

How Do I Find God's Will For My Work And Wedding?

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Dr. Eric Klinger, professor of psychology at the University of Minnesota, says we make between 300 and 17,000 decisions per day. We decide what to wear in the morning; we decide what to order off the restaurant menu and a host of other decisions. Most of our decisions don't make a big difference. There are some decisions we make that will have life-altering consequences. Two of the biggest decisions we face are, "What should I do for work?" and "Who should I marry?" All of us want to make good decisions that please God in those areas of our lives.

This morning we finish our short series called Discovering God's Will. Since the decisions about our work and weddings are so important, this morning as we close our series we will take some time to learn how to make good and wise decision in those big areas of our lives.

Before we dive in, I want to review what we learned in the two prior weeks of this series. In the first week, we learned the primary way God reveals his will for our lives. The Spirit of God interacts with the Word of God and forms in our hearts the desires of God. When we read the Word of God, the Spirit of God literally reshapes us. He places in our hearts a desires to follow what is God's will for our lives. This simple interaction of God's Spirit with God's Word forming godly desires for our lives provides 95 percent of the guidance we need for daily living.

The illustration we used was a missionary. Why would someone be a missionary? When he or she spent time in the Word of God, the Spirit of God

eventually formed in his or her heart the desire to be a missionary. All that person needed to do to be in God's will for his or her life was follow the desires of his or her heart which God placed in his or her life. It works the same way in our lives.

Two weeks ago, we looked at the final 5 percent. How do we make tough decisions where the Word of God and the Spirit of God have not clearly revealed God's desires or formed in our hearts a clear desire?

We learned the best way to handle those tough situations is to change the question. Instead of asking, "What is God's will in this situation?" ask "What is a good and wise choice in this situation?" Almost every time, that helps us make the right decision that is in line with God's will. We know it is always God's will for us to make good and wise decisions so we lean into making them. When we don't know God's will we lean into God's wisdom.

With those two principles as the foundation for handling all the decisions we face in life, let's look at wise decisions in the important areas of our careers and marriages.

How can I discover God's will for my work?

I talk to many graduating high school students that don't know what to do with their lives. I don't blame them. How can a 19-year-old student know what is the right career for the rest of his or her life? There are too many unknowns. There are too many options.

It isn't just high school students that struggle to find God's will for their work. It is also many of us who are middle-aged. Sometimes we find ourselves in a line of work we didn't expect and wonder if we should make a career change.

Let's look at practical advice on how to make good decisions when it comes to a career.

1. Remember that God reveals our vocation over time.

God reveals our life vocation over time. I can show this to you with many biblical characters. Let's use Joseph from the book of Genesis as an example. God gave Joseph a dream when he was young. It was a dream that told him he would rule over his brothers and parents. Foolishly he bragged about it to his brothers. For obvious reasons, that did not go over well. Joseph had no idea the career path God chose to bring him to that position of leadership. He had no idea it would involve betrayal by his brothers and life as a slave in Egypt. He never imagined he would need to successfully avoid the temptations of a seductress plus an extended time in jail for a crime he didn't commit. God took him on a long and windy path to lead him to his God-given career to be second in command over a nation. If you asked Joseph at age 19 what he wanted to do when he grew up, he had no idea that would be his vocation. The same is true for most of us. We want to know what we will do for the rest of our lives when we are young. God doesn't work that way. He reveals his will for our careers over time, and he often has a winding path to get us there.

Why doesn't God give perfect clarity on what he wants us to do with our lives when we are in high school? God is more concerned with maturing us spiritually than he is with placing us in a vocation. Let me say that again. God is more concerned with maturing us spiritually than he is with placing us vocationally. Think about Joseph's life. What was he like as a young man? He

was a bright, proud brat. He bragged to his brothers about his dream of ruling over them. He flaunted his special coat of many colors from his father which labeled him as the favorite son. While he had great capabilities, he was filled with pride, not humility. If Joseph became second in command over Egypt as a young man, it would have been a disaster. He would have been a terrible leader. The years of slavery and jail time for crimes he didn't commit were used by God to grind the arrogance out of his life and shape his character to be a good, kind and wise leader, not an arrogant leader.

God is at work in the same way in our lives. We may have a windy, hard path we traverse in our careers in the early years of our lives, but those aren't wasted years. God is shaping us, preparing us and maturing us for the key work he has for us to do. We must remember that most of the time God reveals our vocation over time. He doesn't give us the full picture when we are in high school.

