

Theme: Although the bible does not give a specific plan for dating or courtship, it does give key principles, the most important of which is that they must be a believer.

I. Intro – My Own Experience

- A. A young man desiring to be married
- B. What if I choose the wrong person?
- C. Is it unspiritual to date? Will God choose for me?
- D. What does the Bible say about this vital topic?

II. Some Common Myths About This Topic

- A. God will choose my spouse for me
 - 1. This idea was popular in early 80's
 - 2. But God says *we choose* – v39
- B. There is only one person – God's will is narrow
 - 1. This idea paralyzes people
 - 2. God says we may choose *anyone* – v39
- C. The Bible offers a specific plan for courtship
 - 1. Usually pick some passage and misinterpret
 - 2. Finding what we want to find
 - 3. Example: Genesis 24

III. Key Biblical Principle – Only Believers!

- A. Only believers (v39)
 - 1. Lit. 'only in the Lord'
 - 2. Central idea – must be a believer
- B. Strong warnings (2 Cor 6:14-15; Mal 2:11-12; Neh 13:23-27)
 - 1. Do not be yoked; nothing in common – 2 Cor 6:14-15
 - 2. Broken faith; desecrate; cut off – Mal 2:11-12
 - 3. Pagans; no Hebrew language; beat, cursed; Solomon – Neh 13
- C. Reasons for this principle
 - 1. Pulls us from God & corrupts (Dt 7:3-4)
 - a. We don't pull them up – they pull us down!
 - b. Friends yes; dating – NO!!!!
 - c. Even as friends – always distance
 - d. Dating/marriage – too close – will cloud our thinking
 - 2. Key purpose of marriage – godly seed (Mal 2:15; Dt 6:6-; Gen 18:19)
 - a. Not just about us – godly children
 - b. How get this if one person not for it?
 - 3. We are to be passionate about God (Mt 6:33; Ps 42:1-2)
 - a. Not just believers – passionate, sold out!

b. If sold out; how want unbeliever? Lukewarm saint?

IV. Conclusion & Summary

A. A word to those already unequally yoked

1. Remember that God is a God of redemption!
2. Paul tells us we can not divorce now (7:12-14)
3. Pray for the conversion of your spouse (7:14)

B. A word to those looking for a marriage partner

1. Remember that you must choose
2. Trust God and ask Him to guide you
3. Not a biblical dating scheme – but principles
4. Key issue – don't even consider an unbeliever!

Biblical Principles for Selecting A Marriage Partner

(Part 1)

1 Corinthians 7:39
November 13, 2005
Cry of My Heart
Numbers 6

39 A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but **he must belong to the Lord.** 1 Corinthians 7:39 NIV

A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord.** 1 Cor 7:39 NAS

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? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

11 Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god. 12 As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD cut him off from the tents of Jacob-- even though he brings offerings to the LORD Almighty. Malachi 2:11-12

23 Moreover, in those days I saw men of Judah who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab. 24 Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or the language of one of the other peoples, and did not know how to speak the language of Judah. 25 I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name and said: "You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves. 26 Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women. 27 Must we hear now that you too are doing all this terrible wickedness and are being unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?" Nehemiah 13:23-27

3 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, 4 for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. Deuteronomy 7:3-4

15 Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. Malachi 2:15

6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him. Genesis 18:19

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

1 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? Psalm 42:1-2

12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. 1 Corinthians 7:12-14