

Seeking a Godly Spouse



Introduction

- Who is this lesson for?
 - Children
 - Parents
 - Adults who are *able* to be married
 - Anyone who knows those same people (aka everyone)
- Marriage is
 - One man and one woman, for life
 - **Matthew 19:3-6**

A big commitment

Similar to, AND different from, becoming a Christian

Become a Christian

Great idea...

...Do not rush in

Optional, *but not really*

Makes you a better person

Joy and trials

Lifelong commitment

No going back

God will be faithful

Get married

Great idea...

...Do not rush in

Optional

Makes you a better person

Trials; hopefully joy

Lifelong commitment

No going back

Choose wisely

A big commitment

- Can you remain single your whole life?
 - Yes...
 - Jesus commends eunuchs (who never marry; **Matthew 19:12**)
 - Paul was unmarried and says it is a blessing to him (**1 Corinthians 7:7**)
 - ...But
 - Even in that, Paul recommends marriage, “For it is better to marry than to burn with passion” (**1 Corinthians 7:9** ESV)
 - It is not good for man to be alone (**Genesis 2:18**)
 - Younger widows should marry (**1 Timothy 5:14**; **1 Corinthians 7:39**)

Look at yourself, first

- You should look for a good spouse. But also...
- YOU should BE a good spouse – get yourself right first
 - Follow the same advice for yourself



Traditional vows

- Not commanded, but in line with Scripture
 - To the groom: *“Do you take this woman to your lawfully-wedded wife? Will you **love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her, for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health**; and, forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?”*
 - To the bride: *“Do you take this man to your lawfully-wedded husband? Will you **obey him, and serve him, love, honor, and keep him, for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health**; and, **forsaking all others**, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?”*

Traditional vows

Love her

Ephesians 5:25

Love him

Titus 2:4

Comfort

Ruth 2:10-13; Isaiah 40:1

Obey and serve

1 Peter 3:1, 5–6; Titus 2:4–5

Honor

1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:33

For better and for worse

Proverbs 17:17

For richer and for poorer

Philippians 4:11–13; Hebrews 13:5

In sickness and in health

Ephesians 5:28–29

Forsaking all others...

Proverbs 5:18–20; Matthew 19:3-5

So long as you both shall live

Romans 7:2–3

Who should you marry?

- Should you marry a Christian?
 - YES!!!!!!
- Is it *sinful* not to?
 - If it's your choice, yes
 - **Deuteronomy 7:1-4**, “for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods” (v. 4, ESV)
 - **2 Corinthians 6:14**, “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” (ESV)
 - Take Jesus' yoke upon you (**Matthew 11:29-30**),
 - **1 Corinthians 7:39**, “she is free to be married to whom she wishes, **only in the Lord**” (ESV)
 - But if you do marry a non-Christian, it is 100% still a real marriage (and binding)
 - **1 Corinthians 7:12-17**

