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#### Questions or Comments

Call me or send me, Minister Timothy D. Roberson, a message or ask me a question directly from your personal email address. Below is my email address and phone number.

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**"A Godly Man Approach And A Worldly Or Carnal Man Approach To Dating/Courting and Marriage"**

**"Stop Test-Driving Your Boyfriend/Girlfriend/Future Husband Or Wife" (Lesson 1) by Minister Timothy Roberson**

Ephesians 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

2nd Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

How does a man or woman decide whether or not to marry the woman or man they are dating? Here are some tips for Christian men and women to know if he or she is "the one."

Terms You Will Hear In This Message

**Worldly** -Not Saved,

**Chronic Carnal** -Saved But Been Walking In The Flesh For Many Years/No Desire To Grow In The Knowledge Of Our Lord And Savior- Act Just Like The World

**Godly** -Thinking Like God, Doing Things God’s Way And Laboring With God At What He’s Doing).

Many Christian men and women end up marrying worldly or chronic carnal men and women!!!!

**A Difference**

There is a **HUGE** difference in a man of God vs. a man in the world. There should be something about a true godly man because of the Christ that's in him, nothing of their own. There is a difference when a man or woman is indwelt and led by the Holy Spirit. As a man of God, it bothers me when I hear women bashing godly men saying that they are no different than those in the world. We have to remember that just because someone is a pastor, minister, faithful church goer, or calls themselves a Christian **DOES NOT** make them godly!! You will know them by their godliness (thinking like Christ, doing things Christ way and Laboring with Christ at what He’s doing) not by their church attendance and what assembly they attend or how many degrees they have. Also saints should examine themselves, and ask the question does a godly man or woman even have a reason to approach me or date me? Godly men should avoid worldly women like the plague and vice versa – so if you are not attracting a godly man or woman, you ought to look inside to see why! Let me say this to the women and that is men of God can fail and make mistakes but you will see a desire to want to please God, godly sorrow when they did not do what God told them to do, growth, and conformity to the character of Christ! The reason I’m pointing out men because God ordained men to be leaders and not followers. To be the head and not the tail.

**A Godly Man Approach And A Worldly Or Carnal Man Approach**

**Men Initiate**

Ephesians 5:31 “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”

Proverbs 18:22 “He who finds a wife finds a good thing."

**Men Initiate**

Among the different roles assigned to men and women in the Bible, men are assigned the role of leadership. This is true in the church and in the family. This is not a signal of male superiority or of the greater importance of men. It is simply God's design and assignment of equally valuable roles among spiritually equal beings. Men initiate, women respond. Briefly, biblical support for this position is found, among other passages, in the creation order in Genesis 2, in 1 Corinthians 11: 7-9, and Ephesians 5. True, these passages refer to marriage, but it is wise and right to set patterns that will serve you well in marriage, especially if one accepts the premise that the purpose of dating is to find a marriage partner. What does this actually look like in a budding relationship between two people?

First, the man should initiate asking the woman out. Whether this means approaching the woman herself. It should be the guy that starts things off. As I mentioned, he should not do this until he is **"ready"** to marry. If you're not ready to marry, you're not ready to date.

As a quick aside, if you are a single man and you would not describe yourself as ready to be married, think about why that is. I mention this for two reasons: 1) Scripture seems not just to encourage, but to assume that part of the growth into biblical manhood is to seek marriage, so this is a biblical goal; and 2) easily the biggest complaint that I and others who advocate this approach get from godly Christian women is that men don't initiate.

As I said, in the Bible, marriage and family are considered a natural stage of progression toward becoming that godly man, husband, father and leader. The command in Genesis to be fruitful and multiply is a general command. When Paul extols singleness in 1 Corinthians 7 (which is an often-misused passage in this area of life), it is singleness for the purpose of enhanced ministry (discipleship, teaching, the work of the ministry).

If you are floating around staying single because you enjoy social flexibility or having time to yourself or hanging out with the guys or because you have worldly ideas about the perfect woman or how to approach marriage, consider: Are you approaching manhood and marriage biblically? Initiation means initiation. It means that you as the man take the first step, risk and all.