Let me show this to you again in the life of another famous Bible character. Let's look at Moses. Moses was raised as the foster child of Pharaoh's daughter. Moses grew up educated in Egypt. As a potential heir to the throne, he was educated with the training and skills to rule a nation. Moses was also raised by his biological mother who was his nursemaid. His mother didn't just provide him with physical nourishment when he was a child but he was educated as a Hebrew. He knew the history of his nation and God's purpose for his people. When Moses was young, his leadership training and his compassionate heart for his biological family crossed paths one day when he saw an Egyptian slave-

master beating a Hebrew slave. He killed the slave-master. As a result Moses needed to run for his life.

You see, Moses was educated to lead a nation. His heart had a great desire to free his people, but he wasn't ready for leadership. His character wasn't right. He was harsh. He had anger issues that led him to be a murderer. At 40 years old, he found himself running for his life into the wilderness. He spent the next 40 years not in the fast-paced life of the city but in the slow-paced life of the country where he tended sheep and watched grass grow.

God used that time in the wilderness to grind off the harshness of his character, to teach him patience and maturity, to teach him how to live in the wilderness and to grow his relationship with God in stillness and quiet.

It was only when he was 80 years old that God took all those years of preparation, spoke to him through the burning bush and called him for the key purpose of his life, which was to lead God's people to freedom.

Notice God did not reveal to Moses his career when he was in high school. He was 80 years old when God revealed the primary vocation of his life. Also notice that God used all of the meandering in the earlier part of his life as leadership preparation for the key vocation of his life.

God is doing the same thing with each of us. We may feel like we are wandering around purposelessly in our vocation. That isn't true. God's purpose is to use everything in the easier parts of our lives to shape us and prepare us to serve God in greater areas of responsibility in the later parts of our lives.

Remember that God reveals our vocation over time. He doesn't usually tell us what we will do for the rest of our lives while we are in high school.

2. God plans to use my gifts and talents.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (ESV)

Two weeks ago, we talked about God making each of us unique. Each of us is uniquely designed by God with different physical, intellectual and spiritual gifts. He gave us those gifts to serve others, not to serve ourselves. God made you just the way he wants you to be. He didn't make a mistake. He gifted you and shaped you exactly the way he wants you so you can accomplish the purpose he has for your life.

That means that when it comes to finding God's will for our vocations, we need to ask ourselves about the gifts and talents God gave us, then lean into those gifts. Ask yourself, "What do I like to do?" Ask, "What do I do well?" After you ask yourself those questions, ask others you respect what the gifts are they see in your life. Ask your parents what gifts they see in you. That is humbling but they probably know you better than anyone.

Satan's strategy is to manipulate us into areas of life where we have no skills or ability so we are least effective and we experience the least amount of joy. God's a good manager. He gives us gifts and skills to use. He wants us to use them for his glory and to enjoy using them.

Whenever we think about our gifts and abilities, we must remember why God made us the way he did. We must remember why God gifted us with the

gifts he has. Our gifts and abilities are to serve and help others, not to serve ourselves. Since our gifts and talents were given from God to help others, when it comes to understanding what God wants you to do for a career, ask yourself what do I enjoy doing that helps others. Don't just ask yourself what you enjoy doing that serves yourself.

Remember that we are gifted to serve and help others and to enjoy using our gifts and talents when we do help.

3. Pursue work the aligns with my motivation.

After understanding our gift and talents, another angle we need to consider when it comes to discovering God's will for our work is the area of our motivation. There are motivated gifts and non-motivated gifts. A non-motivated gift is a skill or ability we have but we really don't derive much joy from using those gifts.

In high school, I wanted to be a good wrestler. I worked hard. I practiced long hours, but I was average. We had a man on our team named George. George began wrestling when he was a little with his father. He was a great wrestler. He won most of his matches. (I had some serious gift envy when it came to George's wrestling skills.) While George was gifted in the sport, he was bored with the sport. He dropped out before his senior year. George had skills and abilities, but he was no longer motivated to use them.

It works the same way in life. Sometimes we have abilities in an area but we don't have much motivation to go with it. When it comes to finding our

vocations, we don't want to just discover where God has gifted us but we also want to know what motivates us.

