

“Marriages That Help People Go To Heaven”

Choosing A Mate

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Text: John 14:1-3

Theme: When contemplating marriage, we need to consider if our marriage is going to help us to go heaven.

Introduction:

1. Life is too short and eternity too long to miss heaven.
 - a. If we miss heaven, it would have been better for us to have never existed.
 - 1) Heaven is the promised home of the righteous. John 14:1-3; 1 Peter 1:4.
 - 2) It is a most wonderful place. Revelation 21&22.
 - b. The only alternative is hell. Matthew 5:22,29; 13:41,42; 25:41.
2. But whom we marry may very well determine where we will spend eternity. No closer relationship (one flesh).
3. Therefore, it is extremely important to marry someone who can help you go to heaven.

Discussion: Helping Each Other Go To Heaven.

- I. Each should be a faithful Christian.
 - A. The advice of both testaments is that God's people should choose mates from among God's people.

1. It was a command in the O.T. days -
Deuteronomy 7:1-4; Exodus 34:15,16;
Ezra 10:2,10; Nehemiah 13:23-27.
 2. New Testament- no direct command.
 - a. Jesus knew the evil possibilities of mixed marriages - Matthew 10:34-37;
Luke 14:26,27.
 - b. ICorinthians 7:39 - certainly good advice even for those who have never married.
 - c. IICorinthians 6:14-18.
 - 1) cf Amos 3:3 ; Matthew 23:25.
 - 2) To say the least, there is a potential danger (cf. ICorinthians 7).
 - d. People who find themselves married to non-Christians need to be anxious for the conversion of the unbeliever. IPeter 3:1,2.
 3. The benefits of marrying a faithful Christian. These are notes from Roy J. Hearn's outline *God's Children Marrying Out Of The Church*.
 - a. To yourself: to relieve you of a possible life of heartache, suffering, hatred and remorse. Especially true for the Christian woman.
 - b. To your children: whose souls you endanger if you don't cause them to be actually lost, by marriage to one opposed to the Lord's church.
 - c. To the church itself: it weakens the Lord's cause, weakens the individual and hinders him or her in the service of God.
- B. Unbelievers can have an evil influence on the faithfulness of believers.
1. Why did God insist in O.T. days his people were not to marry the foreigners?
 - a. Deuteronomy 7:1-4; Exodus 34:15,16;
Numbers 25:1,2.
 - b. Because of the evil influence against the God of heaven.

2. Examples of evil influence
 - a. Genesis²²:1-6 - God's children married unbelievers, were led into sin, and God purposed to destroy them.
 - b. Solomon - I¹Kings¹¹:1-11.
 - c. Ahab - I¹Kings¹⁶:25,26.
 - d. Ahasuerus tried to get Vashti, his wife, to display her body before his friends but she refused. Esther¹:10-12.
 3. Could it have happened differently?
 - a. If Lot's wife had not disobeyed God, would the incest with his daughters have occurred? Genesis¹⁹:26,32.
 - b. Would Ananias and Sapphira have conspired to lie had at least one been strongly faithful to the Lord? Acts 5:1-11.
- C. "By their fruits ye shall know them."
1. The fruits of mixed marriage are apparent in divorce. A survey in Maryland in 1952 of 13,528 young people between the ages of 16-24 revealed the following about divorce rates. See James Meadows's article in *Moral Issues Confronting The Kingdom*, p. 158.

Where both parents were Jewish	4.6%
Where both parent were Catholic	6.4%
Where both parents were Protestant	6.8%
Where religions were mixed	15.2%
Where no religious affiliation	16.7%

And surely this is worse now.

2. The fruits of mixed marriage are apparent in delinquency among Christians. See the July 1977 issue of *Four State Gospel News*. Bobby Key reports of a survey done between 1957-1977 of 142 Christians who were married. The results are:
 - 78 of the 142 married non-Christians
 - 56 of these 78 have left the church
 - 22 are still faithful
 - 14 converted their mates
 - 25 divorced
 - 64 of the 142 married Christians
 - 59 of these are still faithful
 - 5 are unfaithful
 - 3 have divorced
3. THE EVIDENCE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF!

- II. Each must be totally committed to making marriage be what God wants it to be.
 - A. Marital problems present a great hindrance to love for God and service to him.
 - B. What God wants:
 1. Permanent marriages.
 - a. Divorce rate now one out of two and climbing.
 - b. Matthew 19:4-6 ; Romans 7:2,3.
 2. Permanent marriages based on genuine love.
 - a. "Love" is a wildly abused word.
 - 1) Should not be a synonym for sex.
 - 2) Sex is a wedding gift from God.
 - 3) Hebrews 13:4.
 - b. Genesis 29:20 ; Ephesians 5:25 (emphasize to males); Titus 2:4 (emphasize to females).
 - C. Failure to have successful marriages can be a stumbling block to going to heaven.
 1. Unsuccessful marriages breed divorce.
 - a. Divorces will oftentimes cause the divorcees to "quit the church" because of shame and embarrassment.
 - b. They will go and marry others and thereby live in adultery.
 - 1) Matthew 19:9

- 2) Many will remarry even knowing this truth.
2. Unhappiness and incompatibility.
 - a. Will hinder the prayer life of Christians **1Peter3:7**.
 - b. Will make it difficult to worship **Matthew5:21-24**.
- D. The kind of husbands who make for happy marriages that will also help their wives go to heaven.
 1. Husbands like ELKANAH who will go to worship with their wives **1Samuel1:3**.
 2. Husbands like JACOB who will really love their wives **Genesis29:20**.
 3. Husbands like MANOAH who will pray with and for their wives **Judges13:8-14**.
 4. Husbands like ZACHARIAS who will live righteously with their wives **Luke1:5,6**.
 5. Husbands like JOSEPH who will not embarrass their wives **Matthew1:19**.
 6. Husbands like AQUILA who will work for Christ with their wives **Romans16:3**.

Winkler, Wendell, Your Marriage Can Be Great, p.272.

 7. Husbands who love their wives as Christ loved the church **Ephesians5:25**.
- E. The kind of wives who make for happy marriages and that will help their husbands to go to heaven.
 1. Wives like SARAH who will respect their husbands **1Peter3:6**.
 2. Wives like ELIZABETH who will be righteous with their husbands **Luke1:5,6**.
 3. Wives like MANOAH'S WIFE who will maintain a sacred togetherness with their husbands **Judges13:14**.
 4. Wives like RACHEL who will encourage their husbands **Genesis31:16**.
 5. Wives like RUTH who will be a good in-laws to their husbands' folks **Ruth 1**.
 6. Wives like PRISCILLA who will be helpers to their husbands **Acts18:24-28**.
 7. Wives like RACHEL who will desire motherhood **Genesis30:1**.

Winkler, *ibid.*, pp.276,277.

8. Wives like the virtuous woman of Proverbs□1.
9. Wives who bring the favor of the Lord
Proverbs□8:22.
10. Wives who are prudent Proverbs□9:14.
11. Wives who are unlike the women of:
 - a. Proverbs□3:3-8.
 - b. Proverbs□20,21.
 - c. Proverbs□24-35.
 - d. Proverbs□6-27.
 - e. Proverbs□9:13.
 - f. Proverbs□1:9; 25:24.
 - g. Proverbs□1:19.
 - h. Proverbs□7:15.

III. Together in the Lord.

- A. Abraham and Sarah
 1. They were married for many years -
Genesis□1:5.
 2. They became the parents of the promised seed -
Genesis□3:15; 12:3.
 3. They loved God and each other - I□Peter□3:6.
- B. Elkannah and Hannah.
 1. They each loved the Lord - I□Samuel□3,10.
 2. They were in love with each other - I□Samuel□5.
 3. Dedicated their child to the service of the Lord
I□Samuel□11.
- C. Joseph and Mary.
 1. The parents of the Christ - Matthew□; Luke 2.
 2. Luke 2:41 - They worshipped God together.

D. Zacharias and Elizabeth.

1. Luke 1:5,6 - Both righteous before God.
2. Luke 1:13 - Became the parent of John the Baptist.

E. Aquila and Priscilla.

1. Together were teachers of God's word - Acts 18:26.
2. Helpers of Paul in the work of Christ - Romans 16:3,4.
3. The church met in their house - I Corinthians 16:19.
4. II Timothy 4:19.

Conclusion:

- 1 Marriage is a lifetime proposition.
- 2 The proper selection of a mate can be very beneficial in the quest for a heavenly home.