

## **8. JOSEPH & MARY (COURTSHIP, FINDING A MATE)**

2002 HSMT SESSION

### **INTRODUCTION**

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#### **CANDY BAR OFFER**

1 now or 2 tomorrow? Which would you pick?

(if don't use this here, now – use with Bib boy-girl relationships)

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#### **MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS IN LIFE:**

1. Salvation

2. Who to Marry

3. Life work, career

#2&3 during next 5 to 10 years!

Setting self up to make those decisions now

Esp marriage – once-in-a-lifetime decision

#### **GOOD EXAMPLES IN BIBLE – let God provide**

Ruth & Boaz

Isaac & Rebekah

Joseph & Mary

#### **BAD EXAMPLES IN BIBLE**

Samson – unbel wife

David & Michael (young, immature)

Dinah & Shechem – bel & unbel

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### **STEPS, PROGRESS**

1. Friendships

2. Dating

3. Courtship

4. Marriage

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## **FRIENDSHIP**

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### **STEP TO MATURITY**

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#### **1. SAME-SEX FRIENDS**

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9-11 yrs: Antagonism to opposite sex, can't stand each other

(like God saying 'close your eyes' so when look at each other amazed at change)

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#### **2. OPPOSITE SEX FRIENDS**

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12-14 yrs: Attraction, start friendships with opposite sex in general

### **S** 3. CLOSE OPPOSITE-SEX FRIEND

**S** 15-18 yrs: Evaluating others, aware of what want in opposite sex  
(Important to spend time with opposite sex so know what like/don't like, how to relate)

### **S** TO MATURITY, ADULTHOOD

18-21 yrs: Serious about waiting for God's choice, look for one close opposite-sex friend

**S** PETER USTINOV: "Marriage is like a three-speed gearbox: affection, friendship, love. It is not advisable to crash your gears and go right through to love straightaway. You need to ease your way through. The basis of love is respect, and that needs to be learned from affection and friendship."

### **S** **VALUE OF FRIENDSHIPS WITH OPPOSITE SEX**

**S** 1. Get to know a wide variety of people well.

Best married people are those who had the greatest exposure to the opposite sex – in large home school families this happens through brothers and sisters

Teaches:     what to look for in a mate  
                  How to get along with opposite sex  
                  How to e yourself and get along with opposite sex (not change to impress them)

**S** 2. Close observation of other people in a wide variety of situations – practical maturity

**S** 3. form a set of standards by which you evaluate others

**S** 4. Learn the importance of measuring YOURSELF by these standards – Golden Rule

### **S** **DATING**

DEFINE DATING ('going out')

**S** Dating is a relatively recent phenomenon which arose out of the 18th century philosophical movement we call "romanticism" which emphasized passion rather than logic.

Before that, and in other parts of the world during that time, mind, not emotions chose mate

Christian couples keep from sex before marriage, but in other ways act like they are married  
don't want to wait for emotional gratification until married  
"Emotional Fornication"

Act as if marriage: always together, do everything together

Not able to really meet each other's needs

No real security and commitment - someone better comes along then 'upgrade'

Walk out when someone cuter comes along!

Look for self-centered reasons

Why give exclusive attention to someone who cannot make exclusive commitment?

## **S** DATING PREPARES FOR DIVORCE, NOT MARRIAGE

### **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN BREAKING UP WITH GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND AND DIVORCE**

1. Both involve ownership, given self to other person
2. Both are mutual relationships, both made commitment
3. Both are exclusive relationships - no other person in life to that extent
4. Both include physical-sexual intimacy (however far the sex went with dating, still holding hands, etc., is physical/sexual)
5. Participants in both relationships sense they have some kind of obligation to keep going together, even when their commitment drops
6. Unless one partner dies, both relationship require some form of spoken end, can't just walk away for it isn't over until something is said in words or writing that it is over
7. Change in both relationships occurs suddenly, noticeably, and except in extreme circumstances, with the knowledge of both partners.

Solution: don't cultivate romantic inclinations toward anyone until you know God has shown you this person is to be your life mate

#### **TRADITIONS STARTING TODAY:**

DAUGHTER: father gives necklace with two parts of heart, he keeps one and she another, showing she won't give her heart away until father agrees. She agrees to trust father with her emotions, give her heart to him to keep (Proverbs 23:26).

