

Theme: When thinking about a marriage partner, we need to follow God's wisdom and choose someone on the basis of godly character rather than external looks.

## I. Intro – Leon Kass Story

- A. "Most important decision?"
- B. Most say college or job
- C. One young man – woman who will raise my kids
- D. Everyone else was incensed and ridiculed
- E. Bob Hunt – most spend more time on car than choosing mate

## II. The Wrong Standard – External Appearance

- A. Biblical wisdom (v31; 1 Tim 2:9-10; 1 Pet 3:3-4; 1 Sam 16:7)
  - 1. Charm and beauty are fleeting (v31)
  - 2. Not outward adornment (1 Tim 2:9-10; 1 Pet 3:3-4)
  - 3. Don't look at externals – 1 Sam 16:7
- B. Cultural trends
  - 1. Most CEO's like Saul – tall – *Blink*, 87
  - 2. Men especially visually driven – Rhoads, 54

## III. The Biblical Standard – Godly Character

- A. The fear of the Lord (v30) – lives life *coram Deo*

- B. Hard working (Pro 6:9-11; 22:13) – not necessarily rich
  - 1. Poverty will come otherwise – big problem
  - 2. Wont be willing to work on marriage either!
- C. Accepts responsibility & correction – Pro 12:1; 22:13
- D. Not self-centered - Pro 11:24-25
- E. Wise and prudent – Pro 11:22; 19:14
- F. Not contentious - Pro 19:13; 21:9

## IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. To the unmarried – culture or God?
  - 1. Which is guiding your thinking?
  - 2. Do we go for beauty or character?
  - 3. Are you becoming this kind of person?
- B. To men – recognize your temptation in this area
  - 1. We are visually driven – made this way
  - 2. Culture pushes this & makes it primary
  - 3. Must control this beast!
- C. To women – be careful in dress
  - 1. Often realize subconsciously how men are & respond

2. If you get him by looks, that is only way to keep him

3. Is that who and what you want?

D. To all – am I building this kind of character?

1. All are called to live godly lives

2. Am I hard working, responsible, correctible?

3. Am I self-centered? Wise? Contentious?

4. Sanctification – grow in character!

## Biblical Principles for Selecting A Marriage Partner (Part 2)

Proverbs 31:10, 30  
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<sup>9</sup> I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, <sup>10</sup> but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

1 Peter 3:3-4

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7

"In the US population, about 14.5% of men are six feet or taller. Among CEO's of Fortune 500 companies, that number is 58%. Even more striking, in the general population, 3.9% of adult men are 6 foot two or taller. Among my CEO sample, almost a third were six foot two or taller." Malcolm Gladwell, *Blink*, page 87.

"Both sexes care about a potential partners appearance, and both care more now than they did a half-century ago... The movement in these rankings presumably reflects cultural change, but what has not changed is the greater importance that men give to attractiveness. This is true cross-culturally... In one in-depth study of twenty male and twenty female medical students, '85 percent of the men mentioned physical attractiveness as the trait most important to them in choosing a partner for serious relationships. Only 10 percent of the women gave this response.'" Steven E. Rhoads, *Taking Sex Differences Seriously*, 54.

9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- 11 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 6:9-11

13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside!" or, "I will be murdered in the streets!"

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Proverbs 22:13

1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

Proverbs 12:1

24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. 25 A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:24-25

22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

Proverbs 11:22

14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Proverbs 19:14

13 A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.

Proverbs 19:13

9 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

Proverbs 21:9