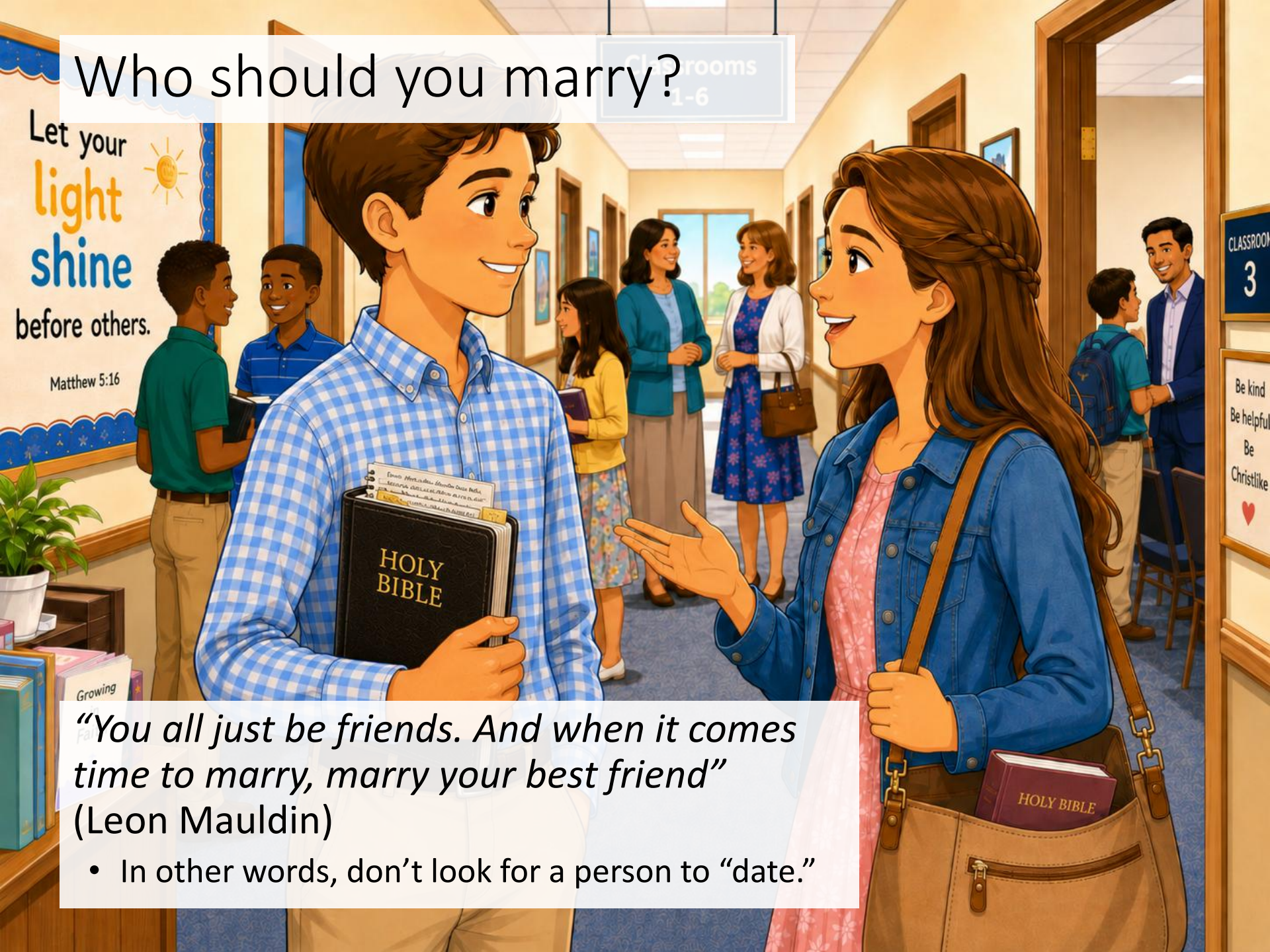
Who should you marry?

- Should you both want children?
 - Yes; it's literally the first commandment (to people) in the whole Bible (**Genesis 1:28**)
 - **Psalms 127**, children are a blessing
 - **Malachi 2:15**, "Did he not make them one...? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring." (ESV)
 - **1 Timothy 5:14**, young widows to bear children
 - This is not a choice to make. If he does not want kids, the discussions end there.
 - Of course, sometimes people are not able to have children. That is very sad, and it's not a sin if you can't.
 - But to say you don't want children – yet do want to be married – that contradicts what God has said.

Who should you marry?

Let your
light
shine
before others.

Matthew 5:16



"You all just be friends. And when it comes time to marry, marry your best friend"
(Leon Mauldin)

- In other words, don't look for a person to "date."

Advice from Bryan Gibson

Prattmont church, lessons on June 21 and 28, 2026

- You are going to need some help (**Proverbs 31:10**).
 - Pray for His guidance and wisdom.
 - And His wisdom may come through the wise counsel of others (and through good examples).
 - Look in places where God's people meet.
- Look for more than "looks"
 - "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised" (**Proverbs 31:30**, NKJV).
- Finding him or her may take some time
 - "What if I get up in my upper 20s/30s and still haven't found the right person?"
 - Don't marry just to be marrying. Better to be single than married to the wrong person. **Proverbs 21:19**
 - Keep looking, keep praying—when you find a godly woman, you'll thank God for such a wonderful gift.
 - "He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD" (**Proverbs 18:22** , NKJV/NASB).

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Finding an Excellent Wife:

- Look for more substantial qualities
 - Kindness—**Proverbs 31:26.**
 - Discretion—**Proverbs 11:22.**
 - Graciousness—**Prov. 11:16.**
 - Wisdom—**Proverbs 14:1.**
 - Fear of the Lord—**Proverbs 31:30.**
 - Diligence—**Proverbs 31:27.**
 - Love for God and neighbor—**Matthew 22:36-40.**
 - Genuine faith (**2 Tim. 1:5; Hebrews 11:6.**)
- Avoid these kind of women:
 - Lack discretion (**Prov. 11:22**)
 - Contentious—**Proverbs 19:13; 27:15-16.**
 - Opposite of “meek and quiet” (**1 Peter 3:4**).
 - Immoral—**Proverbs 6:20-25.**
 - Hateful—**Proverbs 30:21-23.**

