

## 'TIL DEATH DO US PART?

Marriage – a very serious and for many, scary subject. While in middle and high school, many teens put off the idea of marriage. During that time in our lives, we view marriage as a long-term goal for ourselves. There is so much that we still want to do and experience before we have that “ball and chain” placed around our leg. What many do not realize, is that during these times in our lives, we need to be praying for our future mate. Marriage is a commitment that is supposed to last a lifetime. An entire life with one person is a scary thought, especially if it's the wrong person. During these teen years, we need to be praying for guidance in choosing a mate and that God will open our eyes to the person that He has chosen for our life. We also need to be praying for our mate specifically. Even though we may not know who that person is specifically, God knows who we are praying for. We should pray that God will protect that person in all aspects of his or her life and that God will give them the strength to live a Godly life.

While praying for our mate is very important, there are two things that we must learn about marriage while we are young. A successful marriage stems from two words: love and respect. Ephesians 5:33 states, “However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” Guys, learn to love; girls, learn to respect. If we will learn these two things while we are young, our future marriages we already start on a positive note. Marriage is a cycle of love and respect. If the wife shows disrespect, then the husband will be less likely to show his love or if the husband fails to show love to his wife, then the wife we likely retaliate with disrespect. As young people, we must focus on these areas of our lives and pray that God will start molding and making us into the best husband or wife that we can be. Even though we may be young, it is never too early to start thinking about our future, and how we want our marriage to be.

1 Corinthians 7:1-16, 32-35

### **TWO BECOME ONE IN BODY**

Marriage changes everything. No longer are we living simply for ourselves, but now we are living to please and satisfy someone else. That is another reason it is of utmost importance that we pray for our future mate. As humans, it is not always easy to deny ourselves of what we want and follow what another wants. If we do not pray for our future mate and marriage, our future could be a lot harder. Once we are married, our body is no longer our own, it is our mate's. Paul begins by expressing to the Corinthians that each man should have relations with only one woman, and the same is true for the woman. He goes on to express that it is our marital duty to satisfy our husband or wife. No longer does a wife have supreme control over her body, but yet the husband has control as well, and the same is true for the husband's body. Here, Paul gives a demand that husbands and wives are not to deprive one another, unless for a time of

fasting and prayer. The simple truth of sinful humanity is, if the man or woman is not satisfied at home, they will look elsewhere for that satisfaction. We must start praying for our mate now, so that we will be with the man or woman that God has chosen for our lives.

### **TWO BECOME ONE IN SPIRIT**

Not only are the husband and wife to become one in body, but they should now become one in Spirit as well. First of all, it is impossible to become one in the Spirit if the husband or wife is not a Christian. Second Corinthians 6:14-15 says, "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?" Once again, we should begin now to pray for the person God has in mind for us. Another thing we can do now is not date anyone that we would not consider marrying. That means that if we would not consider marrying a non-Christian, which Paul says is the way it should be, then we should not even date that person. We always say, "It's just a date." We never know what that one date is going to lead to and the trouble it might cause in our life. Paul is telling the Corinthians that they should not get themselves into a marriage with an unbeliever, but if they do, they should strive to continue in it because we may not know when we could lead them to Christ. If both people in a marriage are Christians, they should strive to grow closer to God together. If one person continues to grow and prosper in Christ and the other falls away, then the marriage is also going to be strained. "The couple that prays together, stays together."

### **SOME ARE CALLED TO BE SINGLE**

Paul continues on to tell the Corinthians that some individuals are called to remain unmarried and simply focus on Christ their entire life. While not many are able to do this, God has gifted some in this area. Once a marriage begins, the two people are no longer just living for God, but also for each other. Paul says that if we can live life without marrying, that we can focus on Christ in a deeper and more intimate level, without the concerns of another. We should not fret or worry about our future mate. God will bring him or her along in His time and until that day comes we should continue to grow closer to God and keep our focus on Him.

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