

August 19, 1986

Traits to look for in a life long marriage partner

One of the most important decisions we make in our life is the partner we choose for marriage. I suggest you consider the following areas as you make your decision. Also, remember you will always marry someone you go out with. Make your rational decision first about who you will court, and then see where your emotions lead you.

- 1) Life long commitment
 - Will make a life long commitment for better or worse.
- 2) Loves God and man
 - Is a moral person; respects everyone (doesn't mean likes everyone)
 - Christian first; Jesus is the Lord; loves God & neighbor as self
 - Catholic; the Catholic Church is beautiful: has a loving personal God, the Bible, the liturgy (the body & blood), tradition, and community (we are all brothers)
 - Prays.
- 3) Exciting
 - Likes to do fun things. Fun in courtship has a high correlation to fun in marriage*.
- 4) Sex
 - Recognizes sex as pure delight. Sex is the bonding of two different personalities*. A little grossness can be exciting*.
 - Sex before marriage is no indicator of successful sex in marriage*.
- 5) Humor/Patience/Respect
 - Sometimes has a twinkle in his/her eye
 - Never talks anything too seriously (especially ones self)
 - Looks for the positive in others
 - Will help his or her partner to grow & be fulfilled
 - Listens.
- 6) Family
 - Wants a family & is willing to have & raise children if you want a family
 - Recognizes family as an extension of ourselves and a true support system. (If from a broken family be extra careful)*.
- 7) Communication
 - Actively works at communicating. Communication takes time & effort and is a life long process*.
- 8) Behavior
 - Moderation with alcohol; no drugs*
 - No major funks*.

Things not to be concerned about: External beauty (we are aging the day we marry)*; money/apparent success (lots of money & success are probably detriments to marriage happiness)*.

*Writers belief (Joe Tembrock)

PS. Judy says she would never have chosen me with this criteria; so obviously you will have to use your own judgement.