

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

By Al Felder

“And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.” (Genesis 29:20)

Our society is built so much around convenience; and getting what you want when you want it that there is little to be said for hard work, determination, and patience. Yet, we find that all three of these characteristics played a vital role in Jacob eventually marrying Rachel. This passage, as well as many others in the Bible, teaches us that marriage is not something to be taken lightly. It is something that requires careful thought, consideration, and hard work long before the ceremony itself even takes place.

Marriage is a commitment between a man and a woman that is meant to be for life. Therefore, a young woman in today’s society must be very careful in her selection of a young man. Our culture bombards young women with images of broad-chested, empty headed, shallow men who are really nothing more than overgrown boys. They lack the character needed to be a godly husband or father. With that in mind, we would like to discuss what every young woman should look for in a young man.

As we begin to discuss the idea of what every young woman should look for in a young man, I believe that God has spoken very decisively in His word about this matter. There are some things a man simply must be before he is qualified to assume the role of a husband and father. Now this is not an exhaustive list by far, but there are four characteristics that a young man must possess in order to be suitable for a young woman. He must be a Christian, he must be committed to Biblical leadership, he must be a protector, and he must be a provider. A man who does not possess – or at least show signs of developing – these characteristics does not meet the basic job description laid down for husbands in the Bible.

First, every young woman should look for a Christian young man. 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) *“³⁶And 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? ³⁷And 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 woman look for a Christian young man? *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.”* (Eph. 5:23) The husband in his role is to reflect Christ. He is the head of his wife even as Christ is the head of the church. Simply put, a man who is not a Christian cannot fulfill this passage of scripture. He cannot reflect Christ if he is not a follower of Christ.

If the head of the home is not what he should be, how can he lead it in the direction in which 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 woman will compromise her Christianity until there is absolutely nothing left at which point she 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 man who is not a Christian will not provide the proper direction for the home. He will fail to love his wife as Christ loved the church, nor will he bring his children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The family can never be what God intended for it to be without a godly husband or father. Therefore, let every young woman look for a Christian young man.

Second, every young woman should look for a young man who is committed to Biblical leadership. The young man should have a proper understanding of his role, and he should place the proper value upon it. If a man undervalues his role as the head then he will be unlikely to lead his family; he will be content to sit back while his wife carries the load spiritually, financially, and emotionally. If a man overvalues his role as the head of the family he will abuse his position. He will become a domineering tyrant who believes Biblical headship is about yelling, grunting, and sitting back while his wife hurries about to bring him his coffee and slippers.

In order for a young man to fill his role as the head of the family he must be grounded in the word of God. *“²³For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.”* (James 1:23, 24) If a man is familiar with the Bible and committed to studying its contents, that effort will be visible in his actions. His life will produce fruit.

In order to lead himself and his family in the word of God he must have a vision. *“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”* (Proverbs 29:18) It has been said that the first step in leading is to be headed somewhere. In order for any man to lead his family in the ways of God he must have a vision of where the family should be, and a plan of how to get them there. The plan may vary slightly for each family depending on their differing circumstances, but at its most basic level it should include reading the Bible regularly and prayer.

This may sound easy enough but I assure you it does not happen by accident. Family life can be demanding, and if there is not a plan to regularly study the word of God it will be neglected. Most people find themselves constantly on the go in our society. Since everything is quicker and easier today than it was in the past, we do more. We get up, go to work, take our kids to practice or play in some kind of sport, participate in community organizations or work related organizations, take care of chores around the house, help our kids with homework, and if needed help a neighbor with a chore. Before we know it, every minute of every day has been spent and none of it was devoted to the study of God's word; therefore, we must have a plan to accomplish this task.

Biblical leadership on the part of a husband requires him to be selfless. *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."* (Eph. 5:25) Christ has given the ultimate example of selflessness in His leadership of the church, and the Bible states that the husband is to treat his wife in the same manner. A selfless man will be characterized by patience, restraint, and an eagerness to do what is best for the one he loves. If, on the other hand, a young man is unwilling to respect or submit to the rules laid down by your parents; he is demonstrating signs of selfishness and should not be considered a suitable candidate for marriage. A man must possess the desire to put the needs of others before his own in order to be the proper leader of the home.

Also, it is important to know his perspective on children. *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* (Eph. 6:4) As the head of the family he will be responsible for the spiritual leadership of any children produced as a result of the marriage. For that reason, it is important to know if a young man is committed to having children, supporting children, training children, and disciplining children.

Watch his interaction with young children. Does he appear to like them, or do they seem to bother him? Does he delight in them and pay attention to them, or does he ignore them and act as if they aren't there? These are important questions to ask and find the answer to before the wedding ceremony, and not after.

Third, every young woman should look for a young man who is a protector. *"And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"* (Genesis 3:11) Eve may have been deceived, but Adam failed by not leading. This is evidenced by the fact that God addressed him first. God knew what happened. He didn't need an explanation from Adam, but Adam needed to realize that ultimately the responsibility lay at his feet because he was the leader and as such he should have protected his wife.

In order for a man to protect his family he must possess – among other things – personal strength, wisdom, and courage. He must understand that the success or failure of the home resides solely with him, not his wife. As the head of the home he, and he alone, is responsible for the direction in which the family goes. Young women would do well to keep this in mind when looking for a young man.

Here are a few helpful hints for a young woman to determine if a young man will be a protector of the home. Is he committed to living a life of righteousness? If he is careful in the way he conducts himself, he will also be careful to guard those under his care and prevent them from spiritual harm. Also, how does he treat the weak? How does he treat the powerful? Does he ignore the one and fear the other? Or does he aide the one and speak God’s truth to both? A man who does the latter will be brave enough to stand in the gap for his family when the time comes.

Finally, every young woman should look for a young man who is a provider. *“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”* (1 Tim. 5:8) Biblical manhood is always characterized by a willingness to work. Any man who lacks a biblical work ethic is a poor example of biblical manhood.

This does not mean that the young man must be a workaholic. Quite the opposite is true. He must resist the pressures of society when it comes to the acquisition and accumulation of material goods. Being a provider is not about the amount of money one makes. There are men who make millions of dollars, but don’t provide for their families. Sure, they give their families more material goods, but that’s not provision. On the other hand, there are men who don’t make much more than minimum wage; but they provide for their family far better than most.

A man must work in order to provide for the basic needs of his family. It is his duty to provide them with the things they need in order to live a full and productive life. The best thing a man can provide for his children is a full time mother. A young woman would do well to marry a young man who is committed to fulfilling his role so she can fulfill hers in guiding the home.

In conclusion, I would ask the young women 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 husband who will lead you and your children in paths of righteousness? If so, than you must look at marriage with a different perspective. The man you seek will not be like most of the men you meet. Look for a young man who desires God and all his ways.