SON: some use key ring. Key is to unlock a door, and ring symbolizes key to one's heart and virginity. Reminded of the value of not giving heart or body away before marriage

## **COURTSHIP**

### **S** PALESTINIAN/BIBLE WEDDING PRACTICES

<b>PALESTINIAN WEDDING</b>	<b>CHRIST &amp; THE CHURCH</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Groom goes to Bride's home</li><li>2. Promise/commitment made to Bride</li><li>3. Groom pays Bride price</li><li>4. Father accepts Bride Price as sufficient</li><li>5. Cup drunk by Bride to show acceptance</li><li>6. Legally married, can't be broken</li><li>7. Groom returns home alone</li><li>8. Groom builds home (insula) for Bride</li><li>9. Bride prepares self for Groom's coming</li><li>10. Father tells Son/Groom to go for Bride</li><li>11. Groom and friends go for bride, trumpet (sofar) blown</li><li>12. Bride taken to Groom's home, marriage consummated, 7 day celebration.</li><li>13. Spent rest of life together in love</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Christ leaves heaven to come to earth</li><li>2. Plan of salvation made in eternity past</li><li>3. Christ paid for our sins on the cross</li><li>4. Resurrection shows our sins all paid for</li><li>5. Up to each one to freely accept salvation</li><li>6. Salvation secure, can't be lost</li><li>7. Christ's Ascension, now in heaven</li><li>8. Jesus now building our homes (John 14)</li><li>9. We are to live holy, faithful lives for Him</li><li>10. God sends Jesus to get the Church</li><li>11. Jesus and angels come, trumpet blown (rapture - II Thessalonians 4:13-18)</li><li>12. We are taken to heaven for Marriage Supper of the Lamb (7 years)</li><li>13. Spend eternity together in blissful love</li></ol>

# I. PALESTINIAN WEDDING CUSTOMS

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## 1. PROMISE: 'shiddukin'

Agreement to marry, engagement

Parents important role, did arrangements

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## 2. BETROTHAL: 'Eyrusin'

Written contract singed 'ketubah'

Public Ceremony:

Dowry paid - **Bride price**

Groom paid price for Bride, to be hers

Jacob worked 7 years for Rachel (Leah) 7 2x

Saul give dau to whoever killed Goliath

Required by LAW

symbolized exchange of givers life for the bride

(like a blood covenant)

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## 3. GROOM PAYS BRIDE PRICE

JESUS our groom ("*bride, wife of the Lamb*")

PROMISE - commitment to die before world created, elected, choose us

PAID PRICE FOR US on Calvary

gave His life for His bride - us

(refer to Guenevere and King Arthur

CRUCIFIXION = price paid

RESURRECTION showed price accepted

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## 4. FATHER ACCEPTS BRIDE PRICE AS SUFFICIENT

GROOM pays price, accepted by father of Bride

God accepted Christ's work on cross bride price

**then fills cup, hands to women** - her choice

accept or reject

if accepts and drinks then all legally binding

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## 5. CUP DRUNK BY BRIDE TO SHOW ACCEPTANCE

SALVATION for us free offer by God

up to us to accept it, though

**Legally binding documents signed** = legally married

This is where Mary & Joseph were when Jesus born

Broken only by divorce ('get') - Deut 24:1-4

-only husband could break, never wife

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## 6. LEGALLY MARRIED, can't be broken

SALVATION SECURE, can't lose it

only JESUS can break Cov with us - promised never would

WE can't break 'marriage' to Him

serious commitment - called **husband & wife**  
legally married but not live together, no sex

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## **7. GROOM RETURNS HOME ALONE**

ASCENSION of Jesus

US with Jesus now at this stage

SALVATION paid for, accepted, secure  
separated from Groom, not together yet

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## **8. GROOM BUILDS HOME (INSULA) FOR BRIDE**

Husband build/prepare home for family (1 yr+-)

usually add room to family dwelling **INSULA**

"In my father's house are many rooms. I go to prepare a place ..." John 14:1-3

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## **9. BRIDE PREPARES SELF FOR GROOM'S COMING**

Wife sew beautiful wedding garments,  
prepare heart & self to be good wife

***Eph 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.***

### **Wore veil in public**

show committed to mate, stay faithful

let all know committed to another

US have no other Gods before Him (even self)

show commitment to Jesus to all

nothing before Him (spiritual adultery)

*"You shall have no other gods before Me."*

-\$, power, job, self, mate, children, pleasure

### **Work on her wedding dress**

NOW: Brides spend thousands of \$ on clothing now!

