

Simply Relate
Picking a Mate for a Lifetime

I. Introduction

A. 95% of all Americans will get married.

II. Common myths people have about marriage

A. Marriage will make me whole.

1. Colossians 2:10a (LB) *So you have everything when you have Christ.*

2. Only God can heal a person!

B. Marriage will make the other person whole.

C. Any marriage is better than not being married.

1. I Corinthians 7:26-28 (NIV) *²⁶Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are. ²⁷Are you married? Do not seek a divorce. Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife. ²⁸But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.*

2. I Corinthians 7:32-35 (NIV) *³²I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. ³³But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—³⁴and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. ³⁵I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.*

D. As a Christian, there are no restrictions as far as who I can marry.

1. II Corinthians 6:14 (NAS) *Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?*

2. Throughout the history of Israel, marrying outside of the faith was a snares for the people of Israel!

3. The researchers concluded that the more a couple has in common, the more successful and happy their marriage will be!

4. Foundational issues a couple must have in common:

a. Faith in Christ

- b. A common blueprint for life to work from
- c. Common values

III. Common mistakes that people make in choosing a mate

- A. Not taking enough time to consider their decision
 - 1. Proverbs 19:2 (LB) *It is dangerous and sinful to rush into the unknown.*
 - 2. Time gives you a chance to work through several conflicts!
 - 3. Whatever you don't take the time to deal with before you get married, you will have to deal with after you get married!
- B. Not paying enough attention to potential problems
 - 1. Proverbs 14:8 (LB) *The wise man looks ahead. The fool attempts to fool himself and won't face facts.*
 - 2. The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior!
- C. Failure to take enough counsel
 - 1. Proverbs 15:22 (LB) *Plans go wrong with too few counselors; many counselors bring success.*
 - 2. Proverbs 26:12 (NIV) *Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*
 - 3. Apart from your decision to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of your life, there is no more important decision you will ever make than picking a mate for a lifetime!

IV. Conclusion

Upcoming messages:

- 5/12-13/2012 – “Three Ways to Honor Moms” (Mother's Day)
- 5/19-20/2012 – “God's Power in a Marriage” (Simply Relate Series)
- 5/26-27/2012 – “How to Restore Harmony in Our Relationships”