is that she was PATIENT!

Luke 21:19

"In your patience possess ye your soul."

My Interpretation for a single person:

If you are patient, you will meet the one whom your soul loves!

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Wait on the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge him and he will guide and direct your path."