

Discerning and Building Godly Relationships

***Ps 37:3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness***

1. Trust: -- firm reliance on the integrity, ability, etc, of a person or thing....to have confidence in, to hope

Trust is birthed out of : Integrity, Honesty and Purity

- integrity --in responsibilities, finances and time—people will see it and be able to trust you
- honesty –others will trust you if you always tell the truth and do not move in manipulation. No half-truths, no hiding information will bring security

God is a man of integrity and honesty...He doesn't manipulate...He shares His heart, gives boundaries, tells you the truth

a) Trust in the Lord --- (the middle verse of the Bible Ps 118:8 states "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man")

Has He made you promises? Why does He do that? Because He is a man of integrity, a man of His Word. He promises things to you so that He ties Himself to those things...in that way He proves Himself faithful. If He never promised you something, you would never hope or believe for something different then what you have. Promises give you hope that life can be different. He has given us a Book of His Promises...promises for all His children, along the way He highlights some just for you, for a particular time...that is how He makes the relationship, intimate and special with you.

----remember times He promised and kept His word...when He was faithful...feed on that when you are long seasons of waiting for unfulfilled promises...remember times when He was faithful when you weren't...it's who He is...

We can be confident and hope in Him

b) Choose to trust others (be wise) and be trustworthy

Integrity, Honesty and—

- purity –holiness and purity prior to marriage will reap trust and security in the sexual relationship after marriage. when there are trying times such as pregnancy, separation, illnesses, etc. each partner will be able to trust their spouse because they know their partner had self control prior to marriage.

Ps 37: 4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,

2.Delight:

a) In the Lord

The Longing for Fascination- Mike Bickle

“We have a beautiful God beckoning us to encounter His beauty, but we must understand that it takes time and energy to begin plumbing the depths of God. It takes time and energy to pray and fast and study scripture.

We cannot throw ourselves headlong into a hundred pursuits at the expense of searching out and experiencing God. We cannot over saturate our souls with activity. This can only lead to a dull spirit.

By exposing our hearts to some forms of so-called entertainment, we feed our souls with attitudes about people and relationships that can take years to undo...

The problem is not desire, but with attempting to fulfill the desire in a wrong way, which then brings frustration...Ridding ourselves of these negative influences will never fill the void remaining in our hearts.

We need to not only remove the useless influences but replace it with being fascinated by God.”

B) in relationship with others-- choosing to build and be in each others lives, enjoying life together

And He shall give you the desires of your heart

3. Desires:

Heart--- leb (lehv) heart, intellect, awareness, mind, inner person, inner feelings, deepest thoughts, inner self

Matthew Henry --“He has not promised to gratify all the appetites of the body and the humors of the fancy, but to grant all the desires of the heart, all the cravings of the renewed sanctified soul. What is the desire of the heart of a good man/woman? It is this, to know, and love and live to God, to please him and to be pleased in him.”

- He will write true desires on your heart. He created you and is making you. Things you think you desire may not be what is deep down in the depths of your heart. He searches our hearts and knows what is there. He will be faithful to find those deep things, bring them to the surface, make us aware and then give us an opportunity to be faithful and truthful to our own hearts. He will give us the choice or option to move forward in the newly revealed truths. Often times this is a painful place and requires painful choices, but in the end it will bring greater satisfaction and fulfillment in Him and in life.

-C.S Lewis---Weight of Glory “If , we consider the unblushing promises of rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

- He fights for our hearts, for the real and true things. We will often deceive ourselves, but He will wrestle with us and win if we really want to walk in truth and His best for us. It often doesn't look like what we think.

Desires/Destiny create and establish core values. Core values create non-negotiables... can two walk together unless they have agreed?(Amos 3:3)

ex. if called to ministry...would want to marry someone who is open to live with the ministry lifestyle and may want someone who is called similarly

ex. as a woman if you feel called to be something other than a stay at home mom, need the man you are considering to be open to that

ex. as a man, you may want a woman that has a heart for the home and a large family if that is something that is in your heart

ex. spiritual hunger and obvious growth in God, willing to repent and change

negotiables ---- age, looks, financial position, where you live---

I'm not saying that you have to marry someone you don't like or aren't attracted to---it's that you should expect unexpected things in negotiable areas, especially if you have a strict or stubborn opinion as to this is who or how it's going to be.

Once you have taken these first steps, trusting God, delighting in Him and getting clarity of certain desires...you can begin to move into committing your way to the Lord

Ps 37:5 Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

4.Commit:

Commit Your way to the Lord: this is key...

The way God leads you in the area of seeking a spouse may be different than others. We must allow each other the liberty and freedom to be led by the Spirit in this sensitive area.

- For those who have led promiscuous lifestyles in the past, there will usually be much stronger boundaries and guidelines to keep you from temptation, and help guard you ...this is where some feel led not to date and trust God to bring their spouse in a unique way
- For those that have never led a loose dating lifestyle--- you may feel free to go out on more dates, or be around certain environments or choose “EHarmony”
- Some have committed themselves to the Lord in this area and have stood a long time: 3 great temptations they face--

1. Discouragement:

They often need great encouragement to persevere and may hit a time that they need their burden to be carried by others (Gal 6:2 bear one another's burdens **10** So then, as we have opportunity, let's do what is good toward all men, and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith) ...as they have come to the end of their faith in this area....

Isa 37:3 --- this is a verse that describes what they might feel...especially women

This is a black day. We're in crisis. We're like pregnant women without even the strength to have a baby! (the Message)

(for the children have come to birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. NKJV)

2. Settling:

The Story Of Esau Gen 25:29-34

--- Esau came in from the field and he was weary. He asked Jacob to feed him and Jacob said sell me your birthright. Esau replied..."Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?....he sold his birthright for food because he was weary...v 34 says thus he despised his birthright

Weariness and hopelessness can come...the dream seems so far off or not attainable, something immediate is offered that can satisfy for the moment or meet the desperate needs for the moment...but to yield to that...short of the prize would be selling your birthright. Removing all standards, just to get married would be settling.

With that, settling does not mean that there are standards that you had, and now that you have met someone and those don't exactly line up, that you are settling.

It could mean that there were desires that defined certain things, but when God brings someone into your path, it might be a piece He is adding, that you hadn't considered or your desire could be something that is down the road, or looks different than what you thought (wrong interpretation of something). There should always be an inner witness...a yes of God beyond any of the external questions. Often our human reasoning gets in the way with spiritual things.

3. Fear/Perfection: (waited so long afraid to commit)

The future spouse must: look a certain way

meet the ideal requirements--long list

They may provide everything your not, so you can be fully you.

--**A note of exhortation**--- Bottom line is trusting in God's character and nature that if something is not fulfilled, received or if it is taken away...its because there is more or better. He takes away to establish.

Exhortation to the men:

To the men I want to encourage you to truly consider the word, commit. Commit yourself to the process of finding a wife. Women are in a difficult place because they are to be pursued, and are not really to be the pursuers. Godly women choose to live this way, but have to fight continual discouragement...wondering where are the godly men, and then if they see godly men they are often already taken or pursuing other things. When men get distracted and focus on their own desires or dreams, they can forget the importance and gift of entering into a godly relationship and marriage. If men do not

commit to the process of seeking God for a wife and pursuing them, where does that leave women?

You don't have to be perfect and have everything exactly the way you think it needs to be either. Some of what you need, you grow into or attain in character. Sometimes the fullness of your destiny will not happen until your better half is joined with you to help you.

Review:--- Trust, Delight, Desire and Commit...Trust