The degree to which our skills, motivation and job requirements match will determine the usefulness of our contribution in our work. When someone is good at something but isn't motivated to do something, everyone suffers. Research shows people have a strong tendency to do what they are motivated to do, regardless of what their job description says they should do. Someone with moderate skills and gifts but high motivation will always outperform someone with great skills and gifts who has little motivation.

One of the things we learned in leadership at CrossWinds is the danger of split job descriptions. People will gravitate toward the side of the job where they have more motivation, not just what the job description tells them to do. This doesn't mean we can't have split job descriptions. It means it is harder to find the right person because they need to be motivated to accomplish both areas of the job, not just one area of the job.

I learned this in college. I always wanted to be a computer programmer. I graduated with a computer science degree. I was very fortunate to have a job working for AT&T Technologies while in high school and during the summer while in college. Before my senior year in college I landed a job as a computer programmer at IBM. I achieved my goal of being a computer programming and was reasonably talented in that line of work, but once I achieved my goal, I realized I wasn't motivated to do computer programming for the rest of my life. The thought that weighed heavy on my heart was, "Do I want to spend the next

40 years writing code or do I want to tell people about Jesus?” There is nothing wrong with computer programming as a line of work. We have all benefited from computer programmers. The problem for me was that I had the skills and gifts for that line of work but I didn’t have the motivation to sustain myself in that line of work. I left that job, finished college, went to seminary and you know the rest of the story.

4. Consider the world’s needs, not just my desires.

When it comes to considering a career, it is wise to consider the needs around us not just the desires of our hearts. Remember purpose of our work is to serve others, not please ourselves. It is wise to consider where the world needs help and use your skills, gifts and motivation to help others. Don’t just focus on what you like to do. Focus on what helps people.

For example, maybe you enjoy novels from the 1800s. You decide to pursue a degree in classical literature. You may be gifted in that area and motivated in that area but when you are done with your education, what are you going to do? How are you going to help people? What are the needs in the world you will meet? Remember that God shapes us and gifts us to serve people and meet their needs, not just to serve ourselves.

How do I know God’s will for a specific job?

Let’s move to the next step. Imagine you had made a good decision when it comes to a career path. Now you are trying to make a good decision about a specific job. What are some of the factors we need to consider when it comes to making a good and wise decision when it comes to a specific job?

1. Will the job provide for my family?

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV)

As men, we have a responsibility to provide for our families. When we consider a job, we need to consider jobs that will provide for our families. If not, it is not God's desire that we put our families in financial jeopardy, no matter how much we like the job. The job may fit your gifts and skills, you may be motivated for the job and it may meet a need, but it needs to give you a paycheck!

Cindy and I once looked at a job in California. At the time, I was a pastor in Michigan, and it was the dead of winter. They flew us to California to look at the church and meet the search committee. When I stepped off the plane, the weather was perfect. The weather made me sense this could be the right job. There were orange trees growing in the backyard of the place we stayed. The location was beautiful. The job also wasn't bad. The problem was the salary and the cost of living in California. While they were offering us a fair salary, they weren't offering us enough salary to purchase a home. We would be forced into a situation where Cindy needed to work. It isn't wrong for a wife to work. The problem is Cindy was just having her Lupus enter remission. She was exhausted all the time. We also had three little kids at home. We had made the decision that at least while the kids were young, we wanted to have Cindy at home.

We didn't take the job because I had a biblical responsibility to provide for my family. I couldn't adequately provide for my family with the salary package they offered. As a result, we kept looking and came to CrossWinds 10 years ago. We are thrilled God shut the door in California because we love the CrossWinds

family. The only thing we regret about God closing that door is we don't get to enjoy that warm California sun in the winter.

In addition, let me speak to young men for a moment. Since we have a responsibility to provide for our families, this means we need to work extra hard when we are young to finish our education so we have as many opportunities for advancement as possible open to us. We want to be in the best possible position to serve the most people and to provide as best as we can for our family.

2. Consider the complications that come with the job.

Some jobs may look good because they fit your gifts, they fit your motivation, you are serving people, and they have a great salary package but the job may come with complications that make it not worth taking.

We need to see if there is a solid Bible-teaching church in the area of the job. It is hard to imagine a job would be a wise choice for us or our families without a good church. Christians need a church family to encourage one another and to grow together.

Another potential complication is the amount of travel involved in a job. While travel is not wrong, some jobs have too much travel for some families. Mom or Dad needs to be home more. When one is frequently gone, it is playing havoc with the family. If that is the case, the complications of too much travel for your family means you should keep looking.

