

What to Look For in a Guy or Lady:

1. A heart for God. Growing as a Christian.
2. A selfless servant
3. Commitment to Biblical Manhood and Womanhood - Ephesians 5:22-33
4. How he/she treats you + others
5. Are our lives going in same direction: career(s), children and raising them, church/denomination/ major theology, where to live, ministry in life, etc.

How to Prepare - The World Looks for the right person. Instead, BECOME the right person.

1. Develop RESPONSIBILITY for yourself.
2. Develop Discipline.
 - Especially financial!
 - Gain life wisdom. (from the Bible. Parents. Godly examples. NOT Oprah!)
3. Develop Selflessness - a lifestyle of serving others. Learn the joy of serving.
 - Marriage is not for the self-centred!
 - If you are worried about “my needs”, you are NOT ready.
 - Men: leadership. Women: Nurture.
4. Learn Biblical Manhood + Womanhood + Marriage
5. Honestly Evaluate Your Family of Origin
 - Honour parents. Love them. This is not meant to judge, or be done in anger.
 - Assess: What is godly? What is not.
 - What to keep + build on? What to repent of + work to overcome.
 - Sins of the fathers visited on children to 3rd + 4th generation.
Statistically, we copy examples we’ve seen.
 - Look at a potential husband/wife + his/her family to see how he/she has dealt with issues.
6. Learn to Be Friends!
 - TALK - Turn off FB + chats!
 - Develop friends of the opposite gender. Don’t be afraid.
 - Don’t look for a boyfriend/girlfriend. Just look to be friends.
7. Be around children. (We live in childless society!)
8. Develop LOYALTY.
 - This generation likes to keep all its options open.
 - Find God’s will for you + get after it! All-in!
 - Content yourself with what you have. Develop it.
 - “One-womaned man” 1 Timothy 3:2 + 12 (literal translation)

Other Advice on Dating / Courtship:

1. Observe the person from afar, before dating.
2. Work, volunteer, study together. Don’t just go out to dinner and a movie!
3. Stick to public places + events.
4. Involve parents, family and close friends. (Get parents’ permission.)
5. Date Quietly.

Biblical Singleness

Jesus taught - Matthew 19:1-12 "Eunuchs" 1) born that way, 2) made that way by men, 3) made themselves that way to serve the Kingdom of Heaven.

Paul taught - 1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 25-35 because of the present distress v26, the time is short v29, you can be without concerns so you can please the Lord v32, without distraction v35.

Biblical Singleness is NOT to be unattached, independent, selfish, irresponsible or promiscuous!

Needed: A Revolution in the Wedding Industry.

We hear people putting off marriage, because they don't have money for a huge party!

Most of them are living as married, anyways.

Prioritize the marriage, not the wedding!

Current Dating / Courtship System has Major Problems!

- Average age of 1st marriage in Canada: 31 male, 29 female. It's gone up in the past 20 years.
- A woman's best child-bearing years: 18-25
- Birth Rate Canada 1.63 in 2010, and dropping.
- Online dating is growing fast, yet even Macleans said this is bad for marriage. Jan 30, '13 issue.

State of our Society — Our system is broken!

- High divorce
- More than ½ of children do not grow up with both parents. (In Quebec, more than ½ are born to unmarried parents.)
- Divorce is the highest common factor for those in poverty.
- Fatherlessness is the most common factor of the incarcerated.
- 3:00-5:00pm is the most common time for teens to get pregnant. Why?

Scriptures

- Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-25 Creation of man and woman and marriage.
- Ephesians 5:22-33 husbands' and wives' roles and responsibilities. God's blueprint.
- 1 Peter 3:1-7 husbands' and wives' roles and responsibilities. God's blueprint.
- Matthew 19:1-12 "What God has joined, man must not separate." Discussion of singleness.
- 1 Corinthians 13 True love

- 1 Corinthians 7:1-5, Song of Solomon - Physical relationship between husband and wife

- Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, 8:4 Don't awaken love before it's time.
 - 8:6-7 Love is strong
 - 8:8-9 Let your family help you keep pure.
- Proverbs 5,6,7 Avoid seduction.
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Flee sexual immorality. A Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 God's will: Your sexual holiness (sanctification).
- 1 Corinthians 7:9 Better to marry than to burn with desire
- 1 Timothy 5:2 How to treat girls (boys): As sisters (brothers)!

- 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked (mismatched).
 - Think life is lonely by yourself? It's a lot lonelier living mismatched!
- 1 Corinthians 7:39 A widow is free to be married to anyone she wants - but he must belong to the Lord.
- 1 Timothy 3:1-3 Qualifications for elders and deacons.

Resources

- www.gracebaptistmississauga.com
- Bible Studies under Relationships, Marriage, Growth in Christ: Financial Seminar, Sermon mp3 in Colossians series: "Christ in the Family and Workplace -Col 3:18-4:1"
- The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood www.cbmw.org
- Suzanne Venker, author on FB and suzannevenker.com