

Biblical Principles of Marriage (Part 2) – Ps 15

Ps 15; We started a series on marriage last weekend, and began by focusing on singleness

B/c if you get *that* wrong, chances are you'll get marriage wrong; And instead of a house built to last, you'll have a house built to crash

So having jumped right in, we found first of all that . . .

Principle #1 – Single doesn't mean second class (Gal 3:28)

The ground at the foot of the cross is level, and in Christ there's no *distinction* between marrieds and singles; Not in terms of value and worth

And the time has come to take those second class thoughts captive; Submitting them to the truth of God's Word, instead of dwelling on them in self-pity or condescension

2nd, from Ps 15, was an exhortation not to settle

Principle #2 – If you're single, don't settle (Ps 15)

Form your convictions around the truth of God's Word, and look for qualities that *God* looks for; Starting with someone who's saved

- **Look for someone who's saved (v1)**

Do not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever the Bible says

Which Ps 15 *helps* us with, not b/c it explicitly addresses singles, but b/c it describes the kind of people singles should *marry*; Believers; People immersed in God's grace

Look for someone who's saved, and . . .

- **Look for someone with integrity (v2)**

Someone *who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart* (2)

Which you can't know apart from (**slide**) – Time, Transparency, Variety, Proximity, and History; 5 ways to determine genuine integrity

And then 3rd, in order not to settle . . .

- **Look for someone who's kind (v3)**

Someone who builds people up instead of tears them down; Who blesses instead of hurts

➤ Those are the *first* 3 criteria we identified; But that's definitely not it
3 *more* remain from this passage (Ps 15), so let's re-read it and see if we can't pick them up (**Next Slide**)

[1] *O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?*

[2] *He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;*

[3] *who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;*

[4] *in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change;*

[5] *who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.*

Who's a part of God's family? What kind of a person do you need to look for in order to be equally yoked in marriage?

According to v4, it's someone who despises *a vile person*, but honors *those who fear the LORD*

Someone who sees people for who they are, and treats them accordingly

IOW . . .

- **Look for someone who's wise (v4a)**

Someone who knows godliness when they see it; And wickedness when they see *it*

And then treats people accordingly

Or to put it another way, look for someone with the good judgment to see the unseen, and the good sense to act on it; AKA *wisdom*

It's not just discernment to *know* the truth, but the God-given ability to *apply* it

➤ Which reveals itself most in our choice of friends

If you're looking for a spouse, look for someone who hangs with the *right* crowd instead of the wrong one

With *those who fear the Lord* instead of those who ignore him

And make sure they have *nothing* to do with *vile* people as the verse says; Wicked people;

Revolted people; That's the idea of *despising* them; It's not hatred, but rejection

➤ If his friends are intent on partying and carousing, stay away; And I don't just mean from them, but him

And if her friends make it a practice to indulge in sex and promiscuity, look elsewhere

You want someone who's wise with their friends; Wise with people; *Look* for that

5th . . .

- **Look for someone who keeps their word (v4b)**

Or as it says in v4b – someone *who swears to their own hurt and does not change*

The man or woman of God you want to marry, is the one who keeps their word even when it hurts; Even when it costs them more money, more time, more effort . . .

And more pain than they ever anticipated

Beware of someone who's quick to break commitments and jump from one thing to another; B/c it won't stop with you; They'll break their commitment with you as well

➤ Rather, look for someone who's *dependable*; Who does what they say, every time
If they say they'll meet you at a certain place and certain time, make sure they do
If they say they'll do something for someone, make sure they do
Look for someone who keeps their commitments

B/c that's the kind of person who will stick with *you*; Who will keep their word to *you*

Who will endure the pain and hurt of *life*, and be there; Swearing to their own hurt, "to have and to hold, for better or worse, 'til death do us part"

➤ I'll never forget the time a few years back, when I was walking on our treadmill at home, and listening to an interview with **Dr. Robertson McQuilkin**
Who I had never heard of

But I soon found out that he was quite the capable and accomplished man

Serving as the 3rd president of Columbia International University from 1968 to 1990

Previous to which he was a missionary in Japan for 12 years, and before that, the headmaster of a missions-minded boarding school

He was godly, he was gifted, and he was making an impact

But in the course of the interview, it was his decision to quit and care for his wife Muriel that struck me so deeply; He was in the prime of his life, and she had Alzheimer's Which if you know anything about, ravages a person's mind; And eventually their body And I want you to hear what Dr. McQuilkin had to say in his resignation speech
(Video – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqtG-XfxMC4&feature=youtu.be>)

That's someone who keeps their word; Who *swears to their own hurt and does not change*
So much so, that he went on to care for his wife for 13 years before she died

➤ I don't know about you, but I want to be like that; And if you're single, I want you to *look* for someone like that; Someone who keeps their word

6th . . .

