

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Foolish Reasons for Getting Married

There are a number of good reasons, in harmony with God's design for the home, for desiring to be a part of a marriage relationship. One may meet a winsome Christian person who has attractive spiritual and personal qualities that appear to be ideal for a life-long marital union.

Certainly children of God, who opt for marriage, ought to seek companions who are compatible with them, and with the Lord — someone who will be able to enhance their journey toward heaven.

It should be recognized, however, that marriage is an option, not an obligation. There are some who choose not to marry, and they seem perfectly happy and well-adjusted as single people.

Others, who desire to marry, simply have not discovered a suitable prospective mate, and, with patience, they choose to wait. Perhaps they are familiar with the old adage, "Marry in haste; repent in leisure."

It is entirely possible, however, for men and women — young or old — to feel pressured to marry. Hence they may enter this sacred union rather impulsively, without due consideration for their eternal interest, and thus for a variety of wrong motives. Such a rash judgment can prove disastrous.

Marriage is an "until-death-do-us-part" commitment. It ought to be approached from a joyous, yet cautiously-solemn, vantage point. Marriage should be embraced for wise reasons, not foolish ones. Let us reflect momentarily upon some of the impetuous motives that lend themselves to the abandon of some, who rush headlong into marriage.

Marrying for Money. Some marry for financial security. All of us have heard those exotic stories of the young girl who is romanced by, and becomes wedded to, the proverbial

older multi-millionaire to live in jet-set luxury. Such cases are rare, of course, but the happiness sought in such arrangements is rarer still.

Closer to home are the situations, for example, where a daughter is reared by a shiftless, un-providing father. Determined to have the better life, she marries the first young man who is able to offer her economic stability.

Such a barter is a sorry basis for marriage, and she may learn well the heartbreaking lesson that a happy home is more than dollars and cents.

Bored and Looking for Adventure. There are those who enter marriage to escape a miserable or boring domestic situation.

Late adolescence is a difficult and confusing time of life. Youngsters are in a “twilight zone” of sorts. They are not ready to survive on their own, yet they have developed a sense of independence. They are restless for new adventures.

If their home-life is an unhappy one (with perhaps harsh and insensitive parents), they may be tempted to quickly find a mate simply to escape the misery of their present circumstance.

This is a serious mistake. It may be going from the proverbial frying pan into the fire. Escape is not a noble motive for forming the most intimate of human relationships.

“I Do” for Spite. Some marry out of revenge. It is difficult to fathom the fact that there are those who would enter into such a sacred union merely out of the desire to punish another person. But the “I’ll-show-you” attitude is more prominent than most would care to admit.

A young lady may enter marriage to show her parents that they cannot control her life — particularly in the case of a young gentleman of whom they may disapprove. A jilted youth may marry on the rebound — just to demonstrate that “two can play this game.”

But it’s not a game! Marriage relationships can have eternal consequences.

“All My Friends Are Getting Married.” Not a few have entered marriage because it’s the vogueish thing to do. All their friends have marital mates, why should they be left in the lurch?

Peer pressure is so great at certain times in life. Far too many have impulsively run off to get married on a dare, or because others were doing it.

Snap decisions can generate a life-time of bitter experiences. Marriage is not an arrangement with which to trifle.

“Oops ... Let’s Get Married.” Marriage should not be entered just to cover a mistake.

In this age of lust and promiscuity, what should a couple do when they discover that a child has been conceived out of wedlock? Sometimes, a “we-must-get-married” is the quick-fix formula.

In the event of such a mistake, a Christian couple, first of all, should repent — with genuine sorrow — and seek God’s pardon.

Second, the couple should then devoutly consider their options. Do they really love one another, and are they committed to serving God? If so, they well may wish to marry, and put their mistake behind them.

On the other hand, if exalted qualities are not a part of the relationship, merely “getting married” is not a resolution to their problem, and it certainly will not enhance the happiness of their child.

In some cases it would be far better for a young woman to wait, perhaps eventually finding a devout father for her child, than to wed her partner in fornication “for the sake of the baby.”

Getting a Trophy. Marriage on the basis of mere physical attraction is a foolish mistake.

The grass withers and the flowers fade — and so does physical beauty. Thousands of American couples have watched the degeneration of their marriages because the relationships were grounded principally on external features.

