

Finding The Love Of Your Life – Could This Be The One?

Eric Scalise, Ed.S., LPC, LMFT
Regent University
January 12, 2007

1. Choosing a Marriage Partner

a. Is there a Biblical mandate? Are you equally yoked?

Scripture seems to be silent on the matter other than choosing a believer. Marriage and singleness are both acceptable in God's eyes.

"Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 2 Cor. 6:14-15

b. What factors influence the choice to marry or remain single?

- job/career goals
- waiting for the "perfect" mate (compatibility and values)
- fear and hesitation over high divorce rates
- recognizing the possible need for personal growth and maturity

"The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage." Luke 20:34

c. Why do some choose wisely and some unwisely?

- codependency dynamics
- unplanned pregnancy
- levels of emotional and spiritual maturity
- the need to correct family of origin issues
- Christian convictions or the lack of them

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." James 1:5

2. Before Saying, "I Do"

a. Seeking out wise counsel – making a case for pre-engagement counseling

"A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel" Proverbs 1:5

"Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed." Proverbs 15:22

b. Assessing the readiness for marriage (or remarriage)

- emotionally, mentally, financially, spiritually

"For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'" Luke 14:28-29

c. Taking an honest look at goals, dreams, and expectations

- **Your spiritual relationship**
 - What is your biblical model for marriage and the roles of husbands and wives?
 - What does spiritual intimacy mean to you?
 - What are your fellowship, ministry, and spiritual growth needs/interests?
- **Your emotional relationship**
 - Are you best friends?
 - Do you share the same values?
 - Can you accept and appreciate your differences?
- **Your communication style**
 - Do you make decisions together with a win/win approach?
 - Are you aware of each other's primary love language?
 - Do you resolve conflict well and practice forgiveness?
- **Your social/leisure life**
 - Do you have fun together?
 - Do you have some common interests/friends?
 - Is there freedom to have sufficient alone time?
- **Your job/career goals and issues**
 - Whose career path should take precedence?
 - What is the potential for disruptions, moves, extra hours, etc.?
 - How will you manage/balance work and family schedules?
- **Your financial needs, values, and goals**
 - Are you committed to a budget that looks at both immediate & long term needs?
 - Will you have joint, his/her, or both when it comes to your accounts?
 - How will any current or future debt be handled?
- **Your extended family dynamics**
 - Can you accept each other's extended family?
 - Have you discussed family traditions and cultural nuances?
 - Have you discussed any potential boundaries that may be needed?
- **Your child rearing goals and philosophy**
 - Have you discussed birth control?
 - How will household rules and expectations be decided and enforced?
 - Are there any blended family issues?
- **Household responsibilities, projects, and interior design**
 - Is there a commitment to an equitable distribution of chores?
 - Will the home environment reflect the interests, wishes, and ideas of both?
 - Will there be individual/personal spaces in the home?
- **Your physical intimacy**
 - Are you physically attracted to each other?
 - Are you committed to sexual purity?
 - Are there any physical, emotional, or biblical factors to consider?

Finding the Love of Your Life

Please give us your [feedback](#).