
Looking for a Wife or Husband Radio Message By Dwight Porter, D.D.

In big letters in a classified add in THE MIAMI HERALD, I see the following: "DIVORCE only \$85 (plus filing fee)." The add continues, "It costs you nothing to dial Divorce Services of Florida, toll-free. Call Monday through Friday, 9a.m-10p.m, Saturday, 1-5 p.m. GUARANTEED."

Three years ago divorce in our nation exceeded the one million mark. There was and is one divorce for every two marriages and fewer divorced people were remarrying. These facts are taken from *CHANGING TIMES*. Today is a repeat of the time before Noah's flood, when God in judgment sent a world-wide deluge to wipe out all living flesh on the earth. Then as now the whole earth was filled with violence, corruption and the vilest of sins imaginable. (Gen. 6:5-7. The "gays" flaunt their perversion. (Have you read our pamphlet on homosexuality? It answers the question according to the Bible as to its being normal, sick, or sinful.) God brought the flood. How long before God's judgment falls again upon a nation that is gradually becoming one of the most wicked nations of the earth? This being due to its investing money in such debauchery and immorality.

What Has Happened?

Immorality is snowballing to terrible and horrible heights. Just the other day, I was talking to a young man about 25 years of age who decided to marry the girl he had been living with for three years, only because she became pregnant. He left her almost at the altar, failing to deep his promise. Now he assumes responsibility for another fatherless child. There of hundreds of thousands of them in our land today. Again I ask a question, why are we so quiet about marriage and divorce? Have you checked the books in the typical book store? If you do, you will find most of them giving supposedly Scriptural grounds for such action. Why? Do you think for a moment, with the popular swing away from one marriage, that any other kind of books will sell? How many people do you know who want Biblical Truth and will abide by it?

The toleration of sin today is sickening to behold. There was a day when a girl pregnant outside of marriage brought shame to all of her relatives and friends. At one time parents were proud of the accomplishments of their children. Now they are compelled to be content with what their children don't do. Just so they do not end up in jail, on dope, or become prematurely pregnant. Many a father would turn his daughter out of the house if she openly had an affair, but now resigns himself to the fact that she is happy or thinks she is. Just so our children keep out of trouble and not cause us shame, etc. Many parents allow their emotional ties to blind their moral perspectives.

Does it make any difference what God says in His Word? Hear it loud and clear: "Then shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh" Genesis 2:24. "Submitting yourselves one to another, in the fear of the Lord" Ephesians 5:21. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" Ephesians 5:25. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He That loveth his wife loveth himself" Ephesians 5:28. "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband" Ephesians 5:33.

We talk a great deal about sound doctrine. Hear the tenants of

such: "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine; That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged woman likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things. That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the world of God be not blasphemed"

Titus 2:1-5.

A Happy Marriage

There is only one relationship that is more meaningful and beneficial. It is personal relationship with God as a member of his family whereby He is our Heavenly Father and we are His children. "But as many as received him, to them he gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12. The most wonderful unity is that between a husband and wife. Real love always generates concern for the other partner in marriage. This is true in all aspects of married life including sex. (I Cor. 7:4 ,5). A husband lives to make his wife happy and does so in the expression that the wife is in need of. A wife places herself in humble submission allowing the husband's leadership to be exercised which satisfies his needed confidence. God created a man and woman who need each other and there is no completion (one flesh) without such a relationship. Listen to God's evaluation of a good wife. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord" Proverbs 18:22. "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life" Proverbs 31:10-12. Only the Lord knows the joy a husband and wife possess when they dare to do God's bidding by the energizing Power of the Holy Spirit. Both can do that which God directs. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Phil 4:13.

While climbing a mountain in North Carolina we met a lady who answered my question as to her work, "I am just an ordinary housewife." I proceeded to tell her of possessing the most important job in the world. That was God's plain direction for all wives. According to a national survey, only three percent of the 17 year-old girls in the country pick "HOUSEWIFE" as their first choice career. Stop and think about these figures. Today three out of 100 girls want to become what their mothers had assumed was inevitable, a woman who made a career out of a marriage relationship, whose happiness-ever-after was to be a mother and a manager of a home with a husband and children who loved her and she could return tender affection. Today's lifestyle for the average woman is up for grabs with many alternatives. Only God knows the ultimate end of this social upheaval and the consequences of turning away from Biblical directives. "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully" I Tim 5:14.

