



### *The Barometer For Preparation*

Before you go searching for love, make sure that you are well prepared to take on the responsibility of someone's heart. I say that because God expects Christian men and women to represent true examples of healthy, whole, and committed relationships. All of us know this, but knowing it doesn't hold a relationship together. Even those with the best intentions have ended up with relationships that have fallen apart. One of the major reasons why is because at least one of the persons involved feels they are not getting the love they deserve. If you are in this situation, particularly if you're a Christian, you must be honest and humble enough to get very real and ask yourself - Are you the problem?

It may be hard for you to believe, but most often it's not about who you're with, but the steps you've taken to ensure a successful relationship. One of the first steps in securing a healthy relationship is to know what the Word tells us. God instructs singles in **2 Corinthians 6:14 KJV** - *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

Woo wee, that gets your goat doesn't it! That's a blockbuster straight from the kingdom and it's a warning most of us ignore. This verse in 2 Corinthians warns us to be careful about joining ourselves with unbelievers. God warns us because He knows the struggles that saved people will have if they marry folks who do not believe in Jesus Christ. Perhaps it isn't impossible to have a successful marriage with an unbeliever, but for the Christian it will not be an easy one.

If you decide to get into a relationship with an unbeliever, it is your responsibility to be an extraordinary example of Christ, because through you, that person can become born-again. But the most practical and loving thing you can do for yourself and for the other person, is to wait until the Father gives you an absolute green light to get involved. And for goodness sakes abstain from any intimacy. Do not cause them to sin and be worse off by being involved with you. Just think of the statement that makes. Here you are a Christian, and you are causing someone who doesn't know Christ to fall, all because of your selfish needs. No, No, No, this can never be.

You must remember that the Love of God should be the governing factor in all relationships. Many Christians make the mistake of being a little bit too desperate or hasty for love and ignore the advice God gave us in His Word. Then, often times when things go awry, we are quick to point the finger at the other person and shift the responsibility off of ourselves. Let's face it, it's always less painful if we blame our own inadequacies and shortcomings on someone else, but this is a dangerous course of action. It is dangerous because it keeps us from growing into the person God wants us to be.

Whenever things do not go well in our relationships, chances are that it's time to do an internal check on you! Whatever, whoever, and wherever we are at this very moment in time is contingent upon the kind of love we have cultivated within. God is at work on the inside of you, but you need to make sure He has plenty to work with.

And, in case you're not sure how Christians should behave; **1Peter 3:4 NIV**, says, "*You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.*" Fortunately, for single people, we still have time to nurture that inner beauty and perfect our relationship with God in order to attract loving partners like magnets.

God instructs us on how to live fulfilling lives and sustain healthy relationships; it starts with obedience to His Word. Everything comes back to how you will serve the Body of Christ. It cycles back to how you will treat one of God's children when your relationship hits a bump in the road - do you become frustrated and agitated - can God trust you with his most precious gifts? This is a barometer for preparation – you have to see your potential partner the way God views them. You must possess the strength to hold it all together, not tossed around like a leaf in the wind. Aim to be unmovable and stable, not for selfish reasons but because you understand it's not about you, but it's always about the faith in Jesus Christ which makes it all possible. ●

Helpful Link:

<http://www.singlewomansprayer.com>

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