

Candidates for Marriage

Request: Will you please teach on how to recognize your mate for marriage?

You will notice that I entitled this lesson, Candidates for Marriage. I have talked to believers you think they have found the right person for marriage but may not be a candidate for marriage for several reasons. For example, one may be too young for marriage, not a candidate. Another may be improperly divorced, not a candidate for marriage. Another may not be a Christian, not a candidate for marriage.

Genesis 24 is one of the greatest love stories about discovering candidates for marriage. It is also the longest chapter in the book of Genesis. This is a great love story told by God about two believer's preparation while living miles apart and not knowing each other or anything about their independent spiritual growth.

We will examine Gen.24: 1-67 by the following four homiletical points.

Genesis 24:1-4	biblical principle regarding marriage
Genesis 24:5-8	biblical promise regarding marriage
Genesis 24:12-49	biblical prayer regarding marriage (Gen. 12-16, 26-27, and 45)
Genesis 24:50-67	biblical persons (candidates) for marriage

**This lesson will study six aspects of becoming candidates for marriage.
Before you say this is OT and doesn't apply to NT, read Matt.19: 4-7; Eph.5: 31-33; and Gen.2: 18-24.**

1. Spiritual council of parents is important in the candidate selection for marriage (Gen. 24:1-4, 37-38).

Those parents who have been faithful to train their children in the Word of God are worthy to be heard in this important decision in life (Prov.22:6). As a rule, spiritual parents are very perceptive of their children and can offer sound doctrinal advice. However you must not come across as preaching. Children tend to not want to listen but children would be wise to listen to Scriptural council.

It is important to have both sets of Christian parents approval (Gen. 24:50-54; 1 Cor.7: 37-39).

2. The first and foremost qualification as a candidate for Christian marriage is spiritual.

The following four persons would not be candidate for biblical marriage.

- Don't marry an unbeliever (2 Cor.6: 14-16; 1 Cor.7: 39; 1 King 11:1-4).
- Don't marry a believer in Reversionism (2 Cor.6: 14-16; 1 Pet.3: 1-7).
- Don't marriage an improperly divorced person (Matt.5:31-32; 19: 4-9; 1 Cor.7:10-11)
- Don't marriage a psychotic believer (Rom.16:17-19; 1 Pet.3:8-9)

Abraham to servant: "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live." (Gen. 24:3) "But you shall go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac." (Gen. 24:4)

Servant to parents: "And my master made me swear, saying, 'you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live. But you shall go to my father's house, and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son.'" (Gen.24: 37-38) [Shemitic race and genealogy of Christ].

3. Both candidates for marriage should recognize and acknowledge the spiritual significance of marriage as a divine institution and “until death do us part.”

What if the other person doesn't recognize or acknowledge it? “And the servant said to him, ‘suppose the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came? The Abraham said to him, ‘beware lest you take my son back there! The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me, and who swore to me, saying, ‘to your descendents I will give this land,’ He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there.” (Gen. 24:5-8, 39-41; Eph.5: 31)

We have the third member of the Godhead living in us to guide us (1 Cor.6: 19-20; John 16:13).

4. Awareness and assurance of divine guidance in finding and courting and marrying eliminates futile and frantic searching and making the right choice (Gen. 2:22; Prov.18: 22; 19:14).

“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.” (Eccl.3:1)
“A time to embrace, and a time to shun embracing.” (Eccl. 3:5)

Perfect timing lies with God. When you walk in the Holy Spirit, you walk in God's perfect timing (Gal.5:16).

Divine timing and spiritual preparation made Isaac and Rebecca candidates for marriage (Gen. 24:54-60).

5. Single status is a time for spiritual preparation and monogamous commitment to marriage.

“And the girl was very beautiful, a virgin (bethulah / marriageable age / Isaac was about 40yrs), and no man had had relations with her.” (Gen. 24:16)

Sex is sacred. Bible sets marriage as the boundary for sex (Eph.5:3-4; 1 Cor.6:18-7:2; Matt.19:4-5).

Soul touching not body touching is the way to develop intimacy and spiritual oneness. Studying the Scriptures and praying together is essential in developing oneness in the Lord. “And he said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham. Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of men of the city are coming out to draw water; now may it be that the girl to whom I say, ‘please let down your jar so that I may drink, and who answers, ‘drink, and I will water your camels also;’ – may she be the one whom Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac; and by this I shall know that Thou hast shown lovingkindness to my master.” (Gen. 24:12-14)

6. The Christian wife must be willing to adjust to the occupation and geographical plans of her Christian husband. If she is unwilling, she is not a candidate for this marital partner (Gen. 24:5-8, 39-41).

It is her choice and decision because she has to live with it (Gen. 24:57-67). Is Rebekah willing to adjust her plans and life to his without trying to change or challenge his choice of career and residence? Has he considered how to support them both, has he considered her safety and welfare in a new location, has he considered their spiritual growth and service, has he found a local church for them both (1 Pet.3: 7)?

Are these things important to you? Are we compatible enough to make it? WHEN IN DOUBT, WAIT!

“Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the Lord had made his journey successful or not.” (Gen. 24:21)