- **Look for someone who's compassionate (v5)**

Not in the sense that we just talked about, but like it says in v5

Look for someone *who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent*; Referring to how they treat the poor and less fortunate

Like those in David's day, who were so oppressed sometimes, that they needed a loan to keep themselves from being sold into slavery in order to pay their debts
And those who *lacked* compassion, would extend such a loan, but charge them exorbitant interest; Making their situation worse instead of better
They would put out their money *at interest* as the verse says (5)

On the other hand, there were times when people of *power* accepted *bribes*; To the detriment of the *power-less* – the *innocent*
Like Olympic officials in *our* day; Who on some occasions have received illegal *perks* for choosing one city over another
Often times at the expense of those who lived there
IOW they took a bribe *against the innocent* (5); Showing a lack of compassion

➤ You don't want to marry somebody like that
You want to marry someone who's *generous* with their money and possessions
Someone who's *sensitive* to the least of these
Someone who's *compassionate* to the poor

Because God promises in v5b – that *he who does these things shall never be moved*
Never moved from the presence of God; Never swayed by the powers of darkness; And never shifted by the winds of culture; They stand firm
Steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor 15:58)
Look for someone like that, and don't settle

➤ Now, while that's a *good* list, it's certainly not complete; There are 4 more qualities that are also crucial; Including someone who loves

- **Look for someone who loves (1 Jn 4:7)**

And I'm not talking about someone who loves *you*; That's assumed

I'm talking about someone who loves the Lord, his people, and his Word

Before you ever fall in love with someone, or even entertain a relationship with them – make sure they love *Jesus*; Period

Not in some sappy, over-spiritualized sort of way
But in an all-out, all-in, devoted sort of way

Or as Jesus himself said it, look for someone who loves the Lord their God with all their heart, all their soul, all their mind, and all their strength (Mk 12:30)
And if they *don't* – stop; Right there; Go no further
And if you already in a relationship with them, end it
B/c if they don't love Jesus, they'll *never* love you like he does

➤ Look for someone who loves the Lord, and someone who loves people
Someone who takes the command in **1 John 4:7** seriously
Beloved, let us love one another [one another], *for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God*. No love, no God; And no God, no love
If you enter a relationship with someone who lacks a love for others, chances are they'll lack a love for you at some point*****

➤ And 3rd, look for someone who loves God's *Word*
Like the Psalmist said in Ps 119 – *Oh how I love your law!* (97) *My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly*. (167)
Look for that; Look for someone who loves God's Word, loves God's people, and loves God himself; B/c you'll never wonder whether they love you

8th . . .

- **Look for someone who's pure (2 Tim 2:22)**

Sexually pure; Not for someone who doesn't struggle; Or someone who hasn't failed in this respect

But someone who isn't indulging in the passions of lust, and hasn't for a long time
Someone who actually *flees* them like it says in **2 Tim 2:22**
Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Look for someone like that to marry, and don't settle

B/c if you marry somebody who's *failing* in that respect, you marry the trouble that comes with them; And more is on the way*****

Show me somebody who's failing in the area of purity *before* marriage, and I'll show you someone who most likely fails *after* marriage
Often times with pornography, and sometimes with another person
You need to look for someone who's pure *now*

#9 . . .

- **Look for someone who's humble (1 Pet 5:5b)**

1 Pet 5:5b says – *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

Let me ask you something; Would you rather hook your wagon to somebody God is blessing, or opposing? Then you need to look for someone who's humble

Humility is *critical* in God's economy*****

You can't be *saved* unless you humble yourself

You can't be a *disciple* unless you humble yourself

You can't even *lead* to the best of your ability unless you humble yourself

It's prerequisite; Necessary for *anything* good and godly in life

Especially in *marriage*; Where you will wrong your spouse time and time again, and have to *humble* yourself to apologize; Or humble yourself to serve her; Or defer to him

Humility is *prerequisite* to a good marriage, and therefore critical in a potential spouse
Don't settle for anything less

And then last . . .

- **Look for someone who's diligent (Prov 6:10-11)**

Someone with a good work ethic; Someone who's industrious; Someone who *embraces* responsibility instead of shirks it

Prov 6:10-11 says – *A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, [11] and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.*

IOW it will sneak up on you, and be inescapable

And if you're married to somebody like that, it will sneak up on you as well

Their problems will be your problems, just like with purity

In which case, you need to look for someone for who's diligent*****

Do they procrastinate, or get things done? Do they go above and beyond, or barely get by? It's important

You want someone who gets *after* it; Someone who goes the *extra* mile; Someone who works as unto the *Lord*

Look for somebody like that; And resolve *never* to settle (**Summary**)

➤ 10 qualities, if you're single and want to be married

Qualities to seek in others, and qualities to cultivate *yourself*

B/c Lord willing, somebody else is looking for the *same* things in you

Pray – God, give us eyes to see and ears to hear; Give those who are single the courage to do what's best, and the strength to wait on you; And for those who are married, find us growing and never stopping

We give now out of the joy of our hearts and abundance of our lives