

Summer Lovin' – Part 8

Deepening Our Relationships

Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. **And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.**' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31 (NLT)

In your relationships with one another, have the the same mindset as Christ Jesus.
Philippians 2:5 (NIV)

Use **wisdom** and **understanding** to establish your home; let **good sense** fill the rooms with priceless treasures. Wisdom brings strength, and knowledge gives power. Battles are won by **listening to advice** and **making a lot of plans**.
Proverbs 24:3-6 (CEV)

How do you know you are the right person?

Recap:

I. **Relational Maturity – Am I relationally equipped for this marriage?**

New:

II. **Emotional Maturity - Am I emotionally prepared for this marriage?**

Four Signs of Emotional Preparedness:

1. **There is no rush into marriage.**

Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; **haste makes mistakes**. People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord.

Proverbs 19:2-3 (NLT)

The path of right-living people is level. The Leveler evens the road for the right-living. **We're in no hurry, God.** We're content to linger in the path sign-posted with your decisions.
Isaiah 26:7-8 (MSG)

Why do we rush into relationships?

- We base it on **physical attraction**.
- We base it on **emotional connection**.
- We base it on the **fear factor**.

2. **Selfishness is under control**.

When you do things, **do not let selfishness or pride be your guide**. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. **Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others**. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.
Philippians 2:3-5 (NCV)

3. **I am financially prepared for marriage.**

God took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.
Genesis 2:15 (MSG)

God said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion."
Genesis 2:18 (MSG)

4. **Love is based on commitment and not on emotion.**

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.
1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

III. **Spiritual Maturity - Am I spiritually ready for marriage?**

You are not the same as those who do not believe. **So do not join yourselves to them**. Good and bad do not belong together. Light and darkness cannot share together. How can Christ and Belial, the devil, have any agreement? **What can a believer have together with a nonbeliever?** The temple of God cannot have any agreement with idols, and we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live with them and walk with them. And I will be their God, and they will be my people."
2 Corinthians 6:14-16 (NCV)

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.

Psalms 37:4-5 (NLT)