

GOD'S IDEAL WOMAN

by

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CHAPTER THREE

A GOD-GUIDED LOVE AFFAIR

TO MARRY WITHOUT divine guidance is a sin and tragedy. If more people prayed earnestly about their love affairs, the divorce mill would not be so busy grinding out broken homes. Be sure that your prayers are unselfish when you present them to God. One girl, the only child in the family, prayed, "Oh, Lord, I am not asking for anything for myself; but please send my mother a son-in-law!" Another girl said, "Lord, I'm willing to marry either John or Jim, just so it's John!"

I prayerfully suggest five "Don'ts" and five "Do's" in connection with marriage.

DON'T MARRY FOR MONEY

You cannot buy happiness with gold and silver. Money cannot buy the things that make life worthwhile. Some of the saddest people in the world are very wealthy. Some of the happiest people on earth are living in poverty. Money can buy a house, but money cannot purchase a home. Money can buy a wife, but money cannot purchase the love of a wife.

Some girls marry for a home, meal ticket and beautiful clothes. It is exceedingly dangerous to get your eyes fixed on the material things of life.

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveteth after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Timothy 6:9, 10).

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15).

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

A lady once told me how she had two suitors one rich, the other poor. She had to make a choice, and she chose the poor man because she really loved him.

Here is her testimony:

“The money was a big temptation because I have always been poor. I have never regretted my choice because God has given us a happy home built on love for Christ and love for each other. He showed me that wealth can never take the place of love. No girl should ever be deceived into marrying a man just because he has money.”

DON'T MARRY BECAUSE IT'S POPULAR

It is possible for marriage to become a “fad.” Don't ever get the idea that your engagement must be announced immediately just because the majority of your friends are getting married.

Remember, some people marry because it affords an entry into social circles and others marry entirely because of physical attraction.

Many girls have fancied they were in love just because they desired above everything else to get married. A young lady was asked, “What do you prefer most in a man: wealth, education, or appearance?” She quickly responded, “Appearance, and the quicker he appears, the better!” One girl confessed that she was two-thirds married. “I have my consent and the preacher's,” she explained.

A girl said to me after a women's service, “Until I heard that message, I had the idea that every girl was supposed to get married. I have come very near marrying the wrong man. I am determined to break up with him and go back to college and get my degree. Most of my friends are either married or engaged, and I thought that I must do the same thing. From now on I'll let the Lord lead me as He would have me go.”

She did finish college with high honors and today is happily married and working for her Savior.

DON'T MARRY AN EXTREMELY JEALOUS MAN

Jealousy has probably broken up more homes than anything else. There must be mutual trust for a home to be harmonious. If your boyfriend won't trust you before you are married, do you think he will trust you afterwards? The wedding ceremony does not eliminate this green-eyed monster called jealousy. You are headed for plenty of trouble when you marry an extremely jealous man.

Jealousy is “suspicious fear or watchfulness.”

The Bible gives us a remedy for this fear that constitutes jealousy. **“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love”** (I John 4:18).

When a couple really love Christ and each other, they can certainly trust each other. There is a big question about the genuineness of a love that is accompanied by jealousy.

DON'T MARRY A LAZY MAN

A very “unselfish” fellow once boasted that he intended to marry a working girl and give her half of her salary. Some poor unfortunates don't even rate a fifty per cent basis. If you marry a lazy stick wearing pants, you may have to work hard to “make the dough” as well as “bake the dough.” Instead of supporting one you will have two on your weary hands. This procedure can be called jumping out of the frying pan into the fire.

There are times when through choice or of necessity the wife works outside the home; but it is a sad story when she must do it because of a good-for-nothing, lazy outfit called a husband.

It may seem difficult for every deserving man to get employment under our present economic system, but many men are so lazy they'd rather “pull for the handout” than to work after “punching the clock.” If you are even keeping company with a man like this, you had better give him his walking papers at once. No man is worthy of you who will not give his best for your support, protection and happiness.

DON'T MARRY AN UNSAVED MAN

Some foolish girls marry men hoping to reform them. A girl once told me how she planned to reform a fellow after marriage, who drank and had other evil habits. I asked her, “If you had those habits, do you think he would be foolish enough to marry you, hoping to reform you?”

“I really hadn't thought about it from that standpoint,” she replied.

Do you remember that very important verse in the preceding chapter? **“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”** (II Corinthians 6:14).

Instead of the man being reformed by the woman, he oftentimes pulls her down to his standards, and she is soon living in sin with him. If he will not attend church with you regularly before you are married, it is doubtful that he will afterward. And another thing — beware of the fellow who goes to church with you just because you want him to go. The question is: Does he go for your sake or Christ's sake?

Some boys will profess to become a Christian in order to win the hand and heart of a good Christian girl. Be sure he gets converted to Christ and not just to you.

You should know that he “possesses salvation” and not just “professes religion” to get into the good graces of you or your family. You cannot afford to make the awful mistake or take the tragic chance of standing at the altar with an unsaved man by your side.

DO MARRY A MAN YOU LOVE

Every girl courts disaster when she becomes engaged to a man for any reason but true love.

Unless the love is genuine and abiding, there will be three rings connected with the wedding instead of two. I refer to the engagement ring, the wedding ring, and the “suffe-ring.” Don’t forget that it takes love mortar to hold a home together.

Fascination or admiration must not be taken or mistaken for true love. It is easy for girls to be swept off their feet by strong, talented or handsome men. Even though a miracle happened, and you should “make a go” of married life, there can be no real joy without real love. This type of husband will probably give a formal and occasional demonstration of affection. He may even kiss his wife when he comes home, but it is merely a habit such as wiping his feet on the door mat. He may seem warmhearted and nice in public, and yet cold-blooded and cruel in the privacy of their house—not home. She is more of a slave than a wife.