One job complication that didn't work for me was night shift. When I worked night shift, I never transitioned well back to day hours on the weekend. I found myself constantly depressed because I saw so little sun. My wife, Cindy,

was the opposite. When we met, she worked night shift and had no problem transitioning back to day shift on the weekends.

A good example of the disaster that can come from job complications is found in Genesis 13. Abraham and Lot were herders. Their flocks grew to the point where they could not continue herding together, so they chose to part ways. Abraham let Lot choose first. Lot saw the Jordan Valley. The Bible says it was well watered like the Garden of Eden. Lot chose the Jordan Valley because it looked like an excellent career move that would be great for his flocks. Abraham was forced to head the opposite direction to land that wasn't as lush.

The problem with Lot's career choice was that while he saw the short-term benefits of the Jordan Valley because of the greener pastures, he never considered the long-term complications of living in the extremely sinful cities of the Jordan Valley, like Sodom. The long-term consequences of raising his family in an extremely sinful, pagan environment was devastating to his wife and children. The lesson is that sometimes it is better to choose a job that isn't as lucrative because you want a better place to raise your family. Always consider the complications that come with a job, not just the paycheck of the job.

I need to pray and seek council before making the final decision.

Always talk to people that you can trust to provide wise spiritual counsel before you make a big career decision. Sometimes we are blind to things that other people can help us see. In addition, always pray about these big decisions. When we pray, don't just pray that we will get the job. Pray that we will portray ourselves as we really are in the interview. Pray that those interviewing us would

honestly convey the nature of the job. Pray that we would have a good understanding of the job so we can make a good and wise choice about it.

When that is done, make a good and wise decision and trust that you are following God's will to the best of your ability.

How can I discover God's will for my wedding?

Christians spend more decision-making energy over the subject of marriage than any other area of our existence. Marriage is a huge decision. In 1965, the median age for marriage was 23 for men and 21 for women. In 2002, the median marriage age for men was 27, and for women it was 26. People are delaying marriage. One of the reasons is because making a good decision on who to marry is hard. After seeing the pain of divorce, many Christians deeply desire to be in God's will and make a good decision in this area of their lives. Let's look at a few questions to ask ourselves so we can make a good decision when it comes to our mates.

1. Decide if I want to get married.

To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 1 Corinthians 7:8–9 (ESV)

In this verse, Paul said there is nothing wrong with celibacy. In our culture, there is a lot of pressure to be married. If you aren't married, some people think you are strange. The Bible doesn't want singles to feel they are weird. Some people are gifted by God to be content without marriage. Paul was that way. Singleness was beneficial. Not having a family to worry about didn't tie him down. He was able to travel the world sharing the good news of Jesus without family responsibilities. Contentment in a celibate lifestyle is a unique gift from God that

allows us to accomplish much more for God. Understand God calls and gifts some people to be single.

Other singles are not content being single. They have strong sexual desires. They want to be married but haven't found the right person to marry. If that is you, know that while the single celibate life is a hard time, it is a good time. God uses the frustrations of being single but wanting to be married as a time to mature our thinking and our character. The pain of singleness is designed to be used by God to change you into a better husband or a better wife in the future. God also uses that painful time of singleness in a good way to prepare you for the rest of your life.

When I was in college and most of graduate school, I was a celibate single. It was a very painful and frustrating time. I look back on it and am thankful I was single through college and most of my graduate school work. I needed all of my time to study. I didn't need the distractions of a girlfriend. Celibacy in those years was a hard thing, but in retrospect, I can see that as part of God's plan. It was a good thing.

After Cindy became a Christian, she also didn't date anyone for three years. She says those single years in her mid-20s were the hardest time in her life when she turned down date after date because the people asking her out were not Christians. She was incredibly lonely. Now she looks back on those days and says those hard times were good times. In those three years of singleness she voraciously read her Bible when she was alone. She grew in Christ faster than a weed on a hot summer day.

Neither of us desired to be celibate singles, but looking back, we are grateful for those periods in our lives. We see how God did good things in those lonely times. He used that period of our lives to mature us personally and spiritually, and ultimately, to prepare us to be the rich spouse for one another.