White color (purity, beauty)

THEN made own dress, worked long and hard at it

make self beautiful, acceptable, best wife possible

US: pure white wedding garment prepared by Christ

our righteousness like filthy rags!

***Rev 19:7-8 For the wedding of the Lamb has come. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."***

CAN'T purchase this garment, only freely given

paid for by Christ on Cross

PALESTINIAN BRIDE had to do own cleansing

on her own to prepare self, be ready

BRIDE OF CHRIST had groom in heaven cleansing

us when we ask for it  
- I John 1:9  
- importance of holy living!

**Wait with an expectant, faithful heart**

like child the day before Christmas!  
every day wondered "Could This Be The Day?"  
"Will He really come as promised?"  
"Will this be the day?"  
"Will I be ready and worthy?"  
DAY listened for sofar  
NIGHT light lamp so ready if sofar blow at night  
to light her way through streets

WISE & FOOLISH VIRGINS – Matthew 25  
WISE made adequate preparation  
FOOLISH didn't make adequate preparation – too late!

**S 10. FATHER TELLS SON/GROOM TO GO FOR BRIDE**

**Time** of this unknown to bride - surprise!  
TODAY: bride & groom knows, picks wedding date  
only surprise is seeing each other first time  
THEN: neither knew time of it  
GROOM prepared insula until Father say "Go"

DON'T KNOW WHEN HE WILL BE COMING,  
next event on God's program  
trumpet sound at any time!  
SO ALWAYS BE READY

When young groom done building insula father give  
go-ahead to go get bride  
NOT up to son to decide, father's choice  
God sends Christ for Bride/church

***Mark 13:32 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father"***

**S 11. GROOM & FRIENDS GO FOR BRIDE, TRUMPET (SOFAR) BLOWN**

get attendants/friends to accompany him (angels)  
as approach bride signal coming with TRUMPET  
SOFAR (ram's horn) blasts as come  
I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18  
Description of Groom & attendants going for bride  
blowing trumpet (sofar) to say coming

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## **12. BRIDE TAKEN TO GROOM'S HOME, MARRIAGE CONSUMMATED, 7-DAY CELEBRATION**

**WEDDING**: 'nissuin' = to carry

Groom (& friends) come carry bride away to new home

7 day feast celebration: joy, etc.

marriage consummated - one flesh

Groom took bride back to his home, new room

honeymooned there for 7 days . . .

(Cana wedding Jesus went to was 7 days)

great celebration, wedding consummation

US WITH JESUS: after rapture 7 YEARS honeymoon

Wedding Feast of the Lamb in heaven

(7 years of Tribulation on earth)

set up house keeping together, rule together

MILLENNIUM, ETERNITY

APPLY THAT TO US TODAY . . .

## **BIBLICAL BOY-GIRL RELATIONSHIPS**

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*Prov 30:18-19*

18 *"There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand:*

19 *the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a maiden.*

God sees love & marriage as so sacred and special He's created guidelines and regulations around it to protect it.

lies: world has something good God is withholding from us!

If you want God's best you must play by God's rules

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## **1. THE WORLD'S IDEAS ABOUT LOVE ARE A LOT DIFFERENT THAN GOD'S**

**WORLD'S WAY** (what we probably did)

ATTRACT OPPOSITE SEX

Learn how to dress, talk, act, walk to be attractive

DATE, attract one person of opposite sex

Reasons: Gives security, companionship, someone to care

Brings group acceptance

Dangers: Eliminates other friendships

Brings jealousy

Can lead to excessive intimacy

Give heart away prematurely brings much loss, pain

Teach how to pair up, break up when can upgrade

(prepares for divorce, not marriage)

MARRY YOUNG, live happily ever after!

Reasons:   Escape and rebellion  
              Unrealistic ideas about love & marriage  
              Looking for love & acceptance

**GOD'S WAY** (what we should have done)

World: marry the one you love

Bible: love the one you marry (Eph 5:25 Titus 2:4)

World: go from one relationship to the next until find 'right' one

Bible: don't give your heart away until you find the right one

**S** - PP slide for each line

<b>WORLD</b>	<b>GOD</b>
self-centered (TV, watch in mall)	other-centered (I Cor 13)
what can you do for me	what can I do for you
feels good, meets my needs, please me	commitment to another's needs
love without commitment (prepares for divorce)	love based on commitment

**S** **2. THERE'S A LOT MORE TO SAVE FOR MARRIAGE THAN JUST SEX**

Saving sex for marriage great!