**Women Respond**

As it is the man's God-given role to initiate, so it is the woman's God-given role to respond. Her role is as responder, not initiator. As single men need to learn how to lead (whether they like it or not), single women need to learn what it is to let a man assume spiritual leadership in the relationship — and to respond to that leadership. Ultimately, this means learning to trust God and His word. Clearly, this is not the popular secular view of the "liberated" woman's role. Hollywood's perfect woman runs with the boys, knows what she wants and is aggressive en route to getting it — especially romantically. Needless to say, that is not the biblical picture of the responder. So what does this picture look like? What if I'm really interested in a man and he just isn't getting it and I need to move him along?" Don't. When men drop the ball on leadership (as we often do), it presents a temptation for the woman involved to pick up the reins and lead for him. This is no less true within marriage. Picking up the reins sets a terrible pattern that only confuses the roles in the relationship and encourages both of you to take the role of the other to the detriment of the relationship and ultimately the marriage. This is called not trusting God and His word. The Lord is sovereign. If it doesn't work out with a particular guy because he didn't step up, Trust God that something else will work out. He knows what is best for each of us, and all of us must learn to trust Him — especially about things that are really important to us.

**Worldly Or Carnal Man Approach**

Most worldly or carnal (carnal is saved but walking in the flesh) men have no discretion, they have no problem coming up to you from out of nowhere having never before met you and ask you for your number. The only reason he is asking you out is because he finds you physically attractive or for fleshly desires. There is no other reason since he has never met you or knows anything about you. Do you stop to ask yourself, if he could hit on you so easily how many other women have he also hit on today? If you do give him your number, how many other of those did he collect that day? From the first conversation you can most times tell what a worldly or carnal man is about. If on the first conversation he asks you to "chill" or brings up sexual relations then **RUN!** A carnal saint may be active in church or have a title but his conversations in private won't reflect that. He'll talk a lot about his ministry and what he does but little about Christ! Commitment is nowhere on his mind, he just want to have a good old' time. Some worldly or carnal men may even be intrigued by Godly women and drawn to the Christ in you. They may think it's great that you're waiting for marriage but they don't plan on waiting for you. They may even promise to change for you because they know you're a good woman and wife materially (after they're ready to settle down) **RUN!!!!** These carnal men have been this way for years and years and many don’t have no intentions of truly living for Christ but they will get their just reward at the bema seat. **Run my sisters,** they will not make a great godly husband.

**A Godly Man Approach**

A man of God who is seriously looking for a wife will not very easily just try and get a number from just anybody. He knows that Godly women are very rare and he is not looking for a worldly woman. He look to God's Word to decide the kind of person to date, and evaluate potential dating partners on those criteria, rather than relying primarily on the world's treatment of ideas like "attraction" and "chemistry." Most Godly men will watch how a woman serves, interacts with others, and how she deals with situations before approaching her. He is led by God, prays for guidance and seeks Godly counsel. A man of God knows that it takes more than good looks to make a good wife. He is looking for a help meet to fulfill God's purpose with. When he does approach a woman, he is very respectable and intentional in his pursuit. A man after God's heart has no time to play games, he is on a mission and makes his intentions known upfront.

**Courting and Dating**

A worldly or chronic carnal man who many Christian women fall for and suffer greatly will have no problem trying to sleep with you before marriage. He wants little if any accountability. Forget about him agreeing to meet other godly men or even your parents before he takes you out. He is afraid of commitment and meeting those people will scare him off. He doesn't want everyone's opinion and wants everyone in his "business." Marriage is not the goal, he just wants to date with the selfish goals of having fun and enjoying romantic attachments.

During courtship, the man after God's heart works at keeping you both pure because he honors you and God. He will be invested in getting you to grow in the Lord and will initiate prayer and lead bible study. He seeks the accountability and wisdom of godly parents, other godly mentors, and Christians. He wants to truly get to know each other in a more platonic setting without the pressures of physical intimacy or emotions clouding their view. His goal is to seek to determine if it is God’s will for him to marry you.

**"How do I know if she's the one?"**

I can't think of a question I encounter more often among single Christian men. The point of the question is clear enough. But a rich irony dwells beneath the question. By the grace of God we are allowed to choose the person we're going to marry, no one wants to make the wrong choice. Especially if, as Christians, we understand that the choice we make should be for a lifetime.

The question is not merely ironic. If what you're after is a marriage that will glorify God and produce real joy for you and your bride, it's also the wrong question. That's because the unstated goal of the question is "How do I know if she's the one ... for me?"

The question frames the entire decision-making process in fundamentally self-oriented — if not downright selfish — terms. And it puts the woman on an extended trial to determine whether or not she meets your needs, fits with your personality and satisfies your desires. It places you at the center of the process, in the role of a window-shopper or consumer at a buffet. In this scenario you remain unexamined, unquestioned and unassailable — sovereign in your tastes and preferences and judgments. No woman on this planet is ever going to perfectly meet your specifications. What's more, your unexamined requirements for a spouse are inevitably twisted by your own sinful nature. The Bible reminds us that our marriages are to be pictures of the Gospel relationship between Christ and the church.

**Ask the Right Questions**

To begin with, start with a different question. Instead of asking if she's the one, you should ask yourself, "Am I the sort of man a godly woman would want to marry?" If you're not, then you'd be better off spending less time evaluating the women around you, and more time developing the character of a godly man. Start by considering the characteristics of an elder that Paul lays out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 “This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Titus 1:7-9 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. Once he read those scriptures, he will have a great outline to work toward as becoming a godly man.

Then you should ask another question: "What sort of qualities should I be looking for in a wife so that my marriage will be a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church?" If you're not sure what those characteristics are, then spend some time reading Titus 2:3-5 The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Once you've asked the right questions, and once you've found someone you suspect fits the biblical description of a godly wife, you now need to decide whether to get married. And men, though this is a big decision, it's not a decision that should take too long. How long is too long for a dating relationship? The Bible doesn't provide a timetable (after all, most marriages were arranged during biblical times). But it does provide principles that point us in the direction of making a decision to marry or break up in the shortest appropriate time. Loneliness is difficult, but it is not a sufficient reason to pursue a partner. Loneliness in its rawest form can make us very self-centered. Therefore any relationship we enjoin out of sheer loneliness holds only ourselves, or mostly ourselves, at the center. Whether consciously or subconsciously, we seek to medicate our wound through the presence of another person. This is neither fair to them nor healthy for us. Remember men, we are to be Christ-like. That means we are seeking to love. Love that is self-centered is really not love at all. Better to come to grips with this now and have God form genuine love in our hearts than to enter into a relationship that hurts both individuals and misrepresents Christ. It is time for men to become manly again. It's fine to be deliberate, but not passive. It's good to be cautious, but not cowardly. Dating is risky business, and I'm not advocating a reckless abandonment to our feelings. I am saying, however, that Christian men need to be motivated toward building proper relationships with Christian women. This is the design and intent of God. Clearly marriage is part of His will for most men and women. Do not rush into it, but do not hide from it either. There is a time to involve trusted members of the body of Christ in your personal business, and your dating life should be one of those occasions. Connect with some married couples whom you respect, and ask them to pray with you about this matter. If you are interested in a certain lady, ask them to pray about whether you should initiate contact with her. Get their counsel on how to proceed, and be open to their cautions. In Proverbs 18:22 we're told, "He who finds a wife finds a good thing." The word "finds" can be translated "to come upon, meet." The biblical language here describes a discovery made while on a journey. In other words, the man was not on a hunting expedition, intent on finding a wife, trapping her, and dragging her home.

Rather, while on a purposeful journey he met her (say a conference, family and friend gathering or any other purposeful journey,) and he recognize that she is a godsend, and won her heart. As we men journey through life, seeking God and going about the tasks He has given us with diligence and faithfulness, it is within reason to believe that God will bring the right woman across our path. Let us make sure, then, that we are on the right journey. And let us not be afraid when we discover the "good thing" that God sends our way. Many men are suffering heartaches and pains because they were on a purposeful journey and met and had the wife of their dreams that God would be proud of but threw it away for their own selfish and personal gains that didn’t line up with the word of God. Many have chosen to turn away from God’s word concerning marriage and have turned to the world’s ideas of what a marriage should be.

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The Christian has been redeemed for good works (Eph. 2:10)For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.), so he ought to use his body for good deeds and righteousness, not for sin. Paul also reminded the Corinthians that they did not have rights to their own bodies. 1st Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. They were not free to use their bodies any way they wished. He insisted that Christ bought them at a price — the price of his own blood (Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.; 1 Cor. 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.). As a slave was bought in the ancient world, Christ bought his followers, body and soul, through the price of his own death. Because they belong to him, believers do not have the right to rebel against him by using their bodies in ways the Lord has prohibited. Further, because this purchase results in redemption and salvation, it ought to inspire grateful obedience, not rebellion. In this reminder, Paul both chastised the Corinthians and pleads with them to obey Christ eagerly and thankfully. Paul insisted, “Honor God with your body.” Having already given the negative warning to flee immorality, Paul here gave positive guidance through the gospel. Rather than merely resist sin, believers must see themselves as temples of God purchased by Christ. Of course, this purchase refers to Christ’s atonement. Because Christ died for and purchased believers, believers owe him obedience and honor. They should thankfully and obediently search for ways to bring glory to God by using their bodies in the ways that God has commanded, and by refraining from using their bodies in ways God has prohibited. They should remember that their bodies have been united to Christ, and they must honor Christ by not dragging his members into union with prostitutes.

Paul is explaining that sexual relations is a physical act that glues the bodies and souls of two people together. More importantly, a sexual bond is not a weak connection that easily breaks apart. This joining together can be like superglue! Therefore, if a couple engage in intimacy and separates, they will sustain significant damage to their hearts and bodies. 1st Cor 6:18-19 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

Maybe you’re familiar with the bonding power of superglue. Many have used superglue in some way or another. Many have end up with superglue on their fingers and accidentally fused their thumb and forefinger together. In shock, they tried to separate them, but nothing worked. As a last resort, many pulled their fingers apart by ripping the skin off. The pain was excruciating! Many learned a valuable lesson and some didn’t: you can’t test-drive superglue; it only makes permanent bonds. Likewise, God designed sexual relations to supernaturally cement a husband and wife as one, which means you would be unwise to take it for a test drive. Because, once you have sexual relations, your heart and body are immediately bonded to the other person. If you disagree, consider that if sexual relations was not a bonding process, then all of us could have sexual relations with everyone we want, break up, and never feel a twinge of pain. The fact that couples experience heartache or awkwardness when they breakup after having sexual relations (even kissing and caressing) is proof that sexual relations is a bonding process.

Satan has used sexual relations in this world to destroy the God-designed sanctity of marriage, working through people's desires, insecurities and ignorance. There are many different reasons people have sexual relations. The world system and society promotes it as normal, fun and exciting. Many saints in the Body of Christ have sexual relations to try to heal a relationship or to make up for other problems they are having. Many use sexual relations as a way to get affection or to feel loved and connected to someone. Many rush into marriage because of sexual relations (bedroom) and not love. Satan has convinced many into believing the illusion that sex equals love, that everything we see in the movies—all the hype that surrounds sex—is true. In 1 John:2:16 it tells us that the lust of the flesh, what Satan is constantly trying to get us to go after, is not of the Father but of this hurting and damaged world. The apostle Paul wrote in 1st Thessalonians:4:3-4 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor." God intended sex to be a union of two lives into one (Genesis:2:24), uniting with Him in a covenant bond, not something to be treated lightly. Hebrews:13:4 says, "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled;. God intended sexual relations to be a wonderful experience shared between a husband and wife. Sin is like an undercurrent in the ocean, if you play in it, you will be overpowered and carried you away into certain destruction.

The age old question of “how far is too far” may be revealing a desire to get as close to sin as possible rather than a desire to “flee” as God calls us to (1 Cor. 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.). So I ask you, what’s the posture of your heart? Are you seeking to find ways to flee from lust or getting as close as you can? Be careful to not underestimate your vulnerability, or as Paul said, “let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12). Sin has power. The word means “mastered” (Romans 6:14For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.), and no sin is more enslaving than sexual sin. While it can never be the unbroken pattern of a true believer’s life, it can be the recurring habit that saps joy, peace, and hinder our work in the ministry and even church discipline ( 1st Cor 5:1.). Sexual sin controls, so the believer must never allow sin to have that control, but must master it in the Lord’s strength (1Co 9:27But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.). Paul categorically rejects the ungodly notion that freedom in Christ gives license to sin (cf. Romans 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. Romans 8:13 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 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. We have been delivered from the dominion of sin.

