

COURTSHIP and UNDISTRACTED DEVOTION TO LORD

Paul refers to courtship period and persons as unmarried (agamos) in (1 Cor.7:32, 34).

We will define Courtship as having reached an age of adult independence and responsibility; and finding a special person with mutual interest in spending exclusive time together for exploring compatibility towards the possibility of marriage.

Typically once believers get engaged their primary focus turns to the WEDDING (a one day event) rather than on their MARRIAGE (a life time event) (Rom.7:2).

Last week we gave you a courtship case study of Jacob and Rachel (Gen.19) [Courtship Anxiety](#). Jacob met Rachel as a worker in foreign country; he fell in love, got married and returned home with a foreign bride.

This week we give you the courtship case study of Ruth and Boaz (Book of Ruth) (Courtship and Undistracted Devotion to Lord). Boaz met Ruth as a foreign worker in his business. It was a story of second chances. As a widow, Ruth fell in love with a believer and married into the messianic lineage of Christ (Matt.1:5).

This lesson will study three aspects of Courtship and Undistracted Devotion to Lord.

1. Paul explains how “undistracted devotion to Christ” of the unmarried is beneficial to marriage in (1 Cor.7:32-35).

To potential husband:

(1 Cor.7:33-34a) “But the one who is married is concerned (merimnao/ p.a.ind.3ps/ RMA) about the things of the world (details of married life), how he may please his wife, and his interests are divided.”

(Eph.5:25, 33) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” not divided)

To potential wife:

(1 Cor.7:34c) “But the one who is married is concerned (RMA) about the world (details of married life), how she may please her husband.”

(Eph.5:22, 33) “Wives, Be subject to your husband, as to the Lord.” (Not divided)

2. Paul wasn’t teaching “undistracted devotion to the Lord” to put a restraint on courtship but to promote respect and honor to the plan of God while unmarried or married.

(1 Cor.7:35) “And this I say for your own benefit (to sumphros) [useful, profitable, expedient]; not to put (epiballos / a.a.subj) [to throw a lasso] a restraint (brochos) [with slip-knot] upon you, but to promote what is seemly (to euschemon) [honorable], and to secure (euparedros) undistracted devotion (aperispastos) [without being over-occupied with details of life] to the Lord.”

The term Aperispastos (undistracted devotion) refers to NOT being pre-occupied with something or someone so that it distracts from the important of spiritual matters (Rom.12:1-2; 1 Pet.1:14-16).

Perispastos and merimnos (no alpha privative) were used with Martha to show the danger of such pre-occupation.

(Luke 10:40-42) “But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; ad she came up to Him, and said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me
(Childish thinking) (1 Cor.13:11)

“But the Lord answered and said to her, ‘Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.’”

3. In marriage, it is important to develop cleaving (dabaq) [To glue two separates into one] in body, soul, and spirit (1 Thess.5:23; Gen.2:24).

Paul taught that there were five important areas for developing compatibility in cleaving (2 Cor.6:14-16).

Courtship is time to begin work on these five areas of spiritual compatibility.

- **Righteousness** (dikaiosune) (Rom.1:17; 1 Cor.6:18-7:2)
- **Fellowship** (koinonia) [Sharing; communication] (1 John 1:6-9; 1 Pet.3:7; 1 Cor.7:5)
- **Harmony** (sumphonesis) [One accord] (Rom.12:16; Phil.4:2; 2 Cor.13:11; Eph.4:26-27)
- **Common identity in Christ** (meris) [Two as One] (Matt.19:5; 1 Cor.12:25-26)
- **Agreement** (sugkatathesis) [Covenant with God] (Matt.19:6; 2 Cor.6:16; 1Cor.6:19-20)

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IS A PICTURE OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH (Acts 20:28)

“This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the Church.” (Eph.5:32)