

TEN THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE MARRIAGE

1. ***Most Important***

DOES MY POTENTIAL MATE SHARE MY FAITH?

Some people may feel this is not important. However, the Bible says “How can two walk together unless they are agreed.” It also states that we should not be “unequally yoked together with unbelievers.” So, does the person I am considering for marriage have a relationship with Christ? Are they walking on the same path that I am? Are we spiritually matched? Are we both planning to serve God for the rest of our lives? Marriage will be challenging, yet rewarding. If I choose to marry someone who shares my spiritual beliefs, this will be one less hurdle we must overcome.

2. **WHAT ARE MY POTENTIAL MATE’S GOALS FOR THEIR LIFE?**

Physical attraction is important, however, you and your mate will be together for a lifetime. So discussing your life’s goals is important to ensure you are marrying someone who will support the vision you have for your life and for what God has planned for you. It’s important that you are going in similar directions.

3. **MAKING A COMMITMENT FOR SEXUAL PURITY**

God’s word teaches us to be sexually pure. It teaches us to “make no provision for the flesh.” If given the opportunity, our flesh will take the invitation to sin every time. God has made sex for marriage and to do so outside of marriage, is a violation of God’s covenant. “Let every man have his own wife” scripture states. So as a believer, although challenging, make a commitment to be sexually pure toward your prospective mate to be pleasing unto the Lord. Utilize your engagement period as a time to pray together, getting to know one another, preparing for your wedding and making wonderful plans for your future together.

4. **HOW DOES MY PROSPECTIVE MATE FEEL ABOUT HAVING A FAMILY?**

This is important to discuss. Some people want no children ever. Some want children right away. Yet others want to wait five years or even ten years. How many children will you have? When will we have children? What are your beliefs for disciplining children? Since you will be merging your lives together, parenthood should be an important part of your discussions.

5. **HOW WILL WE HANDLE OUR MONEY?**

Some people get married and find out their mates will spend every dime they receive. Others find out their mates are very tight with money and will barely spend a dime. Of course, balance is the key to handling marital finances. But these are questions you should discuss and not assume. Will you have one bank account; two accounts? How will the bills be paid? Will the wife work? Sit down before marriage and discuss money matters – because it really matters.

6. **ARE WE WILLING TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER UNTIL DEATH DO US PART?**

God sanctioned marriage between one man and one woman. Of course the feelings of infatuation are what initially draws us into a relationship. But after marriage, life settles in. Bills have to be paid, food has to be prepared, and children have to be raised. Although we may hate to admit it, we all are aging, we might gain weight, hairs may be lost, wrinkles may settle in, jobs may come and go, and trust could

even be broken. Some questions to think about is, am I willing to love this person when things are good and not so good. Am I willing to stay even if we argue, even if there are major life challenges, if my mate changes or does not meet my needs? To have a successful marriage, we must love with the God-kind of love “agape”. This love has no limits and no conditions. It keeps loving - always.

7. WHAT IS MY POTENTIAL MATE’S HEALTH CONDITION OR HABITS?

If a person getting married has had any sexual behavior that has caused health issues or if they have health concerns in general, this is something that should be discussed prior to getting married. Your potential mate should be made fully aware of anything that could potentially be harmful to your marriage because things were not disclosed prior to tying the knot (cancer, diseases, impotence, etc.) After discussing, then you both can make plans on how to move forward. If there are any known or secret habits (drug addition, alcoholism, porn, violence, promiscuity) this should be dealt with as well. Don’t ignore signs – the “red flags”. What is your deal breaker (violence, etc.)? Of course, no one wants to discuss negative habits and may feel it’s their personal business. But when a person joins themselves with another person, it’s important to come open and honest. A marriage must be built on trust. Perhaps bringing in a counselor to address these concerns would be best. It is better to do it before rather than after the marriage ceremony.

8. AM I HEALED FROM PAST HURTS?

Baggage from prior relationships or prior hurts from other things can seep into a new relationship. It is essential to address the pain, the anger or unforgiveness prior to marriage. Your mate will be closer to you than any other human on the planet. They will learn things about you that others won’t be privy to. Stored anger, hurt, disappointments, frustrations tend to show up in our character. Giving your relationship a healthy start is vitally important. We are all works in progress and God is constantly working on us to make us more like him. However, the pain of a previously broken relationship, should be dealt with before you say “I DO.” Perhaps a counselor or spiritual adviser can help. Praying with your prospective mate about the matter could assist as well. Bible teaches “Give no place to the devil.” Don’t give the enemy the opportunity to place a wedge in your marriage before you get started.

9. HOW WILL HOUSEHOLD CHORES BE HANDLED?

Sharing is a wonderful attribute of being married and you will have a partner for life. Chore responsibilities in a household have changed over the last several decades. Whose primary responsibility will it be to keep things in order at home? Will the duties be divided or shared? Will it be the wife’s or husband’s primary responsibility to prepare meals? Discussing this can keep arguments at bay when life gets busy.

10. HOW WILL WE HANDLE THE HOLIDAYS?

Visiting family during the Holidays will be something that will most likely happen several times a year. What would be the holiday plan? Which events will we attend, on what days, or what times? A discussion about this could make the holidays less stressful.

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:

I Corinthians 7:2
II Corinthians 6:14

Amos 3:3
Romans 13:14

Genesis 2:24
Ephesians 4:27