

# What Every Young Man should look for in a Young Woman

By Al Felder

*“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord.”* (Prov. 18:22)

Our society emphasizes preparation and education. No matter what one does in life there are rules, and regulation that require a person to have the proper training and education before he or she can follow a given occupation. According to society, everything must be prepared for by proper training and education. Everything that is, except for marriage. Now I'm not saying that society needs to start issuing required courses before people can get married. I do, however, believe that marriage is something that one should prepare and educate him or herself for; and that preparation and education should come from the word of God.

Only after studying the word of God can we know what we must be and what we must look for in a mate. Society's views of what a man or woman should be differ greatly from what God teaches in His word. Young women today are given a false image of what it means to be a woman. Young men see this image as well; and it usually is associated with immodest, obnoxious, aggressive, and spiritually immature behavior. This leads to confusion on the part of many young men today when they consider what to look for in a woman.

It has been said that the woman is the heart of the home. Now if that is the case it raises a very important question for a young man to ask himself when looking for a wife. What kind of a heart do I want my home to have? This line of thinking will get a young man started down the right track, but it is our goal to introduce some additional thoughts from the Bible. As we do so we ask the question what should a young man look for in a young woman?

As we begin to discuss the idea of what every young man should look for in a young woman, I believe that God has spoken very decisively in His word about this matter. There are some things a woman simply must be before she is qualified to assume the role of a wife and mother. Now this is not an exhaustive list by far, but there are four characteristics that a young woman must possess in order to be suitable for a young man. She must be a Christian, she must spend her single years devoted to serving God and learning His ways, she must respect Biblical leadership, and she must be willing to make the home a priority in her life. A woman who does not possess – or at least show signs of developing – these characteristics does not meet the basic job description laid down for wives in the Bible.

First, every young man should look for a Christian young woman. We must treat this point very carefully for a number of reasons. One such reason is that the term Christian is used very lightly today. Many people claim to be a Christian, but have no idea what such a

declaration entails. Also, many people have far ranging ideas over how one becomes a Christian. For the answers to these questions we turn to the Bible.

The word Christian simply means a follower of Christ. The term was applied to God's people in the first century. *"And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."* (Acts 11:26) The name implies someone who is devoted to denying his or herself and serving Christ. This service is not mere lip service; rather, it requires obedience and personal sacrifice. *"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."* (1 Peter 4:16) The Christian life is not one that is lived for our own personal desires or will; it is one that is lived for the sole purpose of bringing honor and glory to God. My life no longer revolves around what I think; it revolves around what God says. I am no longer the master of my life for I have humbly submitted myself to Christ, and look towards His word for instruction as to who I should be.

Now that we have a brief description of what it means to be a Christian, how does one become a Christian? The book of Acts gives us an account of the early Church. It tells us what those men and women did in order to become a part of the body of Christ, and I would submit unto you that if we do what they did we too can be a Christian. There are four essential elements that can be found in each case of conversion recorder in the book of Acts. They are either specifically stated or implied.

As we read through the book of Acts we find the following cases of conversion: the 3,000 on Pentecost, the Ethiopian Eunuch, Saul who became the Apostle Paul, Cornelius and his household, Lydia and her household, and the Philippian Jailor. In each of these cases of conversion we find that they believed the word, repented of their sins, confessed Christ as the Son of God, and were baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins. Notice just a couple of verses from these accounts. *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* (Acts 2:38) <sup>36</sup>*"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"* <sup>37</sup>*"And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* (Acts 8:36, 37) Within these two passages we find faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. The reason why some of these acts are implied is because the individual had already reached the point of belief, repentance, or confession by the time the account picks up in the Bible. The one thing that they had not done, however, is be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. This is why baptism is specifically mentioned in every case of conversion. After obeying these commands one becomes a follower of Christ or a Christian.

Why is it so important that a young man look for a Christian young woman? *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."* (Eph. 5:22) The wife in her role is

to submit unto her husband as unto the Lord. He is the head of his wife even as Christ is the head of the church. Simply put, a woman who is not a Christian cannot fulfill this passage of scripture. She will not submit unto her husband's leadership in the way and manner in which God intends if she has not first submitted to Christ.

If the heart of the home is not what she should be, how can she assist her husband in guiding it in the direction it needs to go? The sad fact of the matter is that many relationships between Christians and non-Christians lead to arguments and heartache. Two opposing views exist within the family that cannot be reconciled. One or the other will win out. Unfortunately, it is usually the Christian in the relationship who ends up giving in. Bit by bit the young man will compromise his Christianity until there is absolutely nothing left, at which point he will depart from the faith completely.

Another sad reality is divorce. If either partner in the relationship is unwilling to give in to the other, they will eventually separate. *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"* (Amos 3:3) What person would enter into a business partnership with someone whose business ethics are the exact opposite of his? I believe that any logically thinking person would understand the turmoil that such a partnership would produce. Yet, in the most important partnership that exists between two individuals people often fail to think about such consequences.

A woman who is not a Christian will not provide the proper assistance for the home. She will fail to submit to her husband as the church submits unto Christ, nor will she assist in bringing her children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The family can never be what God intends for it to be without a godly wife or mother. Therefore, let every young man look for a Christian young woman.

Second, every young man should look for a young woman who spends her single years growing in service to the Lord. This point is similar to the first one, but it takes it a step further. After obeying the Gospel of Christ, what does the young woman do with her life? Is she growing in the faith? Is she searching the scriptures daily in order to understand who God wants her to be?

