

BEFORE YOU MARRY

Making decisions is part of life. Some decisions are weighty, some are light. Some choices will affect the entirety of our lives, others will quickly be forgotten. The greatest decision anyone can make is to obey the Gospel of Jesus (Acts 2:38). Before obeying the Truth (Rom. 6:17), one should soberly count the cost (Lk. 14:25-33). Jesus wants us to fully understand the commitment that is to be made at conversion. Once it is made, there must be no turning back (Lk. 9:62). Running a close second to obeying the truth is the decision to marry. Just as choosing to follow Jesus affects eternity, so does the choice of whom to marry. In the same way one should ponder the weight of choosing to follow Jesus, a person ought to ask some serious questions before choosing a mate. Here are a few considerations to ponder before you marry:

1. Is Your Future Spouse Eligible to Marry?

Not everyone is eligible to marry. Some folks are too young, some are already married, and some have divorced for reasons not sanctioned by Scripture. Jesus made the statement, “and I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery” (Matt. 19:9). If the person you are considering marrying has been divorced for a reason other than fornication, you cannot marry them without entering into an adulterous arrangement (cf. Matt. 5:31-32). Adulterers will not inherit heaven (Gal. 5:19-21). Therefore, make sure your future husband and wife is not still bound to someone else (cf. Rom. 7:1-3).

2. Is Your Future Spouse a Faithful Christian? Notice that the question asks if your future spouse is a “faithful” Christian. If you are concerned about spiritual matters, then marry someone who truly is,

as well. Do not settle for someone who merely professes Christianity, but rather choose to marry an individual who truly seeks first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33).

3. Will Your Future Spouse Help You Go to Heaven? If he is a faithful Christian, he will. Ask yourself the question, “Will this person pray, study, always attend the services of the church, grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, and encourage me throughout our time on earth together?” If the answer is no, then you need to consider another candidate for wedlock.

4. Will Your Future Spouse Help You Raise Your Children in the Lord? Can you say of your future spouse, what God said of Abraham?

“For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him” (Gen. 18:19).

If not, again, you might want to reconsider.

5. Does Your Future Spouse Understand the Permanency of Marriage? God’s ideal for marriage is one man, one woman for life, till death do them part (Gen. 2:18-24; Rom. 7:1-3). The only things that dissolve marriage are death and, in the worse case scenario, adultery (Matt. 19:9). God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16). Does your future spouse understand the depth of commitment required to marry and please God?

Bill Burk from *Eastside Edifier*

ADVICE FOR MARRIAGE

I confess that I am not a counselor practicing remedial medicine, and I am not ashamed to confess it. But I like to give advice in the practice of preventive medicine! I have given two rules.

1. Do not marry one whose character you do not know. Know the person's character before you make the fateful promise, “I do.” If he is a drunkard, don't think you can sober him up. If he is a liar, don't think you can make him truthful. If he beats you, don't think he will stop it. If he has roving eyes, don't think you can make his eye single. If he is godless, don't think you can convert him. Men do reform, but if you cannot reform him before marriage, it is not likely that you will afterwards. Brother J. N. Armstrong, president of Harding College, used to tell the girls, “Don't marry a man who always takes the biggest piece of chicken.”

2. Be aware that this is a lifetime choice you are making. Do you want to look at him (or her) across the breakfast table every day for the next sixty or more years? This is not like buying a pair of shoes. They are a little tight at the heel and pinch your toes a little, maybe they will with wear shape to your feet. If not, you can take them back and get some of your money back. You have bought those shoes and you will have to wear them. Paul wrote “Unto them married I command, yet not I but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband” (I Cor 7:10). But he seemed to recognize that sometimes situations develop to the point of impossibility. So he adds, “But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband.” She has two options, that is all: remain unmarried; or be reconciled to her husband. If you choose a different option from these, I would not know how to counsel you. If you follow these rules, you might put Ann Landers out of a job.

Glyde Poplin excerpt from *The Richwood Report*

BIRTHDAYS

Robin Brown, 05-06; John Cody Carter, 05-08.

ILL

Sunday: Lindsey Brown, Chris Edwards. Carol Tigner was released last week from Meadowbrook and is recovering at home. Ed Hanson had cataract surgery on Wednesday and is recovering at home.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Ted and Julia Thrasher are in Newton, Kansas on Sunday and will be visiting relatives in Oklahoma and Missouri.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

The monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Steve Brown will be producing a directory with pictures of each family. He will be taking photos during the month of May starting Sunday May 6. All are encouraged to come prepared for your family picture.

AREA EVENTS

There are several area lectureships and meetings taking place over the next few weeks. Check the bulletin board for dates and details.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 49; Sunday PM, 45; Wednesday PM, 40.

Those To Serve

May 6, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Gary Cole
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST.....Allen Scott
ASSIST.....John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYERJeremy Keifer
CLOSING PRAYER.....Jared Nelson
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 9th

SONG LEADER.....Jeremy Keifer
INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp