

## Marriage

1. Aside from becoming a Christian, marriage is probably the most important decision you will make in your life. Marriage is good (Prov. 18:22) and honorable (Heb. 13:4). It is a big step ... it lasts for life (Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:39) ... choose carefully.
2. Why marry? Some marry for “love,” social status, money, etc. We must understand the divine purpose for marriage before we marry. Marriage is designed by God to be a relationship which provides (1) companionship, (2) the means to properly raise children, and (3) the means to fulfill sexual intimacy (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18-25; 9:1; Prov. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 7:1-5; 1 Tim. 2:15; 5:14). It is monogamous – one man and one woman, and it is heterosexual – man and woman.
3. Marriage carries with it important roles and responsibilities for both the husband and the wife. The husband is to be a loving (sacrificial) head (leader), the wife is to offer submissive respect to her husband, and both are to be godly parents (Eph. 5:22 – 6:4; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Tim. 5:14; Tit. 2:4-5; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).
4. When should I marry? Look before you leap! Understand what the Bible teaches about marriage before you marry. Understand well the other person before you marry them. Are they a Christian? What is their family background? What is their character like? Are they educated with a job? Are you both compatible? Are you both responsible and mature? What habits does this person have? Etc. Marry someone who will help you keep your marriage permanent (Mt. 19:4-6), pure (1 Cor. 6:16), and peaceful (Eph. 5:31).
5. While marriage to an unbeliever is sanctioned by God (1 Cor. 7:12-14), marriage to a Christian is the wiser choice. Our marriage will be blessed if we marry someone who fears the Lord (Psa. 128). Marry a faithful Christian who will help you get to heaven, not turn your heart away from God (1 King 11:1-8).
6. The divorce rate in the U.S. is about 50%. Divorce causes psychological/emotional problems, problems with the children, financial problems, and problems with God – God hates divorce (Mal. 2:14). Divorce for some cause other than fornication and remarriage results in adultery and God will punish adulterers (Heb. 13:4). Death and fornication (committed by the unfaithful mate) are the only two reasons why one may properly remarry (Mt. 5:32; 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Lk. 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:39). We must be concerned about what God wants for marriage “from the beginning” (Mt. 19:8), not what society says about marriage today.
7. Who may marry? One who has never been in a God-joined marriage (Gen. 2:24; 1 Cor. 7:1-2), one who’s mate has died (Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:39; 1 Tim. 5:14), and one who puts away their unfaithful spouse for fornication (Mt. 19:9).