**S** but must be pure emotionally, too. – EMOTIONAL VIRGINITY!

Christians: save your body for the right person only

give your heart away many times

Bible: save your heart and body for the right person only

(if don't save your heart HARD to save your body)

Not doing it the Bible's way:

wounded hearts over and over, damage that affects future

wounded bodies, too far sexually before marriage

**S** **3. THE RIGHT THING AT THE WRONG TIME IS THE WRONG THING**

*Eccl 3:1-8*

- 1 *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:*
- 2 *a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,*
- 3 *a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,*
- 4 *a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,*
- 5 *a time to scatter stones & a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,*
- 6 *a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,*
- 7 *a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,*
- 8 *a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

Love, romance, dating = good thing in its right time

If there is a right time for it that means there is also a WRONG time for it!



Like SHOPPING for car when 14 - can find right car, really want it  
-can't pay for it or drive it (right thing at wrong time)  
-dating - looking for life mate WAY before can really do anything about it.

Many youth kept from pastoring, mission field, right mate because impatient  
or its the right mate but rush things and short-circuit college, career, etc.

#### **S** 4. BEING UNMARRIED IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Not a permanent gift, but for this time in life  
Give God exclusive attention

*1 Cor 7:32-35 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs-- how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world-- how he can please his wife-- and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world-- how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.*

Good time to grow spiritually, serve God in special way, study, start career  
Instead only focus on catching opposite sex!  
fall in love with love (not with other person) - immature, look wrong way for wrong thing

Mature, be ready to give self totally to girl!  
Use time to be person God wants you to be, grow into person mate needs  
that's what you want future mate to be doing now - not romantically messing  
around and not growing!

Do not pursue any romantic relationship until you and family agree you are ready for marriage.  
Then not dating (emotional), but seeking God's will (mental)

**What kind of relationships are we to have with the opposite sex until marriage?**

#### **S** BROTHER-SISTER RELATIONSHIPS

**S** "Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity" I Timothy 5:1-2 MEMORY VERSES

BROTHER-SISTER is the model we are to follow in all relationships outside marriage!  
ME: typical western model, had to have one girlfriend after another or something wrong  
Taught me how to break up (divorce), got me ready for failure, not success  
Western dating only a recent phenomena for picking a mate: look at result (divorce rate)

**S** WESTERN MODEL OF RELATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Acquaintances
2. Boy friend, Girl friend
3. "Serious"
4. Engaged
5. Married

**S** BROTHER-SISTER MODEL OF RELATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Acquaintances
2. Friends
3. Good friends
4. Best friends
5. Engaged
6. Married

**S** Compare and contrast both lists

**S** BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Brothers and sisters in the Lord do the same kinds of friendly things biological brothers and sisters are supposed to do. Primary concern was not whether they were wife-material but blessing my sisters.

Purpose is to try to **BLESS** the other, not what they can do for me. Always have in mind that, as a Christian brother, you are to bless your Christian sister and do what is for her best in the long run. Don't think about the other person blessing you, but you to bless other person. This sets up pattern for marriage. NOT prey upon emotions, but together seeks God's will.

**S** **HOW FAR TO GO SEXUALLY BEFORE MARRIAGE...**

OT LAW: Rape, Adultery, Incest, Bestiality, Homosexuality = death penalty  
(anything but sex with own wife after marriage)  
Voluntary sex before marriage = had to marry

*Exod 22:16 "If a man seduces a virgin who is not pledged to be married and sleeps with her, he must pay the bride-price, and she shall be his wife."*

**S** **FORBIDDEN SEX IN BIBLE Lev 20:10-21**

- Adultery
- Incest
- Homosexuality, Lesbianism
- Bestiality
- Close relative
- Premarital sex

**S****WHY NO SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE?****1. God made sex to be wedding marriage gift, only really operates right in marriage****SEX ONLY WORKS IN MARRIAGE**

Like a parachute, it only works from an airplane, not from the roof of a house.

**2. Body is temple of Holy Spirit**

*1 Cor 3:16-17 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.*

**3. Satan uses sex to tempt us to sin**

*Gal 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;*

**4. Everything we do must be for God's glory**

*1 Cor 6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

*1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

**5. You must be able to ask God's blessing on everything you do**

*Col 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

**6. Everything you do should be to help you grow spiritually**

*Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

**7. Don't lose self control, (self-control fruit of Holy Spirit)**

*1 Cor 6:12-13 "Everything is permissible for me"-- but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-- but I will not be mastered by anything. "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"-- but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.*

**8. Testimony to unbelievers must be pure**

*Col 4:5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.*

**9. Testimony to believers must be pure**

*1 Cor 8:7-13*

*7 But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.*

*8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.*

*9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.*

*10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols?*

*11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.*

*12 When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.*

*13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.*

**10. God provides a way of escape out of every temptation**

*1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (NIV)*

**11. Be like Jesus** - would Jesus do this?

**12. You wouldn't want future mate to be sexually active, so don't you be!**

still ... What does it mean to be a virgin?

