

BRINGING UP CHILDREN IN A WHOLE NEW MILLENNIUM

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO MARRY A CHRISTIAN?

There is not a direct command in the New Testament directing a young lady or a young man to marry only a Christian. While there is no command for a young Christian to marry another Christian, I believe the principle is taught throughout the Bible. This principle goes all of the way back to Israel and how they were commanded not to take to themselves foreign women. Also, there is a command to widows who are young to only marry in the Church. **Numbers 36:6(KJV)** This *is* the thing which the LORD doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry. **1 Corinthians 7:39(KJV)** The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord. Parents, we need to teach our children that they need to marry one of God's chosen people, because the Bible teaches that principle. In the Old Testament they were to marry of the tribe of their father, and in the New Testament, it is in the Lord, or in the Church. In this article we want to consider why it is a good idea to marry a Christian.

We live in times where it is difficult to bring up our children to be faithful Christians. We know this because the failure rate is going up and up. There are less and less Christian families and fewer and fewer of them are marrying in the church and producing Godly offspring. Here is how it works and how it is impacting the number of faithful Christians in the world today. Just a couple of generations ago, families often had 7 or 8 kids (my Dad was one of 15 children all by the same parents). If one had eight kids and brought them up in the church, there were some good odds that 3 or 4 of them would marry a Christian, remain faithful to the Lord, and produce Godly offspring. Look what happens in just two generations, if there was 8 kids and 3 became Christian families. One couple would become 9 Christian families! The church could grow that way. Just imagine if 7 or 8 produced Christian families! There could be as many as 64 Christian families produced in just two generations! I think THAT is what God had in mind.

So, what about today? The average is only 2.4 kids born to a family in the U.S. So, the only way that the church can grow this way is if both kids produce Christian families each and every time! We know that is not happening! So what happens to the church? If one of the two remains faithful and finds another one of two who remained in the church and marries them, you can have one Christian family. So instead of 1 Christian family producing 9 Christian families in the above example, it now takes 2 Christian families to produce 1! It doesn't take Rene Descartes to do the math on that one! The church will die, if this trend continues. The sad reality is that the 2.4 children are often marrying outside of Christ and falling away themselves and not producing any Christian children. Why is it vitally important that each and every child of each and every congregation of the Lord's children marry in the Church? DO THE MATH! It is the only way that the Church can survive and grow.

I believe it is time parents realize the seriousness of this situation and educated their children about the need to produce Christian offspring. Will your kids be thankful you insisted they date Christians? Uh..... Not now! But, I do believe that they will thank you later. I am so glad my parents insisted that I date Christian girls. I didn't like it at the time, but I sure do now. Young people, if the

Church is to have a future, you are that future! What will the attitude of the Church be? Your attitude. What will the belief of the Church be? Your belief. How strong will the Church be? However strong you are. How serious will the members be? However serious you are. Do you see? You are the future Church. I say this to make my brothers and sisters in Christ to be more aware of the situation. It seems like just yesterday that my Dad was telling me, "You are the future of the Church." The scary reality is, now here we are. Now I am telling my kids and the other youth of the congregation, "You are the future of the Church." Will there be Christian families in the Church. Only if you decide now. You can make sure there that there is at least one Christian family by remaining faithful, marrying in the Church and producing Godly offspring.

So you see, I and those around my age and older, have done all we can along the lines of marrying in Christ and producing Godly offspring. It is now incumbent on us to teach that offspring the importance of carrying on. I (We) can do no more than that. I urge you as young people to take heed and dedicate yourself to producing a Godly family. I urge you as parents, instruct your children about the importance of dating and marrying Christians, and when the instructions are not working, the backup plan is to insist! Remember, you are the parent, you have an obligation to bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Don't let them down!