

## Are You Spouse Material?

### • Introduction:

- When a person is looking to get married. Typically they have a list of requirements of what they want their future spouse to meet.
- If you are married, think back to that list:

### • My Sample list :

- My wife would be in love with Jesus Christ.
  - Have same core values and believes - “How we parent” “How we squeeze the toothpaste”
  - My future wife would be a Green Bay Packer Fan or willing to become one.
  - My future wife would be attractive.
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- I would tell anyone young or old if you don't see marriage material in the person you are currently dating, then you really are waisting your time and their time.
  - **Because, Looking for a spouse is a big deal! It's massive!** It's life changing. Marriage is the coming together and becoming one flesh. **This is not something that is done on a whim or based on feelings.**
  - **Unfortunately** the importance of marriage is slipping away in our culture. **This should not come as surprise as the Bible tells that this will happen in the latter days.**

- **Part 1:**

- **1 Timothy 4:1-3** “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 **forbidding to marry**, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”

- **This is becoming reality!** This saddens my heart knowing that the influence of the enemy is not only forbidding the physical marriage which in my opinion is one of the best physical illustrations God gave the world to teach us about the love He has for His bride (the church).

- **But I believe the enemy** is also coming against the individuals in the world and even within the church, as many are walking around with a spirit not wanting to be married (be one) with Jesus Christ.

- **Jesus desires to be married.**

- Like many of us who desire a spouse, Jesus desires a wife.

- **Who is the bride of Christ?**

- **The church** (Individuals who place their trust in faith into Jesus Christ) are called the bride of Christ.

- The Apostle Paul gives this connection of Jesus being married to His bride (the church) **in Ephesians 5:23-32.**

- **Part 1:**

- **In Genesis, God laid out the plan of being one flesh by instituting marriage between a man and a women. Check this out!**

- **Genesis 2:18, 24 “And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ... 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

- God say’s that its not good for man to be alone. I love how God continues and says that He would make a helper (helpmate) comparable to him.

- He then said: “A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

- **I love this so much because it displays the heart of Jesus for His Bride. (The Church)**

- **You and I were created to be a helpmate for Jesus.**

- The Father through Jesus Christ created us in His image to be a helpmate for Jesus Christ. **Jesus created you to be one with you.**

- For oneness to happen, Jesus left His father so that He could save those created in His image (**Turn to your neighbor and say “That’s you and me”**)

- Jesus left His Father to enable us with His righteousness so that **(YOU) could become His bride and be His helpmate.**

- The end all goal was for Jesus the Bridegroom and the Church The bride to be **one flesh!**

- **Part II.**

- **In order to be a helpmate for Jesus . One should be examine if they are spouse material.**

- **A bride is someone who is compatible to her bridegroom.**

- **Compatible meaning:** (Of two people) capable of existing together in harmony. Capable of being used in transfusion or grafting without reaction.

- **Jesus said: John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

- **Jesus wants His Bride to graft (Be compatible with Him)**

- **Those not compatible with Jesus are cut off. Jesus said: John 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.**

- **When you are looking for a spouse; You don't just become one with anyone.**

- **You have requirements / expectations. Jesus has requirements for His bride as well. What are the expectations for the Bride of Christ?**

- **Peter writes: 1 Peter 1:13-16 "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, [as] in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."**

- **Part II.**

- **Jesus desires holiness from His Bride.**

- As Peter wrote, the bride of Christ is a **bride that is not conforming herself to the former lusts. IE: (The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh.**
- Look at this way. **Would you have married your spouse if they still connected with their past relationships during your engagement time?**
- **Absolutely NOT!** When you get engage to be married you are committing that you have found the one you want to become one with. **There is no room or exceptions for other relationships.**

- **As believers, our time on earth is our engagement time with Christ.**

- **Yet how many of those in the church (Who proclaimed to be the bride of Jesus are still engaging with past lovers?)** Lover's such as fleshy desires, things of the heart that draw the heart away from Jesus Christ.
- **Israel was guilty of having this adulterous heart with God.** Hosea 3:1 "Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans."
- **What is the definition of an adulterous heart?** James 4:4 "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

- **Part II.**

- Again many, even within the walls of the church are there with heart still connected with the world. **(This heart is not spouse ready for the Bridegroom Jesus.)**