How far to go before marriage?

Shaking hands OK - Sexual intercourse not OK

What about everything in-between...

Sex culmination of marriage - shows emotional/soul oneness

doesn't CAUSE that oneness, but is culmination/expression of it

that oneness is so special that God created sex to celebrate/seal it

Not only is the seal/culmination (sex) wrong before marriage,

but also what it speaks of is wrong, too - emotional oneness

Can't have the emotional oneness over and over, just waiting for the marriage license to 'seal' it

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### **HOW FAR TO GO BEFORE MARRIAGE...**

#### **1. Don't start anything you can't finish**

*Song 3:5 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.*

Don't start anything you can't finish!

Don't do ANYTHING to start sexual fires going in other person!

Sex made for fulfillment in marriage, don't play around with it at all (like nitro glycerin)

Can include: kissing (esp certain kinds), hugging, even holding hands, dress, walk, hints/suggestions, touches/caresses (hand, face - want to do more!

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#### **2. Ask yourself what Jesus would do**

#### **3. Ask yourself what you want future mate to do, keep same standard yourself**

#### **4. Treat opposite sex like brother-sister until married**

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### **WHY IS SEXUAL SIN SO BAD?**

Is sex, then, a worse sin than other sins?

NO sin is worse than other sins in God's sight

YES some sins have worse consequences in this life than others

*1 Cor 6:16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." (Quote Of Genesis 2:24)*

Physical/sexual union so key it makes a UNION, even when with a prostitute

WHY? Picture of union of CHRIST & CHRISTIAN (Ephesians 5)

That's why Satan counterfeits it so often/much

*Eph 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."*

## WHAT ABOUT PAST SEXUAL SINS?

Confess the sin (1 John 1:9)

Take back union/oneness with that person (used for demonic access - claim back any access)

Does that mean that everyone who has sex is married in God's sight?

Is everyone living together really married in God's sight?

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## MARRIAGE IN GOD'S SIGHT

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1. **Sexual Intercourse** (Gen 2:24; 1 Cor 6:16)

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2. **Public Commitment**

must obey laws of the land & church (Rom 13)

before witnesses, make public statement/commitment

want others to share in time of joy

public in CHURCH BODY -want God's blessings -need their help/support

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3. **Inner Commitment to Leave & Cleave** Genesis 2:24

*Gen 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

Strange passage, for Adam had no in-laws yet! God directed Moses to add this parenthesis

when writing Genesis - Key Verse in Bible @ making marriage work

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STEPS:

1. Friendship

2. Dating

3. Courtship

4. Marriage

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## MARRIAGE

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## THE TOP 15 BIBLICAL WAYS TO ACQUIRE A WIFE

1. Find an attractive prisoner of war, bring her home, shave her head, trim her nails, and give her new clothes. Then she's yours. - (Deuteronomy 21:11-13)

2. Find a prostitute and marry her. - (Hosea 1:1-3)

3. Find a man with seven daughters, and impress him by watering his flock - Moses (Exodus 2:16-21)

4. Purchase a piece of property, and get a woman as part of the deal. - Boaz (Ruth 4:5-10)

5. Go to a party and hide. When the women come out to dance, grab one and carry her off to be your wife. - Benjaminites (Judges 21:19-25)

6. Have God create a wife for you while you sleep. Note: this will cost you. - Adam (Genesis 2:19-24)

7. Agree to work seven years in exchange for a woman's hand in marriage. Get tricked into marrying the wrong woman. Then work another seven years for the woman you wanted to marry

in the first place. That's right. Fourteen years of hard labor for a wife. - Jacob (Genesis 29:15-30)

8. Cut 200 foreskins off of your future father-in-law's enemies and get his daughter for a wife. - David (I Samuel 18:27)

9. Even if no one is out there, just wander around a bit and you'll definitely find someone. (It's all relative, of course.) - Cain (Genesis 4:16-17)

