



tight knots
The Community of Jesus House

Choosing a Godly Spouse

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Are you about to make the decision on who to marry, or perhaps are curious about marriage? Whatever the case may be, we have put together some important considerations for you to reflect on as you embark on your journey towards marriage in this season of your life.

Discover God's Design for Marriage

A yearning for marriage is an indication of a desire to move from one phase of life to another, and in order to successfully transition to the 'next phase', preparation is critical. As part of your preparation it is important to discover the intention of the One who created marriage, God. Marriage is designed by God to be a beautiful expression and representation of His love for the world, a transformative and unconditional love. Marriage is to be the primary vehicle to spread God's love through His creation; to fulfil His "Be fruitful & multiply" mandate and to be the seed from which all communities would grow. Marriage is therefore more than a union; it is a calling to partner with God in building society and fulfilling God's plans and purposes on earth.

Marriage is designed by God to be a lifetime journey of husband and wife becoming more like Christ through interactions with each other. God created a male and female counterpart to fulfil this calling, both representing two halves of a whole - mankind - each with specific roles to play. In ancient times, marriages signified the coming together of families and destinies, and the wedding day was often celebrated and consummated by the act of making love - the two returning to "their other self" to become one both physically and spiritually.

The decision to marry should therefore be based on a foundational understanding of God's plan for marriage, and it is in appreciating His intentions that the characteristics of a Godly marriage become easier to identify and God's perspective adopted.

Trust In God

Marriage is God's design and He ultimately understands how our individual inclinations and personality traits would work with particular individuals. He also sees the bigger picture of where He is leading each one of us: our ultimate purpose, which is intricately linked to other destinies (the big picture). Therefore as we go about our daily business, it is important to focus on God's plan, trusting that He is able to lead you to your future spouse. God works in seasons and not in years or time as we know it and at His appointed time (the right season) you will step into **your** marriage season.

Pursue Purpose, Not Pleasure

A strong understanding of God's intention for marriage would help you identify the qualities you require in your spouse i.e. the one that would 'complete the picture', so in matters of choosing your spouse, lean on God and trust His spirit to direct you through His Word, prayer and fellowship with the Holy Spirit, to make the right choice.

Commit to becoming a ‘Spouse after God’s Heart’

God is interested in us becoming more like Christ. Therefore, on the journey of making the right decision about your marriage choice, we should not only make long lists on the qualities of our desired spouse but also work on our qualities too. God is concerned about our motives for desiring the kind of spouse we want and ultimately He wants us to be the best we can be in the marriage. In light of this, it is important that whilst drawing up our lists on the qualities we think we need or want in our spouse that we ask yourself these questions: “What kind of spouse would this person need?” “What kind of spouse would God desire me to be?” and “What steps do I need to take to bridge the gap between who I am and who I need to be?” As you prayerfully consider your answers, commit to being the kind of spouse that will delight God.

Become an Ever-Improving Version of Yourself

Only God knows the appointed time for you to enter into your marriage season, and as such there is no set period of waiting for any individual; the best thing you can do is to prepare and make the best use of what we are all given: time and opportunities. Make good use of the period of waiting by improving yourself and finding contentment in your relationship with God. Develop new gifts, reignite dormant passions, stir up spiritual gifts, work on your weaknesses and maximise your strengths. This will help you and keep you from being overly preoccupied with being single. It would also guarantee that you give your future spouse a better version of yourself than you would have had they met you when the desire to marry was awakened. And, you never know; it could be in that pursuit of growth and improvement that you just might meet your spouse.

Engage Godly Counsel

It is important to lean on Godly counsel when it comes to the choice of a potential spouse. These should be people who value both you and God’s will for your life enough to not allow themselves to be swayed by sentimental considerations that come attached with potential marriage relationships. People who are sensitive and submitted enough to the will of God to help you on your journey. As Proverbs 18:1 says, “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.” Your marriage is intended by God to last a lifetime (to only be ended by the passing on to glory of either spouse) so it is not a journey to be rushed or forced over the line. It is important to seek Godly counsel as we can all still fall victim to our senses even when we have done our best to strengthen our spirits, and the Bible reminds us that in the multitude of counsel there is safety.

Follow us on Twitter [@tightknots](#) to find out more about the ministry, or contact us by telephone on [020 8438 8285](#) or email at tightknots@jesushouse.org.uk

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

1. *Fit to be tied: Making Marriage last a lifetime* - Bill & Lynne Hybels
2. *Marriage as God intended* - Selwyn Hughes
3. *What the Bible says about Marriage* - Barbour Publishing
4. *Marrying the Right One: Important Questions to Ask Yourself About Choosing a Spouse* - Don Woodard and Bruce Miller



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