

## **BIBLICAL WISDOM IN GUIDING YOUR CHILDREN IN CHOOSING A SPOUSE**

### **Introduction**

What's the goal of your child training?

- 1) for your kids to be lazy, on welfare, part of the problem of society?
- 2) hip, cool, worldly, worldly powerful, high status?
- 3) independently sexually active, multiple partners, several divorces, their own person who seeks self-centered fulfillment wherever they can find it?
- 4) faithfully growing in Christ, a blessing to the community and church through maturely handling the responsibilities of work and family and worship; one who uses his talents to the glory of Christ, bringing beauty and dominion to the world and growing and strengthening the kingdom of God, working for the fulfillment of the Great Commission?

**Then helping them find a godly spouse is crucial to their sanctity and usefulness for the kingdom of Christ!**

### **1. Start young, and teach them the truth**

- a. Discuss the blessings of marriage, and the purpose (to glorify God and enjoy him forever!), and the evils of independency and fornication (premarital sex) for both sexes. Teach them that it is not good for a man to be alone, and that women were created to be suitable helpers, and that both are equally made in the image of God for dominion of the world (Gen 1-2).
- b. Teach your daughters that dad will guide them in finding a spouse, and that they should not marry without your permission (Numbers 30.5), and nor would they want to.
- c. Teach your boys that they will initiate a marriage by taking a wife.

### **2. Be honest about your past**

- a. If you made mistakes, be honest and explain how they were harmful
- b. Explain how your mistakes violated God's Word

### **3. Teach them that Fathers are responsible for the sexual purity of children**

- a. Father is responsible to keep his daughters virgins, so that they can enter marriage as a fruitful garden, not a trampled one (Deut. 22.13-21)
- b. Father trains his sons also to be chaste and virginal as well (1 Cor. 6.9-11).
- c. Explain that many of your decisions regarding choices revolve around these things, especially as they grow older and more mature (Prov. 7.1-5)

#### **4. Teach them the Biblical Way:**

- a. Sons leave: they leave home to start a family (Gen. 2.24), and to take a wife (Lev. 21.13-14; Deut. 7.1-3)
- b. Daughters are given: daughters are given, by father, into marriage (Exodus 22.16-17; Joshua 15.16-17; Judges 3.5-6; Numbers 30 (authority goes from father to husband); Luke 20.34)

#### **5. Teach them what to look for in a Spouse**

- a. Husbands-must be a Christian (1 Cor. 7.39; this means faithful, regular, weekly worship with a church body); able to provide (1 Tim 5.8); be the spiritual leader; have a practiced and applied Christianity; like-minded theologically; treats mom well!; wants to give his wife children.
- b. Wives-must be a Christian (faithful, regular, weekly worship with a church body); joyfully submissive to father; have a practiced and applied Christianity; desires to work in the home and bear children (Titus 2.5).

#### **6. Fathers—Be a Man and Lead the way!**

- a. Train your sons before they leave home in how to take a wife
  - 1. train them in manners and etiquette concerning the opposite sex
  - 2. they must go to the father for the daughter's hand
  - 3. if they want a "godly" wife, then they must first be a "godly" man
- b. Protect your daughters and screen the suitors for her
  - 1. she should send the boys your way, right off the bat (or turn them down)
  - 2. you do the screening yourself; ask the hard questions; "trust but verify"
  - 3. keep in touch openly with your daughter and her thoughts, as she must agree on the final pick as well (Numbers 30)

#### **7. Live out an "imitatable" marriage (Ephesians 5.1; Phil. 4.9)**

- a. As you speak to your wife, you are teaching your sons how to "speak" to their wives!
- b. As you submit to your husband, you are teaching your daughters how to "submit" to their husbands
- c. Remember, a lot is caught that isn't taught!

#### **8. Teach them "when" to look for a spouse**

- a. When they are ready to get married (no "serial divorce" before hand)
- b. They shouldn't date or court until they are ready for marriage to be the goal of that dating or courting (opposites cannot "just be" friends!)