10. Become the emperor of a huge nation and hold a beauty contest. - Xerxes or Ahasuerus (Esther 2:3-4)

11. When you see someone you like, go home and tell your parents, "I have seen a ... woman; now get her for me." If your parents question your decision, simply say, "Get her for me. She's the one for me." - Samson (Judges 14:1-3)

12. Kill any husband and take HIS wife (Prepare to lose four sons, though=). - David (2 Samuel 11)

13. Wait for your brother to die. Take his widow. (It's not just a good idea; it's the law.) - Onan and Boaz (Deuteronomy or Leviticus, example in Ruth)

14. Don't be so picky. Make up for quality with quantity. - Solomon (1 Kings 11:1-3)

15. A wife?...NOT! - Paul (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)

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Saturday, June 9, 2001 Deep in the Hill Country of South Central Texas, on a quiet ranch, the world is about to change. There are no newspapers, there is no public fanfare -- but most of the more than 600 people gathered know they are about to witness something that the majority of Americans will never experience: A truly pure woman is about to covenant in marriage with a truly virtuous man for the stated purpose of building a multi-generational legacy for the glory of God. This is a true love story -- the kind of which you rarely hear about these days. From their childhood, both groom and bride had purposed to let their parents direct them in all things. Both had demonstrated an unusual ability to submit their wills to that of their parents'. Both were willing to allow their parents to guide the process of preparation for maturity and marriage, even when this meant taking a very different path from that traversed by friends and peers. In fact, both had purposed to have no other romantic relationship than the one reserved for the spouse God would give to them. When they stand at the marriage altar today, both bride and groom proclaim to the world that this is their first love. It is true love. In fact, today, they will take their very first kiss -- Ever! -- With anyone! -- And they will do it at the moment they are pronounced man and wife.

But this love story is about more than just the bride and groom. It is about two families, an entire community of believers, and a new generation of children who are being raised to embrace and emulate the pattern for life preparation and marriage being modeled today by the happy couple. Though the bride and the groom are only in their early twenties, this story is actually more than three decades in the making. It is the story of two sets of parents, both first-generation home educators, who understood the Scriptures to commission them to raise their children in a manner set apart from the world. Both sets of parents embraced this commission, and for decades both sets of parents have prayed and planned and prepared for this very

moment. For these parents, this marriage is a victory. It is a vindication of the fact that God's ways work. It is yet more evidence that He is the God of the covenant who honors promises and blesses obedience. But even more is going on. A major deposit is about to be made in the spiritual bank account of a community of believers. For the local church congregation of more than 150 who are gathered as witnesses, this is the first time that two members of their own assembly have come together in marriage. In a real sense, this couple represents the first fruits of a young church, which from its inception has been dedicated to praying for the marriages of its young men and women. For two years they have prayed for strong families. They have cried out to the Lord that he would be merciful and provide godly spouses for their children. They have asked Him to raise up another generation that will build on the principles of family revival their parents have embraced -- home education, multi-generational faithfulness, biblical patriarchy, covenant keeping, virtuous womanhood, and courageous manhood. Today, the little children of the congregation will be watching.

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This too is a blessing. It means that they are growing up with the right kind of examples around them. It means that there is the wonderful hope that they will grow up in a spiritual community where it is normative for young men and women to grow up in purity. The groom is Joshua Goforth. At the ripe old age of twenty-one, he has already distinguished himself among his peers as a man of vision, spiritual focus, and excellence as the graphic designer extraordinaire for all three of the Vision Forum catalogs (book catalog, All-American Boy's Adventure Catalog, and the Beautiful Girlhood Collection). Joshua, who joined Vision Forum immediately upon completion of his home education, is one of a growing number of home educated students who are demonstrating that a little bit of entrepreneurial vision, a lot of effort, and some good old-fashioned practical experience is a superior method of life preparation than a four-year journey through the halls of Babylon (a.k.a., the modern college experience).

With just moments to go before the wedding begins, I am standing and praying with the groom. He has given me the awesome privilege of assisting his father and father-in-law in officiating over the marriage. His last words to me as a single man sum up the message of this wedding: "I know I am not worthy of this woman, but I also know that God is doing something really special here, and He is doing it for future generations."

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The lady of the hour is Miss Noelle Wheeler, the twenty-four year old daughter of evangelist Richard "Little Bear" Wheeler. Vision Forum readers may recognize her as the girl who graces the cover of the Beautiful Girlhood Collection with such genuine sweetness and femininity, or as the author of our best-selling book DAUGHTERS OF DESTINY. Anyone who has met Noelle knows that she possesses a refreshing innocence and precious naiveté that only comes from a girl who has been raised around the sweet aroma of Christian holiness. Today, she is focused on one thing: preparing herself for her new earthly Lord (1 Peter 3) with whom she will focus the rest of her life in the service of Jesus Christ as they purpose to seek the Lord for many children and commit their marriage to a joint-dominion work for the glory of God. The marriage commences. It is perfect in every respect.

Beautiful sunlight from the Lord and a pleasant breeze accompany the lovely strains of music which proceed from the outdoor gazebo by which bride and groom will take their vows. As I share a message of encouragement to the couple, accompanied by the vows of their covenant, I can sense a true spirit of hope and glorious expectation coming from the many well wishers gathered. But one last event is yet to take place. With just moments to go before bride and groom are pronounced man and wife, the father of the bride rises to approach the couple. He takes his stand before me.

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In his own inimitable style, Little Bear Wheeler reaches down to the ground and reveals a replica of the massive sword once carried by the original "Braveheart," William Wallace of Scotland. Raising the sword with both hands he proclaims the following words, which I will attempt to paraphrase below: "Kneel Joshua Goforth... In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I commission you to take my daughter. I have raised her with a sacred purity as few girls have ever been raised. Today, I give her to you. You are to be the loving lord in your home and over her. Cherish and love her and never forget what a rare gift God has given to you. Keep the sword in your house forever. When your children rise up and ask you 'father, whence comes this sword,' you must answer them that 'This sword was given as a charge by my father to me as a reminder that our family would forever be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the covenant of marriage is sacred and never to be broken.'"

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Last night was my ninth wedding anniversary. As my wife Beall and I reflected upon the joys of our own marriage and the supreme happiness God has given to us, we were also able to rejoice in the new marriage we witnessed a month prior. We rejoiced because the world is now a better place. We rejoiced because a promise has been kept. It was a promise given millennia ago to a great man named Abraham. It is a promise that was affirmed by Solomon and echoed in the words of the Apostles. It is a promise that more and more parents are claiming as they dedicate their children to the service of the Lord, as they fulfill the substance of the Deuteronomy 6 mandate by walking alongside their children through home education, as they turn their hearts to home and from the debilitating philosophies of our culture, so that they can raise warriors for Jesus Christ. I was there. I witnessed it from three feet away. It was sealed before the public with a vow and a kiss -- a very special kiss, the kind you don't hear about any more. A kiss of purity and innocence -- a genuine first kiss.

Wake up happy tomorrow -- you serve a God who keeps His promises! Thank you Father, for reminding us that God's ways work. Thank you Father, for vindicating parents who have stood against the world, year after year, in the home education of their children. Thank you Jesus, for praying fathers who have turned their hearts to home. Thank you Father, for noble and pious mothers who have labored in the trenches of daily homemaking. Thank you Father, for raising up a generation of young men and women who we can actually set before our little ones and say -- "follow their example." Thank you for the marriage of Joshua Goforth to Noelle Wheeler. We are all better for it.



## **S** HOW TO KNOW WHO TO MARRY

### INTRODUCTION

Interesting to ask people "How did you meet?"

"What first attracted you to mate?"

How to find right mate real difficulty today!!!

God has the right person for you, and will bring you together! How???

### **S** PERSON YOU MARRY MUST BE:

#### **S** **1. A believer** II Cor 6:14

14 *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

When a 2-natured person marries a 1-natured person, their only basis of fellowship is the old nature.

Mark Twain and Olivia Langdon - she a believer, he not; she tried to win him, ended up losing her faith, died hopeless and in misery

#### **S** **2. A growing believer**

Not just saved, but someone growing and maturing, same place you are spiritually (or still unequal yoke - mule and ox trying to pull yoke together)

John & Pam Moody in Texas, she said no, he saved, still not growing bel like her, didn't work out

Mary & Joseph both put God first, willing to give other up for God

-Mary: be pregnant without him knowing, he'd leave her

-Joseph: break engagement, couldn't marry pregnant woman

#### **S** **3. God's growing believer for you** I Cor 7:39

Just because growing believer like you doesn't mean it is God's choice

Minimum qualifications: growing believer

Then how to know WHICH one ? ? ?

JUST BECAUSE A GROWING BELIEVER doesn't mean would be a good match

Many other factors enter in

-God's will mainly

-but He uses principles He set up:

### **S** **TEMPERAMENTS**

### OBSERVATIONS ABOUT WHO MARRIES WHOM

Extroverts and introverts marry (seldom 2 of same kind)

Opposites attract for each one knows own weakness and is impressed by someone who is strong in their area of weakness.

