

Choosing a Mate

I. Choose a Christian

And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac. Genesis 24:1-4

- Abraham was concerned that his son Isaac not be yoked up with the pagan women of Canaan. To marry an unbeliever would have been contrary to the direction that God was leading Abraham.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? II Corinthians 6:14-16a

- The context of these verses is Christianity attempting to mix with idolatry, but the principles are universal. A child of God cannot be in an intimate relationship with an unbeliever. Everyone worships something, and worshipping anything or anyone but God is idolatry.

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. I Kings 11:1-2

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. II Kings 11:4

- As a believer, Solomon knowingly married unbelieving women. Instead of Solomon having a positive influence on them, they had a negative influence on him, and he suffered severely for his sin.

II. Choose a Spirit-filled Christian

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. Romans 8:13

- If we are not walking in the Spirit we are walking in the flesh and that will lead to a ruined Christian life.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:19-23

- Trying to live with a fleshly Christian will be a constant struggle. One person trying to please God and the other trying to please self will eventually lead to a division.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. Genesis 2:24

- Children should be raised with the intention that they will someday marry and serve God as a family. They should be reared with the selfish intention of keeping them home all of their lives. God wants men and women to marry and serve Him as a couple.