Just as it is good to be celibate, Paul also said it is good to be married. Let's face it. Most people have a burning desire to be married. There is nothing wrong with marriage. God gave us strong sex drives so we would get married. God's goal in your life was never for you to find a boyfriend or girlfriend. God's goal for your life has always been for you to find a husband or wife. The end game in relationships is marriage, not dating. That means you only date someone you can marry. If you violate that little rule, you will end up in a world of hurt.

So how do we go about finding a spouse? I know the women will not like me on this one. This does not sound romantic.

2. Pursue marriage like I am finding a job.

Getting married should be approached no different than find a job. If you need a job, you go to job fairs where you can learn about potential jobs. You start networking with people. Someone may know of an opening that would be a good job.

If you are a Christian single, approach marriage the same way. Go to places where other Christian singles congregate to meet. You don't go to the bar. You don't download Tinder. You go to the singles ministry in a church so you can meet other Christians.

Ladies, don't expect God to drop Prince Charming on your doorstep. Guys, God will not take a rib from your side so you wake up with a wife. It happened for Adam. It won't happen for you. You need to go meet other Christian singles.

Just as you go to Christian singles ministries, you network with your friends like you are looking for a job. Sometimes your Christian friends may know of someone of the opposite sex that is also a single Christian so they try to get you together. Sometimes that networking helps.

What should you do if there isn't an active singles ministry in the church you attend? The tendency of most singles is to disconnect from the church simply because there are more married people than single people. I recommend you do the exact opposite. Get involved serving in your church. Help with the coffee bar, greeting or ushering. God will honor your courage. In addition, you will be networking and making connections. Best of all, you will run across other Christian singles who have passionate hearts for Jesus, because they also are serving in Christ's church. As a result, you end up running across the absolute best Christian singles you can meet. The worst thing you can do is withdraw from church and stay uninvolved. Serve in the church. You will meet other single people in the church.

Some of you know how Cindy and I met. We met at a Christian singles group at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago. I didn't think I would find a godly woman at the bar, so I avoided it. I figured the godly women would be at

the church and helping in the church. That is where we met my wife. I recommend that to others.

3. Determine to only date and marry a growing Christian.

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14 (ESV)

It goes without saying but it is still worth mentioning. It is never God's will for Christian singles to date or marry an unbeliever. If you choose that path, you are heading to disaster.

4. Know the difference between essential and desirable qualities.

The Bible tells us angels do not marry nor are they given in marriage. That means nobody is perfect. If you are looking for Mr. or Mrs. Right, that person doesn't exist. The only reason people look perfect is because you don't know them well enough. The Bible says everyone is sinful and selfish. All of our hearts are desperately wicked. All of us have sinful thoughts and desires. All of us have areas of immaturity. All of us have fears and weaknesses. Nobody has a perfect body unless you use Photoshop.

Since nobody is perfect, you need to be realistic when it comes to finding a spouse. Remember that nobody will be perfect.

If you are single, make two lists of the qualities you want in a mate. Make an essentials list and a desirables list. Refuse to date anybody if they don't have all the qualities on your essentials list but be willing to consider people if they don't have all the qualities on your desirable list.

When Cindy and I met, one quality I had on my essentials list was a passion for Jesus. When Cindy and I met, it was obvious she was on fire for Jesus. Her Bible was so well-worn that books of the Bible were literally falling out. It was filled with highlighter marks and held together with tape. She quoted verses from memory. She was fired-up for Jesus (check). Other essential qualities I was looking for were kindness, compassion and caring. Cindy was and always has been kind, compassionate and caring (check). My father told me an essential quality I needed to look for was that a wife was a good cook. When she made me her special spaghetti with meat sauce recipe, I was hooked (check). Another essential for me was exercise. I was a fitness addict. I knew I needed to marry somebody that could relate to me on that level. For some people, that would only be a desirable quality but since fitness was such a big part of my life, it was an essential quality.

A desirable quality on my list was that my future wife would come from a great Christian family. Cindy doesn't. Her parents weren't Christians. She didn't grow up in church. She is a first-generation Christian. When we went to church and sang songs from the hymnal, they were all new to her. She never heard any of the classic hymns because she never grew up attending church. I could flex on that desirable quality because she had the other essential qualities.

If you are single, make a list of the essential qualities and the desirable qualities you are looking for in a spouse. Never bend on the essential qualities, but be willing to flex on the desirable qualities. Remember that nobody is perfect.