**"Stop Test-Driving Your Boyfriend/Girlfriend/Future Husband Or Wife" (Lesson 3, Part 2) by Pastor Timothy Roberson**

One of the myths out there is that if you just spend enough time searching, if you can just gather enough information, you'll find a woman with whom marriage will be "easy." The fact is, such a woman doesn't exist, and if she did, she likely wouldn't marry you. And that means that you don't need as much information as you think you do. No matter how long you've dated, everyone marries a stranger. That's because fundamentally dating is an artificial arrangement in which you're trying to be on your best behavior.

Marriage on the other hand is real life. And it's only in the context of day-in, day-out reality, with the vulnerability and permanence that marriage provides, that we learn what another person is really like. Some of the things we learn about each other aren't easy. But who ever said that creating a wonderful and joyous marriage were going to be easy? It takes work from both participants (the husband and the wife) Men, the point of marriage is that we learn to love our wives as Christ loved the church.

So our goal should not be to date her long enough until we're confident marriage won't be hard, but to date her just long enough to discern if we're willing to love her sacrificially and if she's willing to respond to that kind of love. Remember this tonight my friends and that is once you bond sexually with someone, you take an awful risk with your heart. There is no turning back. You may think that sleeping together is just for fun or a relationship test, but in reality, you have already superglued yourselves together. Besides, committing fornication is no guarantee that you will stay together. When your relationship falls apart, you will suffer consequences and Satan begins to play on your mind and in your mind. Satan wants to convince you that you are damaged goods. Many suffer with...

•A heart that is numbed toward real intimacy when you seek it in the future.

•A bad reputation that destroys other people’s ability to trust or respect you.

•A burden of guilt and shame from knowing you exploited the other person.

•A deadened ability to stay committed in a future relationship.

All these are result of not doing things God’s way.. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says “this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality” and that v8 “whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.” So when you sin sexually against each other before marriage you are saying, “You can’t trust me because I’m willing to sacrifice both of our relationships with God to do what I want.” Ironically, some single parents, especially women, believe that sexual involvement will encourage their boyfriend to commit to them and secure a father for their children. They rationalize that a little intimacy will convince him to get serious and marry.

However, sexual activity does not encourage anyone to commit. Instead, it discourages men and women from getting married, because they get all that’s involve in sexual relations and companionship they want for free. In their minds, why should they consider marriage when they already have everything they want with no strings attached? A person who wants to test-drive sex implies that he or she desires all of the positives of marriage, such as intimacy, security, and companionship, without having to invest in it. Don’t let this kind of individual trick you with flattering words of love, such as “you’re all I’ve ever wanted.” Couples cannot obtain the benefits of marriage unless they selflessly commit themselves to another person. Intimacy doesn’t exist apart from sacrificial love and commitment. These qualities are absent when dating couples have sexual relations or move-in together. In essence, pleasure and convenience become more important than each other’s well-being. Thus, it is impossible for someone to ask for sexual relations before marriage and justifiably say, “I love you.” If he really loves you, then he or she will either get married or date without having sexual relations. The Bible warns against the dangers of stimulating the sex drive outside of marriage. The Bible says, “Flee also youthful lusts…” (2 Timothy 2:22). The way to “flee youthful lusts” is to turn totally away from anything that leads to lust. Lust may look harmless, but it is a deadly enemy.

Most Godly men can't wait to get married, it is a beautiful thing to them. They know that He who FINDS a wife, finds a good thing.(Proverbs 18:22) Unlike worldly men and carnal men, Godly men know the purpose of marriage. Marriage is the depiction of Christ and His church. They are not afraid of commitment because they are committed to God. They are faithful to God, so they can be faithful to their wife. If a man can remain celibate and honor God in his singleness, he will definitely have no problem being faithful to his wife for the rest of his life.