**S****BIRTH ORDER AND MARRIAGE**

BEST match is a firstborn (especially female) with a last born (especially male). Great balance, etc. If they have opposite-sex siblings that is a very big help, too, in understanding the opposite sex.

Especially for a boy to have girl siblings important for most boys don't know or understand girls.

**S****BEFORE YOU MARRY...****1. Are you and the person friends - best friend ever had?**

Friendship, then sex/physical is God's way

Sex/physical, then grow friendship is worlds way

Lack of strong friendship is why marriages fail, not lack of sex life

**2. Are you and the person pursuing the same goals & objectives?**

Growing believer God has for you (II Cor 6:14)

The other person meets the spiritual standards you have set for them

**3. Do you find each other personally interesting and attractive?**

Seek counsel from parents or godly Christians who fill the role of Christian parents in your lives at this time. Also get input from your closest friends

**S****MAKING A COMMITMENT**

Question is NOT "Do I have feelings for this person?" but "Am I ready, willing and able to place myself in a position of obligation to this person?" - once make a commitment in any way must keep it - can't go by emotions but mental commitment

Commitment made verbally, implied verbally, body language/actions, etc.

When commitment is made then person loses right to be involved with others. Actually the other person owns you. Instead of owning yourself as bro-sister, you own other and they own you as in marriage. Its not Biblical to be under another's control until engaged (committed to marriage).

Not a matter of WHAT you do when committed but WHY. Can do all the same things but do them because you have to -- not right!

You can ascertain whether right for each other or not without mutual agreement that excludes all others. Don't have to commit self to see if you should commit yourself! Only way out is hurt feelings, etc.

If you lose someone because you don't move fast enough, someone else commits self sooner & 'wins' them, etc., then they weren't God's person for you! God promises He will provide for your needs. All things work for your good (Rom 8:28) - even losing possible partners!

Dating and going together prepares one for divorce, not marriage

**S****IF GOD WANTS YOU SINGLE . . .**

Being unmarried is a gift from God

Not a permanent gift, but for this time in life

Give God exclusive attention

1 Cor 7:32-35      *I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs-- how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world-- how he can please his wife-- and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world-- how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.*

Good time to grow spiritually, serve God in special way, study, start career

Instead only focus on catching opposite sex!

fall in love with love (not with other person) - immature, look wrong way for wrong thing

Mature, be ready to give self totally to girl!

Use time to be person God wants you to be, grow into person mate needs, that's what you want future mate to be doing now - not romantically messing around and not growing!

Do not pursue any romantic relationship until you and family agree you are ready for marriage.  
Then not dating (emotional), but seeking God's will (mental)

What kind of relationships are we to have with the opposite sex until marriage?

## **S** TO HAVE/BE THE RIGHT MATE

### **S** **1. START WITH A CLEAN SLATE**

stay emotionally and physically pure

CANDY: 2 then better than 1 now!

### **S** **2. MAKE YOUR PARENTS YOUR TEAM MATES**

for accountability and wisdom

today: date early to replace parents, substitute for love/acceptance

marry father/mother substitute!

talk with parents about girls who interest you, what to look for, what to do in own self

### **S** **3. ESTABLISH PROTECTIVE BOUNDARIES**

do it parent-teen

parents hold teens accountable to their own agreed-to boundaries

when attracted to someone easy to cut corners, rationalize

### **S** **4. CHECK WHO'S WHISPERING IN YOUR EAR**

friends you listen to, movies/TV you watch, books you read

Satan's lies put into mind, heart

### **S** **5. TRUST GOD WITH THE DETAILS**

hardest part about courtship -- trusting God will bring right person

starts pattern in life: meeting own needs instead of trusting God for it

no details @ when to hold hands, kiss, etc. - trust God to lead in that

God will take care of the details!

Isaac awaiting Rebecca to come, sent servant back to home land to bring bride back!

we don't have to know how it all will work out, we just have to be committed to His

guidelines and want to do it His way, whatever that is

need PATIENCE, TRUST -- things you'll need for whole life  
if start out that way easier from then on  
if start off taking things into own hands will be harder to change!

Nothing more precious in God's sight a woman's heart - don't mess with it, take advantage,  
tempt for own ego, use, break heart  
Hold it as a sacred trust!

**S**

PRAY

Discussion, etc