Too many people make one list where they don't separate essentials from desirables, so they end up frustrated that they can't find the perfect person.

5. Focus on being the right person, more than finding the right person.

Don't just make a list for what you want in a spouse. Make a list of what you want to be in a spouse. You may not be able to find the right person but when you focus on being the right person, it is amazing how fast God will bring that right person into your life.

6. Remember that marriage is for friendship.

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

In our culture, marriage is romanticized and sexualized. We think marriage is primarily for sex. That is not the biblical picture. Genesis says the reason Eve was created and marriage was established is because it was not good for a man or woman to be alone in this world. Adam needed deep friendship. They say a dog is man's best friend. A dog isn't man's best friend. A wife is his best friend. That is why she was created. Deep friendship is the purpose of marriage. It is that simple. Sex cannot be the foundation of your relationship. Sex only works as the physical consummation of a marriage relationship. When you are looking for a mate, you are looking for someone that will be your best friend.

Look what the Shulammitte says in the highly erotic book of the Bible known as the Song of Solomon.

His mouth is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem. Song of Solomon 5:16 (ESV)

She said he was a great kisser. He was incredibly hot. He was a hunk. What she really delighted in was her soon-to-be husband was her best friend.

Incidentally, this is one of the reasons sexual involvement before marriage is a bad idea. The more sexually involved a couple becomes before marriage, the more sex clouds their judgment about the true nature of the friendship in a future marriage. This is one of the reasons couples divorce in mid-life. Their marriages were not based on friendship. When sex cools as they get older, they find they don't have great friendship in the relationship that they can rely on. You need to have a best friend to have an enduring marriage.

I sometimes say this to couples: If you take sex out of the equation, would you still want to be married to this person for the rest of your life because he or she is your best friend? If not, that is a warning flag.

7. The right future spouse will cause me to mature.

Marriage is an interesting institution. The very nature of marriage should cause a man and woman to mature. Men should find themselves rising to a new level of emotional and spiritual maturity when they are with the right woman to marry. If a man continues a young adult me-centered lifestyle when he is with the woman he wants to marry, that is a warning flag.

Ladies, the same is true for you. When you are around the right man to marry, you should be experiencing large steps of spiritual, emotional and relational growth when you are with him.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the

same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Ephesians 5:25–28 (ESV)

Ladies, when you are dating the right kind of man to marry, you should notice that he joyfully sacrifices his wishes, his desires and his preferences for you. He doesn't expect you to sacrifice for him. His desire is not that you are there to serve him but that he is there to love and serve you.

His presence should also sanctify you. Sanctify means to make holy or pure. Ladies, the man you date should be bringing out the best in you. You should notice yourself becoming a kinder, gentler, and more mature person in his presence. In short, the right person to marry should be helping you become more like Jesus.

Ladies, if you are dating a man that is bringing out the worst in you, so you are experiencing fits of anger and deep-seated frustrations, that is another flag.

Men, let me remind you that you should find yourself rising to a new sense of responsibility to love, serve, protect and cherish the woman you plan to marry. If you are continuing in young adulthood and not finding yourself rising to self-sacrificing manhood when you are dating somebody, that isn't a good sign.

8. Be open to receive counsel about your relationship.

It is easy to start a relationship with someone of the opposite sex but very few people are willing to open themselves up to hear what other people see in their relationship with someone of the opposite sex.

Many times, we can become so enamored with someone that we cannot objectively evaluate our own relationship. Be humble. We willing to listen to the gentle advice of people who love you, care about you and are qualified to

counsel you. If they love you, they don't want to ruin your day. They want to help you.

Conclusion

My hope and prayer is that as you face some of the biggest choices in life, such as your work and your wedding, that you would remember the principles of this entire series and base the big and small decisions of your life on them.

1. When we pursue Jesus, the Spirit of God will interact with the Word of God to form the will of God into the desires of our hearts. What we want to do is what God wants us to do. The desires of our hearts have become God's desires for our lives. This is the way God guides 95 percent of the time. As we walk with God, we simply do what we want to do because what we want to do has become what God wants us to do.
2. In the remaining 5 percent of the decisions we face, which are the difficult decisions of our lives, we change the question. Instead of asking, "What is God's will for me in this situation?" We ask, "What is a good and wise choice for me in this situation?" We know it is always God's will that we make good and wise choices in life's choices, but especially in the big choices of our lives, such as our work and our wedding.



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