When love is pure, it will not be taken for granted after the wedding day; but through cultivation it will grow stronger and lovelier as the years go by. The honeymoon should continue through life. One man remarked, “Well, the ‘moon’ doesn’t always shine, but my ‘honey’ gets sweeter all the time!” If you desire that kind of a life-long honeymoon, be sure that you’re sure that you’re sure that he loves you, and know that you know that you know that you love him!

True love is the uniting of two hearts into one heart by the divine Lover, the Lord Jesus Christ. When this is accomplished, they will be able to march harmoniously down life’s pathway. This kind of love takes them “together as one” through sorrow or joy, poverty or wealth, the rough or smooth, sickness or health, and life or death. This kind of love continues throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

DO MARRY A CONSIDERATE MAN

A wise man will check up on a woman’s cooking and sewing ability before he marries her. In fact, there are many things upon which he had better check. Some men have unfortunately married women who were “quite pretty,” but “awfully dumb.”

One fellow said, “I will” and “I do” in response to the minister’s questions relative to a young lady by his side who could not cook. She soon developed into a professional can opener and green salad maker. He got terribly tired of the green stuff and desperately declared, “My dear, who do you think I am — a goose or a cow?”

One man came home to find his young wife weeping. “What is the matter?” he asked sympathetically.

Between her sobs she replied, “I baked my first cake today, and Fido sneaked in and ate it right off the table.” “Don’t cry, dear. I’ll buy you another little dog!” He figured that the cake had killed Fido!

A girl should also do some checking up on a boy before she becomes his bride. She should know about the consideration shown his mother, sisters, and friends. If he is not considerate of others, will he be considerate of his wife? Consideration is like a smile. It costs very little, but it does more good than words can express.

Real consideration helps to eliminate selfishness and thoughtlessness. It plays a great part in the building of a happy home. Your husband should have a constant regard for your well-being, and he should be careful and thoughtful even in little things.

DO MARRY A CONGENIAL MAN

A happily married woman once said, "I not only married a husband, but I married a pal. We really enjoy going to the same places, doing the same things, and conversing on the same subjects. Of course, he has his hobbies, and I have mine; but there is a mutual interest and understanding in them."

There are some exceptions, but in most cases it is better for college girls to marry college boys. Some gain a general education through travel or home study which may be more practical than a degree from some colleges, but the thing to remember is that a couple should not be too unequally yoked even from an intellectual standpoint.

How can a home be really happy unless the husband and wife are congenial? The word congenial means "*kindred, cognate, pleasant, and sympathetic.*" Without these things you can expect antagonism, disagreements, and misunderstanding. I don't know a better place than the home to apply the famous saying, "United we stand; divided we fall!"

DO MARRY A CHRISTIAN MAN

"If I can't marry a man who is a real Christian, I will never be married," said a wise young woman. A Christian girl should never even consider getting serious with a man who is not saved. We read an important question in Amos 3:3 "**Can two walk together except they be agreed?**"

There may be differences about some things, but there must be perfect agreement concerning Christ and His Word if there is to be peace and harmony in a home.

Be sure that you marry a man who puts Christ first in everything. You cannot trust a man who is not a yielded Christian. It takes Christ to make a man or woman do what they should do, say what they should say, and be what they should be. If you live alone, you must have Christ or life is not worth living. If you have a companion, both of you must have Christ or life is incomplete and a miserable failure. If you ever marry, be sure to marry a child of God.

DO MARRY IN GOD'S WILL

You should be sure that you are in the center of God's will before you establish a home. For surrendered Christians I firmly believe the old adage, "Marriages are made in heaven." If it is God's will for you to be married and have a home, He has a partner for you somewhere. Be patient, live each moment as He would have you live, and, in His own good time, He will see to it that your partner, of His choosing, will cross your path. Things will be made clear as you trust Him and "follow step by step."

I have known several girls to break their engagements after being converted or making a complete surrender to Christ. Some have never married, and others married at a later date to a man of God's choice. One girl said to me. "I realize that I should not marry that man, but can I afford to send the ring back and break the engagement?" I replied, "It is a choice between breaking the engagement now or having your heart and home broken later on. God give you grace to make the right decision." The ring was returned the following day with the message, "After much prayer I know that God is not in our plans. From henceforth and forever—it is all off!"

The Bible plainly teaches that the Holy Spirit is the Guide for yielded Christians. If you are unsaved or even defeated in your Christian life, you cannot expect this divine guidance. He wants to guide every detail of our lives.

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" (John 16:13).

"So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus" (Acts 13:4).

"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not" (Acts 16:6, 7).

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14: 26).

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:5, 6).

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass . . . The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way" (Psalm 37:4, 5, 23).

HE KEEPS THE KEY

Is there some problem in your life to solve,
Some passage seeming full of mystery?
God knows, who brings the hidden things to light.
He keeps the key.

Is there some door closed by the Father's hand
Which widely opened you had hoped to see;
Trust God and wait—for when He shuts the door,
He keeps the key.

Is there some earnest prayer unanswered yet,
Or answered NOT as you had hoped 'twould be?
God will make clear His purpose by-and-by.
He keeps the key.

Unfailing comfort, sweet and blessed rest,
To know of EVERY door He keeps the key,
That He at last when just He sees 'tis best
Will give it thee.

~ end of chapter 3 ~

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