

Questions / Answers

1. Why should we not marry an unbeliever?
God tells us not to. It brings many problems. It takes us away from God.
2. What happened when Solomon married many foreign wives?
They turned him away from God.
3. Why should we marry someone who loves God?
They will help us to walk in God's ways to the Kingdom.
4. Why should we not have casual sex or sex before marriage?
It is disobeying God. We may lose salvation. It brings danger of AIDS.
5. If our family try to make us marry an unbeliever, what should we do?
Stand firm and put God first. Pray for help.
6. What characteristics should we look for in a partner?
Look at the heart. Look for love of God more than physical attractions.
7. How can we get help to make the right decision about a partner?
Pray to God for help.
8. Can we pray to God and leave it to Him to find us a good partner?
No. We must pray and then make every effort to find a good partner.
9. What sort of friends should we make when looking for a partner?
Young people from the ecclesia and those who love God.
10. What is the foundation of a happy marriage in the Lord?
Working together in love for God and for each other.

Memory verses

2 Corinthians 6:14—15; 1 Corinthians 13:4—7;

Discussion

Discuss practical ways of finding a partner who loves God.
Discuss the disadvantages of marriage to someone who does not love God and the advantages of a marriage between believers.

Writing

Write about the story of Rebekah being chosen as a wife for Isaac. What lessons can we learn from this story?

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 9 Choosing a partner



READING 2 Corinthians 6:14—15 and 1 Corinthians 7:39

LESSON

The Bible teaches us that we should not marry an unbeliever or someone with different beliefs. Marriage to an unbeliever brings problems and difference of thought and purpose. It leads to quarrels and bitterness. It may take the believer away from the faith.

God has called us to His eternal Kingdom. Our commitment to God must always come first. This must include our friendships and our marriage partner. We need to choose friends who will help us to love God. Choosing a marriage partner who will help us on the walk to the Kingdom is even more important.



Bible teaching warns of the dangers of marrying someone who does not love God and share the same beliefs.

- ◆ Abraham and Isaac made sure that their sons did not marry wives who had no love for God (Genesis 24:3-4 and 28:1 –3)
- ◆ Moses commanded the Israelites not to marry the foreign people in the land (Deuteronomy 7:3—4)
- ◆ Joshua also told the Israelites not to marry the people of the land (Joshua 23:12—13)
- ◆ King Solomon's foreign wives turned his heart away from God (1 Kings 11:1—6)
- ◆ Nehemiah told the people the evil of marrying those who do not know and love God (Nehemiah 13:23—27)
- ◆ Paul told the Corinthians not to marry unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14—15)

Avoid immorality 📖 **Read 1 Corinthians 6:9—20**

Casual sex and sex before marriage is totally against the teaching of God. Casual sex destroys the principle of the marriage bond. It encourages unfaithfulness after marriage. It is disobeying God. Those who do these things are in danger of losing the hope of salvation and life in God's wonderful Kingdom.

The other danger of casual sex is AIDS. Be sure you avoid this danger.

Putting God's commands first

Marriage in the Lord is for life. We only have one chance to find the right marriage partner. If we choose the wrong partner we may be unhappy for the rest of our life. We may be taken away from God and lose our chance of salvation. Choosing a marriage partner is one of the most important decisions we make in life. We need to pray to God about it for a long time. We need God's help to make the right decision.

There may be difficulties and pressures put on us about choosing a partner. Always stand firm and put God first. Pray to God for help. All things are possible with God's help.

If our family put pressure on us to marry someone who does not share our faith, then we must obey God first, and not our family. In marriage we form a partnership, helping each other on the way to God's Kingdom. This cannot happen if we marry an unbeliever.

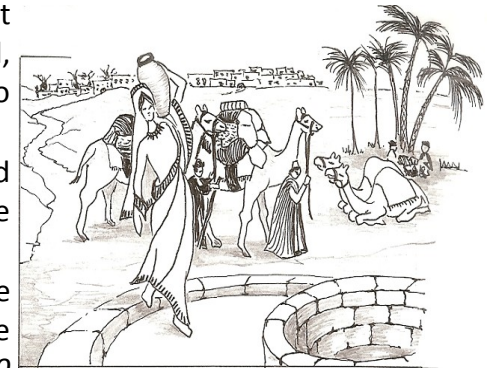
Choosing the right partner

It is especially important to look for the right characteristics when choosing a partner for life. God does not look on the outward things. God looks on the heart. We should do the same. We should value people who love God and try to serve Him. It is more important for a partner to be kind and truthful, faithful and loving than to be attractive and tall or beautiful or handsome.

The example of Isaac and Rebekah 📖 **Genesis chapter 24**

We can learn a lot about choosing a partner from this chapter.

- ◆ Believers should not marry unbelievers. *verse 3*
- ◆ We must be prepared to make an effort to find the right partner—Eliezer was sent on a long journey to find Rebekah *verse 4*
- ◆ We must trust in God and pray for his help. *verse 7*
- ◆ We must be wise to find a partner who is kind and generous and who loves God—Eliezer did not ask for the wife to be beautiful, but to be kind and generous to water the camels. *verse 14*
- ◆ Abraham and Eliezer trusted God and asked for His guidance. We must do the same. *verse 12*
- ◆ We must do everything possible to find the right partner. We cannot leave it all to God. *verse 10*



How can we find a partner who loves God?

It is important to make friends with others who love God. Make friends with the other young people in the ecclesia. Meet with them. Arrange activities with them. Work together on a small project or preaching activity to teach the Truth to other young people. Read the Bible together. Encourage each other to walk in God's ways.

True love in marriage 📖 **Read 1 Corinthians 13**

In Christian marriage we should do our best to put our love into action. We should work together with our partner to help each other to show our love for God. This is the foundation of a happy marriage in the Lord.

Husband and wife should show love and care for each other in every way. Christ-like love builds a foundation of loving kindness and commitment to our partner. It is a great blessing when a marriage is built on our love for God and for each other. It is also a great example for the children.