

# HOW TO CHOOSE A COMPANION

Donald Townsley

We are living in a day when the home is breaking down! The divorce rate rises almost every year! Half of the women who work outside the home have committed adultery, and one out of every three marriages will end in divorce! I am sure we have all asked the question, "What can be done about this break-down of the home?" I believe one thing that can be done is to better educate our children about marriage from the standpoint of what God intended marriage to be. We need to impress upon our children that marriage is of God and is a sacred institution. Young people need to do some serious thinking when they are choosing a companion for life. This is where the serious mistake is made most of the time. In this article we will discuss the subject, "How to Choose a Companion". We claim no originality for the ideas we are going to present because we have gleaned them from other sources. I believe that they are the truth, and worthy of your consideration. We will ask some pointed questions that need to be answered properly if one is to make the right decision in choosing a companion.

## HOW A MAN SHOULD CHOOSE A WIFE

1. Is she scripturally qualified? Does she have a living companion of a former marriage? The New Testament teaches that there is but one scriptural reason to put away one's companion and marry again -- that reason is fornication (Matt. 19:9; 5:32). Only the innocent party in a marriage where one has been unfaithful to the marriage bed can obtain a writing of divorcement and remarry. The one who has committed sexual infidelity can never remarry. No law ever permits a criminal to profit from his crime! God's law on divorce and remarriage does not set the one guilty of sexual infidelity (who has been put away for his or her sin) free to marry another. This would permit him to suffer no ill consequences for his sin. One guilty of sexual infidelity who has been put away has forever forfeited his or her right to marry another. If a woman has put away her companion for some other reason than fornication, or if she has been guilty of sexual infidelity and has been put away, the one who marries her commits adultery! (Luke 16:18; Mark 20: 11 - 12; Matt. 19:9).
2. Is she a Christian? One of the most prolific causes of broken homes is religious division! Amos said, "*Can two walk together except they be agreed?*" (Amos 3:3). Christians are warned about becoming entangled with unbelievers (2 Cor. 6: 4 - 17). Jesus taught that the Christian would have division in his home because of his obedience to the will of God (Luke 12: 51 - 53; Matt. 10: 34 - 37). Yes, I believe God recognizes the marriage of a believer and an unbeliever ( I Cor. 7:14; I Pet. 3: 1 - 4), but just because God recognizes the marriage does not do away with the great problems of religious differences. These differences will be a constant source of trouble which will rob the home of much happiness and may be the means of discouraging the Christian and cause him to lose his soul!
3. Does she love me? True love will grow with time and association. Infatuation is not love. Two people may become infatuated with each other upon meeting the first time, but with association lose all infatuation. Do not enter this vital union without the foundation of all marital happiness -- LOVE. ( Eph. 5; 25; Titus 2:4)

4. Does she love children and domestic life? Young man, beware of the girl who is not loved by children and is more interested in a career than in making a home for you ( I Tim. 2:15; Titus 2: 4 - 5).
5. What is her disposition? Will she likely become a nagging wife? (Prov. 21: 19; 27: 15). Will she live cheerfully on our expected income? Is she industrious? (Prov. 31: 10 -31). Does she have strong character? Is she morally weak? Does she have convictions and principles she lives by? Does she possess common sense?
6. Can she be my companion, best friend, and lover? Do I prefer her company to that of all others? Do I want to spend the rest of my life with her?
7. Is she a happy person? In seeking a companion, seek one who is already happy. Don't marry a "grouch"!
8. Look for inward beauty in a companion. The beauty you see in a mirror will fade! (I Pet. 3: 1 - 4).

### **HOW TO CHOOSE A HUSBAND**

1. Is he a Christian? Read Number 2 under "How a Man Should Choose a Wife".
2. Is he a person of real character? Marriage is not a reformatory. If the basic qualities of character are not there, it is difficult to develop them after marriage. Many a girl has married a "drunk" intending to reform him, but found the task impossible. Young woman, if that young man does not have character now, don't expect him to have any more after you marry him!
3. Is he a man of integrity! Can you count on him keeping his word? Is he absolutely honest? Marriage is based on mutual confidence and trust, and you cannot be happy without it! (Prov. 31:11).
4. Is he selfish? Love "*seeketh not her own*" (I Cor. 13:5). How happy is the home where the husband and the wife unselfishly serve the other! Not the attitude of "how can you please me", but "how can I please you" ( I Cor. 7: 2 - 5). Does he have the self-sacrificing love for me that Christ had for the church? (Eph. 5:25). Will he love me as he does his own body? (Eph. 5: 28).
5. Are we compatible? Do we like to do things together? Do we have common interests? Is there a harmony of tastes, standards, and conduct? Have our educational opportunities been similar? Does he have respect for a viewpoint which differs from his own?
6. Can he take responsibility? The scriptures condemn the man who will not fulfill his obligations to provide for his family ( I Tim. 5:8). Is he afraid of hard work? Can he see a job through to its completion even though it is long, hard, and without honor?
7. What of his background? Are his parents of good character? Does he love his parents, brothers, and sisters?
8. Can he control himself? His temper? His passions?
9. Does he love me? Husbands are to love their wives (Eph. 5: 23 - 33).
10. Does he bring out the best in me?

We hope these things will be of help to those who may be contemplating marriage now or in the future. Pass this on to a young, unmarried person.

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