

COMPATIBILITY IN MARRIAGE – PART 2

Genesis 3:16 ... “...your desire shall be for your husband...”

In the previous devotional we discussed spiritual incompatibility in marriage. Today we consider emotional and behavioral compatibility. Please note: The Bible’s focus on marriage is mostly at the spiritual level. There are, however, practical considerations when choosing a spouse that, if ignored, can lead to spiritual problems in marriage.

I find our verse today somewhat funny. It is among the changes God made to Eve’s life as the result of her sin of disobedience. I think we can assume that both Adam’s and Eve’s desires before the fall were their close fellowship with God, and equality with one another. After their sin, Eve was commanded to desire her husband, who was nothing like God. The rest of the verse reads: “And he [Adam] will rule over you.” That just added insult to injury.

Consider this series of warnings from Proverbs chapters 18 and 19: “The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger...a foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the contentions [nagging] of a wife are a continual dripping...a prudent wife is from the Lord...an idle person will suffer hunger...he who keeps the commandments keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die...what is desired in a man is kindness...strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise...the righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him...”

Do you think that any of these warnings apply to your selection of a spouse? Ladies, do you value a man who is slow to anger, is not foolish, honors his parents, works hard for a living, obeys God, is kind, not a drinker and will raise Godly children? Men, would you like a wife who does not nag, is wise, is not lazy, who contributes to the family and obeys God? The Bible may be most concerned with our spiritual wellbeing, but it recognizes that the practical challenges of life can affect us spiritually. It warns us time and time again, that to live harmoniously with God and Christ our Savior, we need to pay attention to the circumstances in life that can pull us away from God, or so discourage us that we find ourselves distant from God. And, marrying someone who is not a servant of God and who does not portray a Godly character, can lead to disappointment and hardship.

If you are not yet married, please consider God’s parameters when selecting a spouse. If the man or woman you desire does not display Godly character, turn away and keep looking. A handsome man who does not live according to God’s will, is a promise of hardship and suffering for you; you will end up resenting him. A woman who lives for Christ but may not win a beauty pageant, will be a blessing in your life; you will love and adore her until you die.

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