

## How to Marry a Prince

Kids fascinate me. After the services last week, the Pastor's son, Gabriel Ruhl (who happens to be assistant pastor as well) took me for a snack with two of his precious kids, Moriah who is six and Lydia who is four. They taught me a few things, such as how to dip your French fries into your milkshake. I will admit, that's going to have to be an acquired taste. As we were talking, I said to four-year-old Lydia, "So! Tell me about your boyfriend." She looked at me and smiled and quickly gave me a boy's name. Now, to be honest, this is a game I often play with kids. The usual answer is a blank stare and the reply, "I don't have a boyfriend." Then my stock answer is, "Sure you do, you're Daddy's girl!" Well Lydia at the ripe old age of four gave me a boy's name. Her older sister Moriah said, "Lydia, you know you don't have a boyfriend. Daddy won't let you have one; you are too young." I thought to myself, I am just trying to have some fun here and now the proverbial can is open and worms are everywhere. Then as the correcting mode softened in Moriah's voice, she smiled and said, "I know who Lydia is going to marry." Now her dad and I both have our interest piqued. She smiled and said, "Lydia is going to marry a prince!" I looked at Lydia, her mouth full of hamburger, unable to audibly respond, as she nodded her head in a most definite "yes." Then Moriah said, "I'm going to marry a prince too." As though she had studied this thing out, she said, "Princes live in London." Now in full animation, Moriah began to give me her life plan -- she said she was going to be a missionary -- then sat back with a smile and added, "to London." I could not resist making the comment, "Well, Lydia, this works out conveniently! You are going to be a missionary to London. How cool! You can win your prince to Christ and move back to Chico, California. She looked at me as though to say, "You got it!" The next night they came along with their dad to pick me up for the meeting and the prince conversation continued. Moriah said, "Lydia is going to marry a prince, but I am going to marry a Christian prince. Lydia spoke up, "Uh huh! I am going to marry a Christian prince too." I had to move into my preacher role and I gave them this information, "Hey! You both will marry a prince. Our Lord is the King of Kings, so if you marry someone who is a son of the King, well, that makes him a prince and it makes you a princess." As I got out of the car they were both smiling at this prospect. I have come to the conclusion that four and six year olds are much easier to counsel than adults.

We have certainly had fun with our royal conversations. This is the last day of the meeting here in California and I look forward to what may come out of the mouths of these babes before I leave. In all the fun we have had, a serious thought has come to mind, which has become food for thought for our article today. How can we marry a prince or princess?

### **1. Live a royal life.**

In the opening of the Revelation these words are recorded, "*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen*" (Revelation

1:5,6). We have documentation for our spiritual heritage. If we belong to Christ we are in the royal bloodline. How sad to see Christians living below their calling. Paul admonishes us, *“That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory”* (I Thessalonians 2:12). A young man named Alexander, who was not living up to his name, was told by Alexander the Great, his commander, *“Either change your name or change your ways.”* If we expect royal benefits in life, we need to live a royal life. Like a golden eagle sitting on a hummingbird’s nest, like the king of the beasts, a lion fighting for carrion from hyenas, so also is a Christian who is not living a holy life like a Prince living in the squalor of a pauper. May we say with Paul, *“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 3:14).

## **2. Only court a King’s kid.**

Much trouble is headed off in the beginnings. I remember so well one of our finest young ladies who went off to a state school. She was making some strong stands for the Lord. She called and told me of a sorority that was soliciting her to join. In joining this certain sorority, she would have been assured popularity with the worldly and wicked on campus. She stood firm and opted not to join the group of girls who were known for drinking alcohol and being loose morally.

One day she called and told me of a very nice young man who wanted to date her. He did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and I cautioned her, *“Do not date this young man.”* She went ahead and dated and married the young man. She was not able to see him converted and the marriage has since dissolved. How does a young Christian lady or a Christian young man avoid falling for someone who is not a Christian? Do not date them to begin with. It is always a good rule never to court or date someone you could not picture yourself marrying. The Bible is clear: *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”* (II Corinthians 6:14). Only court a King’s kid!

## **3. Honor the legacy of Christian parents.**

Throughout the centuries the monarchs of England have been coronated in the same throne sitting above the famous Stone of Scone, also called the Stone of Destiny. When I think of our Christchurch youth, I think of the generational blessing of Christianity that many enjoy. We have members who have not only Christian parents, but also Christian grandparents and many of our membership have Christians that go back as far as they can remember or have investigated. On my father’s deathbed he was telling me he believed we had ministers preaching the same faith we believe all the way back to 1739 in Northern Ireland.

Timothy was told by his mentor Paul, *“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also”* (II Timothy 1:5). Paul is making reference to the generational blessings that falls upon the offspring of believing saints. More honorable than the Stone of Destiny that Prince Charles or Prince William shall sit upon is the seat of blessing that is given by Christian

parents. Christian parents pray for their kids and when a child marries with parental blessing, they have built in protection. They have more than wonderful, doting grandparents -- they have the best counselors in the world. Nearly every day my wife and I bask in the advice our parents have given us. This is priceless. In honoring the legacy of our Christian parents we have not only the blessing of finding that Christian prince or princess, but we have the gift of more than a charmed life -- we have a royal life.

-Pastor Pope-