Women are missing precious joy by not holding their husband's son in their arms. There is no complete fulfillment in any wife's life without the thrill of loving and caring for the little one given to her by God. "Lo children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward" Psalm 127:3.

These are fearful days of involvement. Marriage is a lifetime commitment despite the many who are satisfied to live together independent of a marriage ceremony. They are not only breaking the laws of our land, but acting contrary to God's established principle of marriage. How can they expect any fulfillment? Since when can we classify fornication and adultery as love? It is lust, contamination, pollution and is damnable in God's sight and will send both partners to hell; for Christians do not do such things. God says such people go to Hell. (This is not my judgment.) "Now the works of the FLESH are

manifest, WHICH are these “ADULTERY, FORNICATION, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like, of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they WHICH DO SUCH THINGS SHALL NOT inherit the kingdom of God” Galatians 5:19-21.

Your marriage (a life-time contract) partner is one of the most important choices of your entire life. There is to be no separation, let alone divorce. Only one reason exists for temporary separation and we are warned about the length of it. (Read and study I Corinthians the seventh chapter carefully.)

Many females push the panic button and marry anything that comes down the street. Of course they must be asked but not always. Due to the twisted sense of values pounded within us by the distorted view of love and marriage sponsored by Hell and served to us on the platter of TV and contemporary literature, the females are becoming the aggressors in selection of a mate. Sex, which is not the most important part of marriage, is being promoted as the one essential for a happy marriage. How can we accept such lies? God help us to get back to Biblical principles involved in marriage. Sex is part of the whole person involved in marriage.

Definite Suggestions

For a few, these will come too late. Many will read the following list and classify them as the opinion of a preacher. A few will read them with deep appreciation and make sure they are shared with their children and grandchildren. If one of two are beneficial, I shall thank the Lord. The following should be considered in choosing a husband or wife.

1. Stop the relationship immediately if your friend is not governed by definite rules of conduct. If he speaks disrespectful of his or your parents, he will not improve as the other parent of your children.
2. If your parents and friends have a serious question about him or her, that is sufficient reason to cool it. If his line of reasoning supersedes others, who are not emotionally involved with him, then your grief from the continuing relationship is deserved, because you will not listen to another opinion. What about God’s evaluation of your present friend who may become your life’s companion?
3. What makes you think he or she will change after your marriage? If the person you are having fellowship with is not presently qualified as your married partner, stop your growing relationship. That past and present record reveals character and continuing conduct.
4. Take a good look at his or her mother and father. Your future husband will treat you like his father treats his mother. Your future wife will take care of your house just like her mother does. In my years of observation, I have found few exceptions to this principle.
5. What will he or she be like in 30 years after your marriage? Look at his or her parents.
6. Immorality and fornication does not stop with marriage. If you know him or her to be unclean prior to your marriage, let somebody else marry public property. You have not assurance of a change of heart and conduct because of a ceremony.
7. Do not allow yourself to become emotionally involved with anybody until you know their behavior pattern.

8. Do not marry a liar, cheat, and conniver. Let somebody else have the grief.
9. God will give you the person He wants you to have. Look at the price Abraham paid for not waiting for the proper child with the right person.
10. Secure your advice about marriage from a happy and contented husband or wife.
11. Possess a wide-open satisfying relationship prior to your marrying him or her.
12. Be sure you are genuine yourself; for a phony will never recognize another one.
15. Establish your prayer life together before your trip to the altar.

You will agree with me that these points just scratch the surface of clear concepts in selecting a marriage partner. By the way, you can make a mistake very easy. There are very few refreshing and delightfully happy marriages in our day, even in Christian circles. You will have what you plan for. Your standards better be established before the moonlight enters the parked car. Long before the roses and the sweet talk begins, you better learn to be possessed by Biblical principles; that you can easily say NO and YES at the proper time.

How long have you been praying for the person God has for you? Are you governed by Biblical principles in your choice or will just any person do? Some day you will meet a person that you wish you had saved all of your emotional involvement for him or her alone. You will wish that no other person had ever touched you. God keeps the records and you will probably get the husband or wife you deserve. If you keep yourself clean and pure, only God knows the joy and delight that awaits you in marriage.

It is when we are faithful to God in every other area of our life that He can freely give us that which is well-pleasing to Himself. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

Additional free copies of this message are available. It is a reprint from our free publication, THE CHALLENGER. Also, available are nine free lessons of our free Home Bible Study Course.

The Hour of Grace & Power
PO Box 5900
Titusville, FL 32783-5900
www.thehourofgraceandpower.org