Many young people today, as well as their parents, fail to realize the value of youth when it comes to serving the Lord. The Apostle Paul reminded young Timothy of this fact. *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."* (1 Tim. 4:12) As a young person you are at a stage in your life where you can devote yourself to learning about and serving the Lord. No other obligations exist within your life at this time. You can be fully and totally devoted to the Lord.

As you grow older, you will gain more responsibilities and obligations. *“<sup>32</sup>But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: <sup>33</sup>But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.”* (1 Cor. 7:32, 33) This is just a simple fact. During your single years you can devote yourself to serving the Lord, and learning His ways unlike any other time in your life. This is not to say that anyone or anything should ever come first in your life before the Lord, but you will gain responsibilities as you grow older that will consume more of your time.

Before a young woman can ever be a godly wife or mother she must have completely and totally given herself to the Lord. *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”* (Matt. 22:37) Her fulfillment of her role within the family hinges upon her level of commitment to serving the Lord. Her submission to her husband is to be “as unto the Lord.” This phrase does not in any way imply that the husband is to take the place of Christ in her life. Instead, it simply points out the fact that she is serving Him by filling her role as a submissive wife. Ultimately, her submission is really unto Christ.

Third, every young man should look for a young woman who respects biblical leadership. Just as it is crucial to the home that a young man be committed to biblical leadership, it is crucial to the home that a young woman respects that biblical leadership. This goes back to the question that we asked at the beginning of our lesson. Young men, what type of a heart do you want your home to have?

Will your home have a heart of submission or rebellion to Christ? That’s really what it comes down to, and the answer to this question will determine the type of home you have. *“Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.”* (Prov. 14:1) A wife can either help you build a godly home, or she can constantly tear down everything you try to build. Your attempt to raise your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord can be undermined by a wife who does not care for nor submit unto Christ. All of your teachings can be undone by her influence of rebellion.

We often hear it said, “If momma isn’t happy, nobody is happy.” This saying may often bring a smile to our face as we see it posted on a plaque somewhere, but deep down we realize the truth it states. A wife and mother can literally set the mood of the home. Is her attitude one of joy and does she delight in the Lord, or is her life full of misery and resentment.

The wife is to respect the position of authority that the husband has within the home. *“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”* (Eph. 5:33) The word reverence in this passage means “to

reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience.”<sup>1</sup> This is a command that God gives unto the wife. It is not based upon any merits that the man may possess; therefore, it cannot be ignored when the man lacks any merit. It is based upon the fact that God has delegated this authority to the man. The respect shown by a wife to her husband is really a display of her heart’s attitude of obedience towards God.

How can a young man tell if a young woman has respect for biblical leadership? Look at the relationship that she currently has with her parents. If a young lady respects and obeys her father and mother, she will likely be the same with her own husband. Now, that doesn’t mean that in the marriage relationship the man is like a parent and the woman is like a child. That’s not the point at all. The point is that the young woman has learned respect for biblical authority as evidenced by the way she reverences her parents.

Think about it for just a second. If a young woman does not follow the rules and regulations put in place by her parents, she has issues with authority. If she disobeys them every chance that she gets, what will she teach your children when you’re not around. In order to keep your home from having a heart of rebellion towards God, every young man should look for a young woman who respects biblical leadership.

Finally, a young man should look for a young woman who is willing to make the home a priority in her life. Author Danielle Crittenden writes, “Whether it’s the pleasure of being a wife or of raising children or of making a home – these were, until the day before yesterday, considered the most natural things in the world.”<sup>2</sup> The percentage of women who have left the home for the workforce has steadily increased over the years. Women with children under the age of eighteen entered the workforce at a rate of 56.6% in 1980, 66.7% in 1990, and 73.1% in 2001.<sup>3</sup>

God in His word states a woman’s role in regards to the home. *“I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the home, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”* (1 Tim. 5:14) This literally means that the woman is to manage the home. It is her primary responsibility just as it is the man’s primary responsibility to provide for the home.

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<sup>1</sup> **Thayer, Joseph H. 1977.** *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.* Grand Rapids, MI : Baker Book House, 1977. p. 656.

<sup>2</sup> **Mahaney, Carolyn. 2004.** *Feminine Appeal.* Wheaton, IL : Crossway, 2004. p. 100.

<sup>3</sup> **Mahaney, Carolyn. 2004.** *Feminine Appeal.* Wheaton, IL : Crossway, 2004. p. 101.

Consider the virtuous woman of the book of Proverbs. *“She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.”* (Prov. 31:13) This woman pursued many endeavors beyond the confines of her house. She gathered materials and food, bought real estate, planted a vineyard, made linen garments and sold them, and she helped the poor and needy; but her primary motive and goal in all of these things was to serve her family and home.

A young man who will seek and find such a woman will do well. As he commits himself and his home to the service of God he will quickly realize that the greatest gift he can give his children is a full time mother. No one can replace the value and importance of a mother in a child’s life. Therefore, every young man should look for a young woman who is willing to make the home a priority in her life.

In conclusion, I would ask the young men to seriously consider what is your ultimate goal in marriage? Is it based merely on the here and now? Do you want money and lots of possessions? Or, is your goal much higher? Are you concerned about spiritual things? Do you desire a godly wife who will help you as you lead your family in the ways of righteousness? If so, than you must look at marriage with a different perspective. The woman you seek will not be like most of the women you meet. Look for a young woman who desires God and all His ways.