

BUILT TO LAST

How to Build a Successful Marriage and Family

THE DATING GAME

Proverbs 18:22

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He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD. Proverbs 18:22

What factors must be considered when choosing a spouse?

1. The God Factor

A. A believer should never marry an unbeliever.

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial [Satan], or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

1 Corinthians 6:14-15

B. A believer should never date an unbeliever.

2. The Time Factor

A. You need time to really get to know each other.

B. You need time for others to observe you together.

Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety. Proverbs 11:14 MEV

C. You need time to personally mature.

When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 1 Corinthians 13:11

3. The Emotional Health Factor

A. You must do your due diligence.

A prudent person sees trouble coming and ducks; a simpleton walks in blindly and is clobbered. Proverbs 22:3 MSG

B. You must check to see if there has been emotional healing.

4. The Communication Factor

You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:7

5. The Attraction Factor

Be happy with the wife you married when you were young. She is beautiful and graceful, just like a deer; you should be attracted to her and stay deeply in love. Proverbs 5:18-19 CEV

* **Don't get the cart before the horse!**

Have respect for marriage. Always be faithful to your partner, because God will punish anyone who is immoral or unfaithful in marriage. Hebrews 13:4 CEV

If you will be wise in dating, you will be happier in marriage.