

# Marrying Well: Girls

## The abbreviated notes of “A Girl’s Guide to Marrying Well”.

"A Girl's Guide to Marrying Well" is a 64-page document on our website which recommends helpful attitudes, actions, and structures to support a healthy dating life on the road to marriage. While we recommend reading the full document if possible, below is a condensed version with highlights from four categories: being ready for dating, being available/accessible, choosing a good partner, and a healthy dating life.

### Are you ready to date?

- 1) Avoid Cultural Traps: Living like you’re planning to marry means intentionally resisting the cultural traps of male bashing, procrastinating, unrealistic expectations, hyper independence, and avoiding risk. Instead, cultivate community, stewardship, and purity, which are the elements of Christian discipleship that can best help you recognize and embrace good opportunities for marriage.
- 2) Do you consider relationships a reward? Don't fall for the myth that “good Christians” get husbands and “bad ones” don't. This isn't a cosmic rewards plan with God pulling a husband from His prize box for the women who do everything on His checklist. Live a godly life for God's glory, not for compensation.
- 3) Could you see yourself getting married? If not, you should take time to consider why before entering into a dating relationship. Is it a product of fear or preconceived notions from outside circumstances (ex. a parent's divorce, bad past relationships, etc.) or an inward realization of honestly not desiring marriage?
- 4) Do you embrace purity? Whatever your sexual history, the goal remains; Live from today forward like you're planning to marry.

### What is the best way to be available and accessible for a relationship?

- 1) Avoid uncommitted intimate friendships: They may satiate immediate needs, but they lead to frustration and heartache. Not to mention, for singles ready for marriage, these “friendships” waste time and energy. And, by giving him so much access to your time, affection and intimate friendship without requiring any commitment on his part, you're removing all the incentives for him to be forthright about his intentions.
- 2) Interact with men: You won't meet someone if you don't get involved in your community and get to know people. God has given women a position of influence, encouragement, and counsel with their brothers. Embrace it!
- 3) Embrace a healthy view of beauty: Many Christian women struggle with the problem of overemphasis on beauty, but others fall into the category of mismanagement or neglect. Moderation and modesty are the best goals. Also, remember that God knit you together in your mother's womb- uphold his concept of beauty, and not the world's.
- 4) Pray about it: Rejecting the notion that God creates one person just for us doesn't discount the reality that God can lead us toward someone, and help us make a wise choice when we seek Him in prayer.

**Who should you look to date?**

- 1) First Look: Pick a potential dating partner with an eye toward godly manhood—who would make a good husband defined by those characteristics God esteems in His Word, not the ones Hollywood likes. Simply put, choose someone with a trajectory of godliness.
- 2) Don't look for your soul mate: There is no Scripture saying that God creates “one” person for us to marry. This is because Christians believe that God brings the primary meaning into our lives. Marriage—though wonderful—is still secondary. Worries about settling reveal a selfish approach to marriage that misunderstands the Bible’s idea of love. Holding out for “true love” means demanding a person to whom I am completely attracted in the secular sense, somebody who meets all the qualifications on my “list,” and whom I believe is the “best I can do”. This is a worldly approach to finding a husband, and doomed to failure.
- 3) Use wisdom, not destiny, as your guide.
  - a. Is the person a believer who fears God?
  - b. How do they handle their money? (Proverbs 31:16, 18)
  - c. Is this person a hard worker? (Proverbs 13:4; 26:13-15)
  - d. Would he be a good father for my children?
  - e. Do they live an upright life? (Proverbs 13:6, 20; 25:28)
  - f. Do they wound with words, or are they an encourager? (Proverbs 12:18; 18:21)
  - g. Are they peaceful, or quarrelsome? (Proverbs 17:19; 29:8)
- 4) Ask for parental, pastoral and wise advice: Your parents know you better than you may realize, and even if they aren’t believers, they generally want the best for you. Also talk to your pastor and people you respect for their counsel: “Does this relationship seem like a ‘fit’ to you? Are there any areas you’re concerned about?” Don’t lose your objectivity to infatuation- advice is a good safeguard on our perceptions.

**So I'm dating. How can I do this in a godly way?**

- 1) Set specific and safe boundaries: Guardrails are put a few feet before a boundary—not at the precipice. Similarly, your boundaries should be BEFORE a dangerous point. Consider what is “too much” and then set your mark a few steps back. What is your danger area? Lights off? Being horizontal? Being alone? Set boundaries that make these danger zones impossible. This can include time, physical, spiritual, and emotional boundaries.
- 2) Don't expect him to be perfect: There is no perfect Prince Charming. We are all flawed humans! Even though there’s a lot he may need to learn or work on, he’s growing, so be willing to offer grace.
- 3) Be a motivator: Ask how you can pray for him; speak words of encouragement; if you notice his efforts toward maturity and manhood, let him know. It’ll do wonders for him.
- 4) And remember: Nobody really “settles” in a biblical marriage because God has designed marriage as a wonderful gift that gets better with age. This is what people worried about settling don’t seem to get. They think joy in marriage is all about the original choice one makes about whom to marry, rather than how they nurture and build their marriage.

**You don't have to be afraid to ask God for a husband.**

Some girls live paralyzed with fear that God has decided or could decide that they should remain single. However, if you want to be married, God has placed that desire within you for a reason. Though we cannot predict earthly circumstance, know that your Father knows your heart, and cares for it. Thus, we can pray for our desires with confidence, knowing that marriage is in His design, and that it is good.

So, you can ask with confidence! A good prayer would be as follows:

*"Lord, You created me. And I believe You created marriage for my good and Your glory. I don't know Your timeline, but I'm asking You to fulfill my desire to be married. Thank You, Lord, for this strong desire You've placed in my heart. Thank You that You've already been where I'm headed and that You know what my future holds. Thank You for marriage and for my future husband. Please be with him and prepare his heart to do Your will."*