

Courtship: Preparation for marriage

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INTRODUCTION:

A. The lessons from this series:

1. 327_Introduction to the series about the family
2. 591_Marriage: Its purpose
3. 592_Marriage: Its permanency
4. 015_The man's role in marriage
5. 017_The woman's role in marriage
6. 498_A wife worth more than jewels
7. 244_When mommy is not home
8. 597_Loving intellectually
9. 598_The affectionate love
10. 599_Intimate love
11. 602_Communication
12. 604_Problems between husband and wife
13. 606_The responsibilities of parents and children
14. 608_Training our children: Instruction
15. 609_Training our children: Chastisement
16. 610_Training our children: Direction
17. 612_Biblical cases of fathers and sons
18. 611_The relationship between siblings
19. 440_What every youth wants in reality
20. 618_Courtship: Preparation for marriage
21. 021_The family who is centered in Christ

B. In this sermon we want to talk about the purpose of courtship.

C. There are things a courtship should not be, and courtship can be purposeful in several ways

1. It is not the time for intimacy
2. The purpose of courtship is to make a wise decision on choosing the right person
3. In courtship it is the time to ask many questions

[Let us begin with the first major point in this lesson...]

I. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR INTIMACY

A. A temptation: "But we thinking about getting married, it is only a question about when" Courtship is does not equate marriage!

B. What the Bible condemns:

1. The Bible condemns the act, fornication (1 Cor. 6:18)
2. The Bible condemns the desire that proceeds the act
 - a. Notice the following passage in the Bible, **Colossians 3:5** NAS77 – "Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, **passion**, **evil desire**, and greed, which amounts to idolatry"
 - 1) **Passion** = **pathos**, from **pascho**, "to suffer," primarily denotes whatever one suffers or experiences in any way; hence, "an affection of the mind, a passionate desire." Used by

the Greeks of either good or bad desires – Vine e-sword format. See (**Romans 1:26; 1 Thessalonians 4:5**)

- 2) **Evil desire** = **pleonexia**, "covetousness," lit., "a desire to have more" (pleon, "more," echo, "to have"), always in a bad sense – Vine e-sword format.
 - b. Also notice **Matthew 5:27-28** NAS77 – “You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; **28** but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to **lust** for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart”
 - 1) **Lust** = **epithumeo**, "to fix the desire upon" (epi, "upon," used intensively, thumos, "passion"), whether things good or bad; hence, "to long for, lust after, covet." – Vine e-sword format.
 3. The Bible condemns creating the opportunity for desire, **Romans 13:14** NAS77 – “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make **no provision** for the flesh in regard to **its lusts**”
 - a. **No provision** = **pronoia**, "forethought" (pro, "before," noeo, "to think") –Vine e-sword.
 - b. **Its lusts** = **epithumia** denotes "strong desire" of any kind, the various kinds being frequently specified by some adjective. – Vine e-sword format.
 4. The devil is not a fool, he works in phases, situations and given circumstances
- C. What the Bible exhorts, 2 Timothy 2:22** NAS77 – “Now *flee* from youthful lusts, and *pursue* righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, **with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart**”
1. The apostle Paul is exhorting Timothy, the young and us to flee, that is to run away from lust, therefore we should under any circumstances need to be playing with lust!
 2. Rather he says, “Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart” follow these things with those of pure heart!
- D. It is our decision and thus it depends upon us!**
- E. There is too much difference between real love, covetousness and or desire, but many are confused by these terms. Love respects the other person!**

II. COURTSHIP, TIME FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT PERSON

- A. It is time to choose and not time for experimenting!**
1. Meaning to choose with care, just like you will do with any other important decision you will be taking
 2. To choose with responsibility, thinking, but also looking not only at the moment but in the near future as well.
- B. It requires time**
1. It also requires penitence
 2. It does not necessarily will be the first (“Love at first sight”)
 3. It is the time to get to know people and their qualities, etc., in order to make a wise choice

III. COURTSHIP, IT IS THE TIME TO ASK MANY QUESTIONS

- A. First there must be much communication, conversation**
1. “She is always talking,” or “he so quiet, he never says anything”
 2. This communication needs to be without getting angry, mad at each other
 3. Listen then respond with respect!
 4. Love is being able to communicate with the other person
- B. Let us see some questions:**
1. **Question:** Does he/she have the right to marry me? (**Matt. 19:9**). An extremely important question! Is this person whom I thinking about marrying is he/she a Biblical candidate?
 2. **Question:** Does this person have enough maturity to marry me? Does he still like to play video games, go out with his buddies and leave the family alone for long periods of time?

- a. We are talking about the mental and emotional maturity
- b. The physical body could be mature for marriage and to give birth, but not necessarily indicates by this that he/she is mature for marriage!
3. **Question:** How is the character of the person, her/his disposition?
 - a. To find out this, it requires time and close observation, discernment and to know what you are looking for, looking for red flags on the other person.
 - b. What type of language does the person has? Does he/she smokes or drinks alcohol? (Only in social gatherings?)
 - c. Is beauty more important in the other person? Is he/she humble? Is he/she prideful, rebel, or lazy? Can she do more than just simply putting on makeup?
 - d. Young man/woman do not put only your confidence on their baptism only, but also on everything else they do.
4. **Question:** Is he/she willing to give up parents (**Genesis 2:24**)? Or is he/she will be running back to her mother when there is a conflict with their marriage?
 - a. If she or he is still too close to mom, be careful be prepared for more problems.
 - b. Many do not want to have a wife, they want a mother!
5. **Question:** How does he/she treat her family?
 - a. Is there respect and honor for the parents, it is a signal on how you will be treated
 - b. It matters
6. **Question:** What things do we have in common?
7. **Question:** What is your attitude, conduct towards those who are going to be your in-laws, nieces, nephews, etc.?
8. **Question:** What is your and her/his attitude about having children in the future and their discipline and upbringing?
9. **Question:** What is your and his/her attitude about finances? Is he/she a good administrator of money? Or does he/she like to buy and spend? Does he/she like to save?
10. **Question:** Is this person going to help me in my spiritual life or is he/she going to be a stumbling block?

CONCLUSION:

A. Young man/woman, find out these things BEFORE the weeding and not after!

1. Warning: "We are so in love right now, everything will come out fine" the young may justified by saying, "love will resolve everything." "After marriage we can fix our differences"
2. Please understand that marriage is not a reformatory. If he/she smokes, drinks, or gets angry easily, is a lazy person, etc., before marriage most likely will be after marriage. Do not deceive yourself.
3. Let us remember something marriage is for a long time.

B. Ask God in prayer for a good wife/husband but also do your part, be the best Christian you can be. Believe me, because there is someone out there who is looking also for a good Christian as well. Proverbs 19:14 NAS77 – "House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the LORD"