Spiritual qualities and personality traits are the real glue that bonds couples in committed unions. Beauty is only skin deep, and if some were skinned how hideous they would appear.

Our youngsters should be taught the true values that under gird lasting marriages.

Marrying for Desperation. Finally, it hardly needs saying, but it is the epitome of folly to marry out of desperation. It is better to be single for life, than to live in a house with a hateful mate.

But some are so afraid that at their “advanced” stage of life, if they don’t marry soon, the bliss may never come! The thought of missing out is too horrible for them to contemplate. And so, marry they must.

I have known of several cases where folks married out of panic, only to have the relationship crumble within weeks. Our youth should be taught early to work and pray for good homes.

- Jackson, Wayne. "Foolish Reasons for Getting Married." *ChristianCourier.com*. [edited –GFS]

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF JUDAS ISCARIOT

Judas Iscariot was one of the original twelve apostles of Christ and like the others was vested with the same responsibilities and the same powers that characterized the apostolic band. They were sent out by Christ on a preaching tour "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". They were to preach that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" and were commanded to "heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." (Matt. 10:2-14). Each of the twelve were blessed with the wonderful privilege of journeying with Christ up and down the hills and plains of Palestine, being personal witnesses of those things that He did and hearing the marvelous messages He proclaimed. They had the exalted pleasure of His company and the thrill of His presence for more than three glorious years. Judas Iscariot in no way fell behind the others in the advantages and blessings that this association with the Master afforded. However, greed for money proved to be his undoing and the cause of his downfall. Luke tells the story this way: "And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went away, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might deliver him unto them. And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. And he consented, and sought opportunity to deliver him unto them in the absence of the multitude." (Luke 22:3-6). Matthew tells us (Matt. 26:14-16) that Judas received thirty pieces of silver. If this refers to the Jewish shekel, as is supposed, it would amount to about fifteen dollars in our money. And in that transaction Judas Iscariot sold himself, as well as Christ, and purchased for himself a name that is a synonym of infamy.

There is no indication that Judas was always an evil person, insensitive to righteousness and void of all loyalty. The germs of his evil, in all probability unfolded themselves gradually. There was needed among the Apostles, as there is needed now in the church,

a man of just such talents as Judas possessed - the talent for managing business affairs. As time went on he found himself entrusted with larger and larger sums of money than before, and with this came covetousness, unfaithfulness, and thievery. Several times he showed his tendency to avarice and selfishness. This under the very best influences, grew worse and worse, till he betrayed his Master for thirty pieces of silver.

When Judas saw the results of his betrayal he "repented himself". He realized what he had done and his conscience lashed him. He made an ineffective effort to free himself by attempting to return the money to the chief priests and elders. He proclaimed boldly to them, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." And they contemptuously replied, "What is that to us?" And when they would not receive it he cast it down at their feet and departed from their midst with a burden pressing down upon him that was too grievous for him to bear. No doubt he was aware of the fact that his returning the money had not erased the wrong. His returning of the money was prompted first of all by the wrong spirit - a desire for relief rather than hatred of sin; and furthermore, his confession was to the wrong party, or at least to those who should have been secondary in his consideration, and who could not grant forgiveness. Someone has said, "compunction is not conversion". In complete despair, Judas then went out and hanged himself (Matt. 27:5) on the southern slope of the valley of Hinnom, near Jerusalem, and in the act fell down a precipice "headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out". (Acts 1:18).

The Bible affirms in concluding the sad history of Judas Iscariot that he went to "his own place". (Acts 1:25). Sin must of necessity terminate either in hell or in pardon. Contrast, if you will, the case of Peter and Judas. Judas attempted to prove his repentance by taking his own life. Peter on the other hand proved his repentance by serving his Master faithfully ever after. God help us to always imitate the latter!

- Charles G. Caldwell, Jr., via The Contender, Franklin, TN, July 22, 1984

* "A fault recognized is half corrected!"

* "A good example is worth more than good advice!"

* "A peaceful heart finds joy in all of life's simple pleasures!"

* "A sharp tongue is seldom an indication of a sharp mind!"

* "A smile is a curve that can set a lot of things straight!"

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)