

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Wisdom in Choosing a Spouse

A key purpose of the book of Proverbs is to provide advice on making wise decisions in life. Outside of accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the most important decision a person will ever make is choosing whether or not to marry and, if so, who to marry (see Prov. 12:4). Today we will look at some advice from Proverbs on what to look for in choosing a suitable spouse.

1. Some general principles regarding choosing a spouse:
 - a. Prov. 19:14 – understand that the preparation of the heart a person as a suitable spouse is something **only the Lord can do**
 - b. Prov. 31:30 – a wise person will not use as a guide for choosing a spouse **outward beauty alone**
 - c. Prov. 31:30 – the single most important trait to look for in a perspective spouse is **he or she is someone who fears the Lord**
2. Character traits a man should look for in a perspective wife:
 - a. Prov. 11:22 – she is a **woman of discretion**
 - b. Prov. 14:1 – she is **wise**
 - c. Prov. 27:15-16 – she is not **quarrelsome**
3. A man unable to find a woman with these traits may be better off remaining single.
But for those successful in finding such a woman, Prov. 18:22 is true – **she will be a blessing to many**
4. Some advice for woman looking for a perspective husband:
 - a. Prov. 12:10 – observe how he **treats pets**
 - b. Prov. 12:15 – observe how he responds to **the advice of others**
 - c. Prov. 13:20 – observe the kind of **friends he has**
 - d. Prov. 15:27 – observe if he is responsible with **money**
5. Proverbs introduces 3 kinds of people to avoid entirely:
 - a. Prov. 6:27-29 – a person who has **multiple sexual relationships**
 - b. Prov. 22:24-25 – a person who is **easily angered**
 - c. Prov. 23:29-30 – a person who is **addicted to drugs and alcohol**

A challenge for all of us is to consider the question - according to the standards of book of Proverbs – how well do we rate as a suitable husband or wife?