- **What is Jesus looking for in His bride?**

- **A bride who is holy in her conduct.** Sadly, holiness is heading towards the exiting out of the presence of the modern day church.
- **Holiness is being replaced with cheap grace.** Cheap grace is the thought and idea that It's ok to continue in sin. Those practicing cheap grace say *"Jesus loves me and His grace is sufficient so I am good to go. I can continue to sin."*
- The Holy Spirit said it best through Paul: **Romans 6:1-4** "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- **Living in cheap grace is wickedness trying to justify itself through God's Holiness.** This heart needs repentance!
  - **1John 1:6** "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."

- **Part II.**

- **What is Jesus looking for in His bride?**

- Jesus is wanting a blameless/ Spotless bride. Here is the deal. **Jesus desires this so much! That to make this possible He laid His blameless and spotless life down so that His Bride could be compatible with Him.**
- **This alone should install a heart to be holy and a desire not sin.**
- **But yet again Holiness within the church is making a fast exit. IE:** This week within the Methodist movement there was a vote at a conference to see if homosexuality would be accepted.
  - **From the Az Republic** “United Methodists in Arizona face an uncertain future as the United Methodist Church voted on Tuesday to uphold church bans on same-sex weddings and the ordination of gay clergy.
  - The plan, passed Tuesday evening at a general conference in St. Louis, could potentially cause a schism within the faith and drive supporters of LGBT inclusion to leave America’s second-largest Protestant denomination...” **Hello, why is this even being voted on? Holiness is exiting from the church walls.**

- **What happens if you do sin? Face it we still battle the flesh.**

- Confess and be cleansed. 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **When sin occurs there needs to be repentance.** Cheapening God’s grace has been promoted and commercialized within our culture: I am afraid that many in the church have and are becoming numb to sin and the importance of repentance.

- **Part II.**

- **Repentance is turning away from sin.** Repentance is a pillar foundation in ones life who is following Christ. **Repentance is the evidence of a new life.**
  - **Michael Anthony** published an article for Fox News in August 2017 saying: **“Many Christians are preaching grace and mercy and we’re very good at saying folks don’t need to get their acts together before coming to Christ as Savior – but our treatment of the lost contradicts our confession. We don’t own the message we’re preaching. Compassion? Love? Are you kidding me? We’re very angry at sinners. It’s obvious – and it’s twisted.”**
  - **It is becoming hard to see the difference between the church and the world because the church has adopted so many of the world’s ways.**
  - **My friends, if and when you sin there is a need to confess your sin, be cleansed. Don’t take sin lightly because God does not take sin lightly.**
- **The lifestyle of the Bride.**
  - **Turn with me to Colossians 3:1-17 (This is the lifestyle of a bride of Jesus.)**
  - I love verse 14: **“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.**
  - **Loving God with all you heart, All your mind, All your soul and strength. This is the bond of perfection.**

- **Part II.**

- **Why do you love Him?** 1 John 4:19 "We love Him because He first loved us."
- **How does one walk in this lifestyle?** It takes a daily choice to deny the fleshly desires. It takes daily choice to abide in Jesus Christ.
  - **It takes the faith of Jesus Christ.** Which is given to you as your place the faith in Him.
  - Paul summarized how to live the life style of the bride of Christ by saying: Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

- **Part 3**

- **The Bridegroom is coming soon for His bride.**
  - Therefore the bride should be awake. Looking for the day that she is finally married to the Bridegroom.
  - **What a glorious day that will be!** Revelation 19:7-9 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

- **Part 3**

- **Many are called but few are chosen.**

- **The time of engagement is now!** Don't be the many who don't answer.

- **Jesus is calling you! He is wanting to be one with you!**

- **Psalm 95:7-8** "For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: 8 "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness."

- **My friends "You were created to be the helpmate, the spouse, the bride of Christ." The design of God before the foundation of the world was for His son to leave The Father and die for the sins of whom He created so that they and Him could be One!**

- **Conclusion.**

- Daily be sanctified! Keep yourselves pure! Be Holy! **2 Peter 3:10-14** "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner [of persons] ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless...**"

- **Today is the day to respond To the Bridegroom's invitation to become One with Him! Amen and Amen!**