

Building on a Good Foundation 7: Attracting/Finding a Spouse

Our theme for this year (as determined by our Elders) is “Building on a Good Foundation.” Toward that goal we’ve considered *Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone* and the *Apostles and Prophets* (as messengers/revealers of God’s Word) as *the Foundation of God’s Household*, Eph.2:20; *Why Jesus, as the Precious/Chief Cornerstone, Was Rejected and became* (to some) *a Stone of Stumbling and Rock of Offense*, 1Pet.2:6-8; *God’s Household/Building* (the Church) and *the Materials of Which it was/is Constructed*, Eph.2:19-22; *the Authority: Christ Commanded* (what the *Apostles Taught* (and the) *Disciples Practiced*, Matt.28:18-20; *The Bible- it’s Source, Nature, Content, Purpose(s), and Arrangement*; and then last time *Building on a Good Foundation as/for A Nation* (what are its proper *foundations*, or, on what is a *good nation* built according to God). One of the *foundational* elements of a nation is it understand/acknowledge that “The basic building block of any nation or society is the “*family*” as God ordained and prescribed.” Which leads us to today’s consideration.

If a core “building block” of a nation is that it must understand and acknowledge “the family” as God defined and ordained it, then we must “build families” that are pleasing to God. So, let’s go back to “foundations” of families and “build” from there....

1. **What constitutes a ‘family’ according to God?** A “husband” and “wife,” Gen.2:22-24; each *leaves their family* to form a *new one/flesh family*. Notice that two people having a child together was NOT the source of “family,” a *marriage* of one man and one woman for life did! Let’s be clear regarding God’s order and definitions: having a child does not make a “family,” a “marriage” does, cf. Gen.2:22-24; 4:1-2.
2. **Spouses need to be *suitable* (v.20), *separate* (from parents, v.24), and *committed* (vv.23-24).** While “*one flesh*” includes sex, it is much more than that. It is two people coming together as one couple, sharing a name and life together as *one family* before God and the world. Don’t overlook the point that the sex part of *one flesh* came AFTER marriage as cementing two people together as one couple RATHER than before marriage.
3. **We may also note that the first marriages were *arranged- first by God Himself, then subsequently often by parents.*** While this is still the case in some cultures and parts of world, it is not typically so here. Children choose their own spouses, and often do so with child-like selfish desires as the primary motivation (*selfish lust* rather than *selfless love*). So let’s spend a few moments on some biblical principles that SHOULD be involved in selecting a husband/wife...
 - a. “Marriage” (as defined by God and as conducive as a *foundational building block* of society) is between a “man” and a “woman,” Gen.2:23; NOT between a “man” and another “man” acting as a woman; or NOT between a “woman” and another “woman” acting as a man; or any other combination. One “man” and one “woman.” Anything is an abomination to God and destructive to society, Rom.1:24-27.
 - b. “Marriage”- and thus “husband and wife,” is not the same as “mate/soul mate” or “friends with benefits” or “boyfriend/girlfriend” or “life partner.” These *substitute*

words typically describe a relationship that is *less* than biblical “marriage” in many ways and *more* than biblical marriage in others, cf. Eph.5:22-31. But since “boyfriend/girlfriend” is often the precursor to “husband/wife,” let’s consider some *good foundations* there too...

- c. Young ladies, if you try to “attract” one with long fluttering eyelashes, elaborate make-up, fancy or weird hairstyles/jewelry, sensual or seductive clothes and/or conduct, you WILL garner attention and suitors, Prov.7:10-21. But if all or some combination of these things is how you “get” both his attention and affections (you’re really getting his desires rather than his affections, cf. Judges 14:1-3), you’re going to have to keep feeding his senses in those ways to keep him!
- d. And young men, if that’s what you’re looking for in a “lifetime companion/wife,” there are plenty available, but be warned of a couple of things:
 - 1) In the many years since I dated/married, it has become increasingly hard to distinguish prostitutes from other women of world in appearance and conduct.
 - 2) Remember you’re looking for a lifetime “helpmate” that is “suitable” to the purposes God has for you (and her/the family!), Gen.2:18,24.
 - 3) A universal truth that needs to be understood by both young ladies and young men regarding the marriage relationship BEFORE you marry: Men marry a woman they hope will **never** change, and for the most part she does. Women marry a man they hope **will** change (with her help, of course), and for the most part they never do.
- e. So what should young men and women both use to attract the right kind of spouse and look for in a potential spouse?
 - 1) Someone who *puts God, His Word, and His Kingdom first* in all things, including you, Matt.22:37; 6:33;
 - 2) Someone who embodies Christian characteristics *trustworthiness, loyalty/fidelity/faithfulness, kindness, caring, gentleness, patience, goodness, self-control, reasonableness, moral purity, spiritual knowledge and maturity, who perseveres* when times get tough, is *godly* always, and is *selflessly loving and giving* rather than *selfishly lustful, self-centered, and demanding*, Gal.5:22; 2Pet.1:5-7. “Yes!” there are such people *out there and available* because these are NOT the type of potential spouse most of the world desires, though they are exactly what everyone needs!

Conclusions- When it comes to attracting/finding a mate:

- A. Understand how God defines “marriage,” and thus *what He expects of us* in the relationship.**
- B. Prepare yourself for “marriage” as God ordained it: *suitable, separate, and committed* as per Gen.2:23-24.**
- C. Not *look for* a potential spouse who embodies the *fruit of the Spirit* (Gal.5:22) and the *Christian graces* (2Pet.1:5-7), but *be* a potential spouse who does so!**