

How To Marry A Loser Part Four

Marrying A Loser

Introduction

Read: 2 Corinthians 6:14-17

1. In reality, no one wants to marry a loser. We don't want to give the rest of our lives to someone who doesn't deserve it!
2. However, we often fail to see that marrying the wrong person could change our entire destiny.
3. Many of us buy into the overly-romanticized fairytale version of marriage that the media portrays, and fail to weigh the real consequences before jumping into relationships.
4. God has given us His perfect word, the Bible, to prepare us for marriage, so that we can become the right person for our future partner as well!
5. In today's lesson, we will examine several ways we should **not** approach relationships in order to avoid marrying a loser.

I. Do Not Keep Our Standards

A. Dating non-believers (v.14) should be a non-negotiable standard in our lives because God has called us to be set apart (v.17).

E.g. Determine in our hearts not to even entertain thoughts / desires of "teaming up (getting together)" with non-believers.

B. We must not merely look for good qualities, but search for God-qualities in our future partner.

Our non-Christian friends may possess good qualities that make them attractive, however, that is nothing compared to the long-term rewards of marrying a Christian with the same passion for the things of God.

C. When we feel like we want to just follow our feelings for someone, we should remind ourselves of the standards that we had committed to.

D. Share our feelings with a trusted friend or leader, and ask them to hold us accountable to the standards we decided on before!

Discuss!

Connect Group Leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

- *What should we do if we find ourselves attracted to our pre-believing friends? E.g. Maintain a healthy distance from them, tell our leaders if we have these feelings and refrain from acting on them, pray that they become Christians on their own accord (without our biased interference) and wait patiently for them to grow spiritually before considering the possibility of getting together, etc.*

II. Get Close To Whoever

A. The Bible encourages us to evaluate who we choose to get close to (v.14-16), and not to just open our hearts up to anyone.

B. We can observe the ‘fruit’ of others’ lives to see if they truly love and run after God!

Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

- Matthew 7:20

- What are they willing to surrender in order to obey God?
- What do they spend time and energy on?
- Who are the people they choose to hang out with?

C. Get an objective perspective of the person we are interested in by listening to what our leaders and close friends think about that person!

D. Only start opening our hearts to someone we are interested in after our trusted leaders have agreed that we are ready for a relationship.

III. Follow What We Think Is Best

A. We belong to God and should make life decisions based on who He says we are, and not what we feel (v.16).

B. Hold on to God’s promise that He wants the best for our lives, even if we don’t understand what He is doing (Read Isaiah 55:8)!

C. Make every relationship decision only after genuinely asking the Holy Spirit to lead us.

E.g. Spend time waiting on God and listening to what He has to say, choose not to act until we get a confirmation from our leaders, decide to obey even before we hear what God’s instruction to us is.

Conclusion

1. We need to keep the relationship standards we’ve set because God wants us to only accept the best He has for us!
2. We can identify those we can grow closer to (when we are ready for a relationship) based on their lifestyles.
3. Our relationship decisions should be based on the Holy Spirit’s leading, and we can trust that God always has the best for us and will give us the most suitable partner.

Prayer Points:

- a) Pray for us to trust God to bring us a suitable future partner!
- b) Ask for a greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit so that we can be led by Him in our relationship decisions.

**Give opportunities for visitors to receive Christ and members to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.*