

“(un)-Stuck: Partnership”

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Discussion:

Q. What is the single most important thing to DO when searching for your life partner?

We're going to look at Psalm 37 tonight, but first I want to read from Habakkuk b/c it sets the context in a sense for the Psalm I want to look at.

Hab. 1:2-4,13 (As I read this, consider if you have ever felt this way!)

2 How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen?

Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save?

3 Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong?

Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.

4 Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails.

The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

This Psalm takes up the same age-old question not ignored in Scripture: **Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer???**

Psalm 37:3-7

3 Trust in the LORD and do good;

dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

4 Delight yourself in the LORD

and he will give you the desires of your heart. (this is the verse/result we all want for ourselves!!)

5 Commit your way to the LORD;

trust in him and he will do this:

6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,

the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

The Actions of Psalm 37 (if you hope for the desires of your heart to be answered)

1. **Trust** in the Lord

○ **Def:** to trust; have confidence in; to feel safe, be careless; secure

○ TRUST Implies two things: *Active obedience* & *Fervent expectation* of His justice

2. **Do Good**

○ **Def:** to do, fashion, accomplish, make

Gal. 6:9 " Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

3. **Delight** yourself in the Lord

○ **Def:** soft, delicate; to be happy about

- Image of finding joy in your rel. w/ God, being pleased with God
- 4. **Commit** your way to Him
 - **Def:** to roll, roll away, roll down, roll together – “Roll thy way upon”
 - **Image:** of a scroll being rolled up – the perfect intertwining of our ways with His
 - **Use paper to demonstrate what it means to ‘Commit’ your ways to Him**
- 5. **Be still** and **wait** patiently (**the hardest part!!**)
 - (KJV) “Rest in the Lord” – to be silent; to make quiet
 - **ILL>** He wants to quiet your soul!!

So what are the results of living this way, according to Ps. 37?

The Promises of Psalm 37 (if you live according to it)

1. He will cause you to dwell in safety
2. He will cause your righteous ways to shine
3. He will give you the desires of your heart

But what if I’ve done all of these things and still don’t see these results??

Big Idea: “TRUST GOD” with your Dating Life & Spouse Selection

The Top Ten Things a Single YA Should Know, Do, or Ask While Trusting God for their Spouse (in loose order)

10. Realize that Dating ends in ONLY one of two ways!!

- Marriage or Break-up – so date wisely! This should affect how you date!!

9. Make the most of the ‘season of singleness’

- Serve God; use this time wisely to do as much as you can!
- **ILL>** I did not do this in my own life but wish I had. Instead, I focused way too much on finding my spouse!

8. Refuse to get stuck in the difficulties of the wait

- Loneliness, frustration, the unknown element of ‘when’ you’ll meet your spouse
- You can choose to be stuck here and revert to #9 – make the most of this time!!

7. Make your life and spouse search *Christ-centered* now, so that your marriage will naturally be *Christ-centered* in the future

- What is your life purpose right now? Should it change once you get married?? Why?

6. Choose a spouse with whom you would trust your future children.

5. Consider carefully what you will have to tell your future spouse about your past relationships.

- Your conduct in the present will one day be your ‘past’ that your spouse will be curious about!!

4. Ask yourself: “If I were blind, would I still choose, date, or love this person?”

- The infatuation (lust) of the initial attraction will eventually wear off. What are you left with?

This leads to the next...

3. Choose someone with strong Character, Commitment, Integrity & Good Doctrine!! (video)

What are they like on the inside??

- **Character** – What is their moral & ethical quality and make-up?

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 “Do not be misled, bad company corrupts good *character*.”

CHARLES R. SWINDOLL “Character is always lost when a high ideal is sacrificed on the altar of conformity and popularity.”

D L MOODY “Character is what you are in the dark.”

OSWALD CHAMBERS “Character in a saint means the disposition of Jesus Christ persistently manifested.”

- **Commitment** – Do they keep their word *NOW*? If they can’t keep commitments now, what makes you think they will keep the biggest & longest commitment in life?
- **Integrity** – Adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character;
 - ROBERT ELLIOTT SPEER “If one can be certain that his principles are right, he need not worry about the consequences.”
 - Integrity is doing what is right even when nobody is looking.
- **Good Doctrine** – What do they believe? Do they know what they believe?

2. Be Equally Yoked – this is not optional or negotiable for the Christian – this is a command!

- Recognize the challenge of the ‘limited pool’

2 Cor. 6:14 “¹⁴Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

1. Keep yourself pure, NOW!

- Satan wants you to have sex now and stop having sex once you are married!!

“Third, ask yourself, “If I were blind, would I love this person?” In other words, can I love this person without any physical expression? Is my desire for him or her based on quality of character or just physical attraction? If you can’t express your love apart from the physical element, it is not *true* love. Physical involvement will distort two people’s perspective, and it often leads to unwise decisions. Physical involvement can make people feel close, but upon careful examination, the only thing the two may have in common is mutual lust.”

0. “TRUST GOD” – He will lead you well if you will let him!!

Conclusion: (worship team)

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