

# Waiting for the Right Single Christian Man

by Sonya Cherici



Is it me or does it seem more difficult to meet a good man these days? Sure there are lots of men out there but what you looking for and what they are looking for may be on two different planets. More often than not when a man is attracted to a woman he wants to hook up as long as the woman is willing. Think about it, of all the women men date or ask out, they will only ask one to marry them. The exceptions are those who are widowed, divorced or perhaps rejected and are looking for another marriage partner.

In certain societies, the parents select a mate for their children when they are relatively young. I recall after college graduation, the parents of a friend from India arrived with five pictures of men from which she was to choose. We lost touch after she returned to India. I assume that she went back to India to a prearranged marriage with one of the guys in the photos. In most cultures the process is less complicated; people meet, date, fall in love and eventually get married.

Finding a spouse has traditionally and Biblically been the man's role (with the exception in cultures where the family assumes the role). The Bible states that it is good for a man to find a wife. (Proverbs 18:22) Please note that the Bible does not say that it is a good thing for a woman to find a husband. Since men are in the position to ask the woman who is "the one", it is wise to be very observant when engaged in a relationship. In other words, as a woman you should pay attention to the direction in which the relationship is moving. If there are no indications that you are "the one," you should move on. It is very important not to continue investing valuable time in a relationship that will not end in a marriage commitment, even if you care for him. This is especially true for women who want to have children. The longer you remain in a relationship the more invested you become, which increases the pain if it does not end as expected. You see, a lot of time is lost because women hold on to the hope while men are simply holding onto the intimacy or companionship. Be prayerful. Ask your Heavenly Father for guidance. He knows all things.

For Christians, dating should be reserved for getting to know a potential marriage partner, not for recreation. During the season of seeking and waiting for a potential spouse, Christians are called to be self-controlled, not giving into the lustful desires of the flesh. Thus, both men and women must be obedient to the Word of God. Neither should put himself or herself in a position that will compromise the faith. Unfortunately some women, including Christians, have fallen for the enemy's deception that if they give men what they want (physical intimacy), men will give them what they want (marriage). That belief has proved false on many levels. The world has amplified the deception by marketing sex as part of the dating process or simply self gratification. In other words, sexual immorality is accepted as "the norm." However, we know that the world is under the control of Satan, who attempting to lead everyone astray. For the Bible clearly states that no sexually immoral person will inherit the kingdom of God. (Revelation 21:7; 1 Corinthians 5:11)

If you recall in the book of Genesis, Abraham sent his servant to get a wife for his son, Isaac. (Genesis 24:1-4) After Abraham and his servant asked God for success of the mission, he set out to fulfill his task. The servant was very specific in asking God to send a woman from a relative's household to the watering well where he was waiting. (Genesis 24:12-14) As he waited at the well, God sent Rebecca. Please note that the Bible says in Genesis 24:21 that the servant watched closely to learn whether or not the Lord had made his journey successful. He then went through the process of approaching the family to ask for marriage, presenting them with gifts. The key is that he prayed to God for the right woman to come along in a specific manner, and waited.

Waiting for the Right SCM continued....

Patently waiting for God's response to a prayer is not easy when you have set your own timeline. More often than not, when time has passed and an answer has not been perceived, people try to answer the prayer themselves according to their own understanding. That is what Sarah and Abraham did when the Lord told them that they would have a son. Because the fulfillment of the promise took a long time, Sarah got the idea to fulfill the promise another way. Sarah gave her maid, Hagar, to Abraham for a child and today the Jewish race is still fighting with Hagar's descendants. (Genesis 16:1-2)

The Bible says be anxious for nothing, but in every thing through prayer and petition. (Philippians 4:6) That's why you must pray for wisdom and discernment. You must also watch out for counterfeits. Remember, that when you send up your prayer, while you are waiting for an answer, the enemy could send a counterfeit that looks like the real thing. A man that has all the qualities that you want, except for one thing - maybe he is doesn't believe in God, or maybe he has some strongholds that would be detrimental if married to him. The Bible says you will know a tree by its fruit. Examine what is coming out of his life; observe his family and other relationships. Ask questions. Be very attentive because a mistake in this area could have consequences that span a lifetime.

In the Old Testament, the Lord gave his children guidelines for marriage. The Jews were instructed not to marry people from the pagan nations that surrounded them. They were told to marry Israelite women. The reason the Lord told them not to be unequally yoked is because the people would draw them away from the Lord to worship their idols. If you are a Christian, it is imperative that you date Christians. Therefore, their belief should be a top priority.

Pray and pray again, then wait for God's reply. Although it is difficult, it is important not move ahead of him in an attempt to fulfill your request by your own understanding. The Bible is full of examples where people did not wait for God and reaped the consequences. That is why prayer is so very important. We need God's direction for our lives. I pray that you don't fall into the enemy's trap of compromising your faith to sway a man to ask for marriage. It is a trap that leads many women away from God.

When the man who has all the criteria you are looking for, and God has confirmed, asks you to marry him; it is imperative that you go through marriage counseling with your church or another Christian organization. Counseling will help you to see any potential areas of conflict and will help set appropriate expectations for your future spouse and the marriage union itself.

My prayer for you is that you will put God first. I pray that you will possess the patience to wait for his answer. He loves you more than you could love yourself and he wants the best for you. Seek him first and all else will be added unto you.

- *Sonya Cherici*