

Proverbs 18:22 - **He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.**

Genesis 2:23-24 - **Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

Ephesians 5:31-32 - **"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**

1 Corinthians 10:31 - **So, whether you eat or drink, [or date, or marry] or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

1. Marriage is a holy thing. And the only purpose of dating is to lead to marriage. It is an intentional pursuit. It is not just play time. If you're not ready to marry someone, do not date. Do not window shop if you are not ready to buy.

2. Seek the kingdom first - if you're not seeking the kingdom first, and allowing God to bring you all things (future spouses in particular), you will be setting yourself up for idolatry. Matthew 6:31-33 - **Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' [Or "Who shall we marry"] For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

3. Therefore, trust God, pray daily, seek to prepare yourself for married life:

1. Stop playing endless hours of video games
2. Grow up - be mature - 1 Corinthians 14:20 - **Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.**

1. Time to grow up
2. In your conversation be mature
3. In your actions (sitting on each other's lap)

3. Imitate those who are godly - in all things

4. Cultivate a disciplined lifestyle (in God's word, worship, serving the body) - Hebrews 5:14 - **But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.**

5. Become the kind of man a godly woman would respond to

6. Become the kind of woman a godly man would want to pursue

7. Ask yourself this question - what is a godly man? what is a godly woman? What do I actually want? Or do I just want someone to please my immature, selfish desires.

8. If you are submitting to lust (pornography, mental fantasies, inappropriate movies, emotional projections) and not putting it to death, waging war against it, not seeking counsel and help to fight it, then you are not ready to be faithful in a relationship - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - **Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.**

4. Guys are initiators - guys pursue. In the Bible, guys are the ones who go seek a wife.

5. Ladies are responders - they wait, watch and respond. There aren't any places in Scripture where the girl pursues the guy. Girls pursuing guys end in one of two camps (flirting, fawning over, trying to manipulate to fulfill their own emotional needs):

1. Good guys being annoyed
2. Bad guys being encouraged
 1. Both of which bring discontent and discouragement to the girl, if not anger, jealousy, resentment, and a broken heart.
3. So Ladies - Do not settle - trust God - wait and watch - Proverbs 31:30 - **Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.**

6. Questions to ask before pursuing, or being pursued

1. Does this person currently glorify God? What does that look like:
 1. Confession of sin
 2. Repentance
 3. Spiritual growth - from dependence on the Spirit
 4. Spiritual discernment - With maturity, able to distinguish between good and evil
 1. What movies do they watch on a regular basis
 2. What do they find entertaining
2. Would this relationship glorify God
 1. Obvious "No"s
 1. Non christian
 2. Satisfy selfish desires
 3. They are taking the place of Jesus in heart and mind

7. If you can say yes to 1 and 2:

1. Seek counsel about pursuing this person: -
 1. Proverbs 15:22 - **Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.**
 2. Proverbs 11:14 - **Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.**
 1. Ask your Parents (Christian or involved), Pastor, Mentor, Older friends
 2. Ask these non-peers if they think you are ready
2. Guys be bold and talk to girls parents, guardians, or pastor depending on the situation.
 1. This is for the sake of the girls protection from you.
 2. Also, if those who know her know that she is not ready, this helps protect your heart as well
 3. Be ready for honest answers - be ready for a no.

8. If all is a go, with all these God given protections in place

1. Get to know each other in groups first
2. Seek constant accountability
3. Realize that this dating relationship is for the purpose of pursuing marriage - can you see yourself married to this person?
4. Constantly be pointing one another to Jesus
 1. Guys make sure your lady is pursuing Jesus on her own, as well as with you.
 2. Girls - make sure your guy is seeking Jesus first, on his own, as well as leading you to Him.

Hebrews 12:1-2 - **Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**