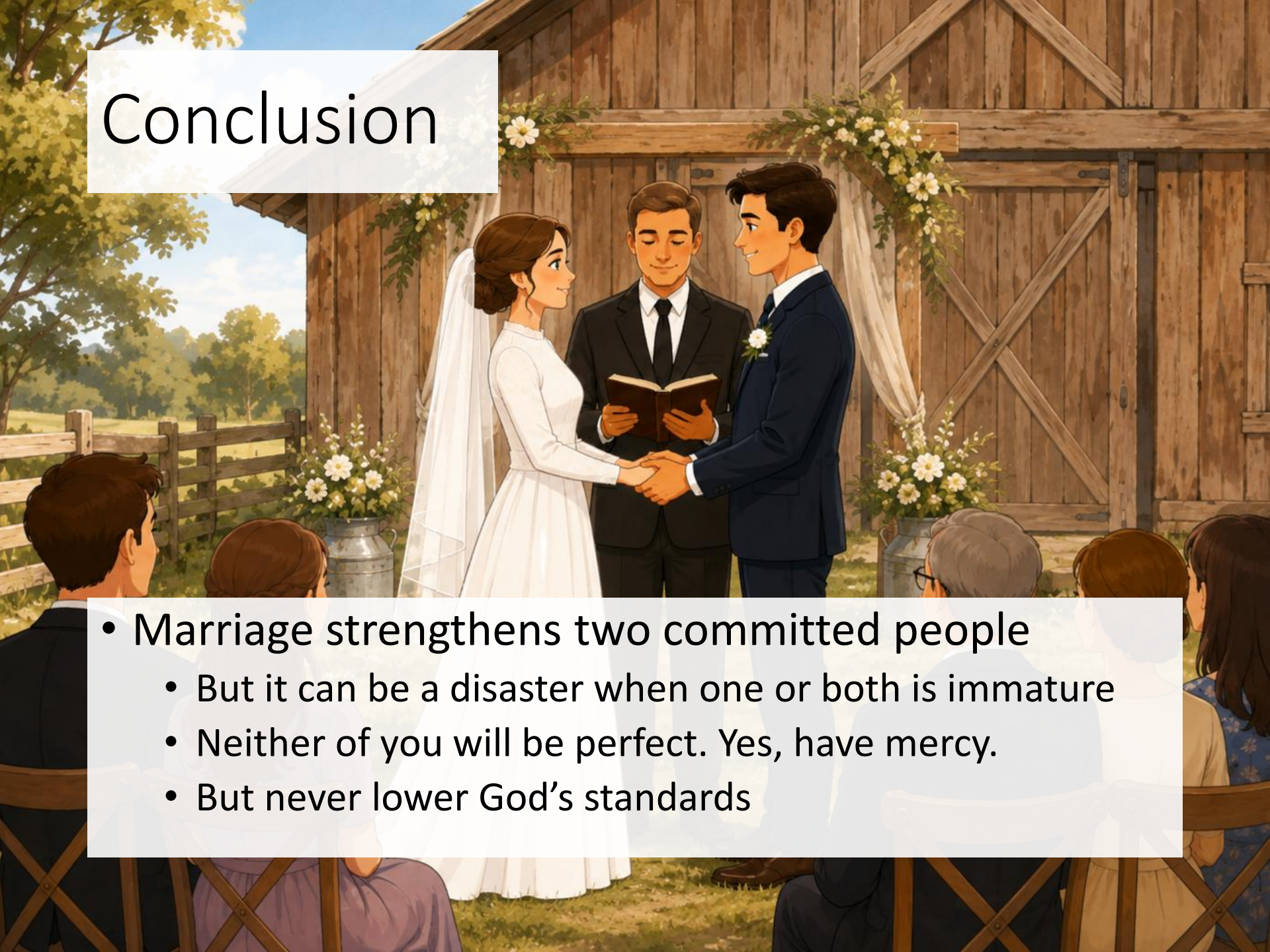
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Questions to Ask about a Potential Husband:

- Is he humble? (**Prov. 11:2**)
- Does he obey the word of God? (**Prov 13:13, 19:16**)
- Does he acknowledge his sins, and does he make every effort to correct them? (**Prov 28:13**)
- How much effort is he making to AVOID sin? (**Prov 22:3, 14:16**)
- Does he listen to the advice/rebuke of others, especially when Biblically based? (**Prov 12:15, 15:32**)
- What sort of company does he keep? (**Prov 13:20**)
- Is he quick-tempered? (**Prov 22:24-25, 29:22**)
- Does he work hard? (**Prov. 12:27, 10:4-5**)
- Is he greedy for money? (**Prov. 15:27, 28:6**)
- Does he talk too much? (**Prov. 17:27-28, 10:19**)
- Does he show compassion? (**Prov. 21:13, 28:27**)
- Does he praise you and others? (**Prov. 31:28**)
- Is he honest? (**Prov 12:22, 13:5**)

Conclusion

An illustration of a wedding ceremony taking place outdoors in front of a rustic wooden barn. A bride in a white dress and veil stands on the left, holding hands with a groom in a dark blue suit on the right. An officiant in a black suit stands between them, holding an open book. The scene is decorated with white flowers and greenery. In the foreground, the backs of several guests are visible as they watch the ceremony. The background shows a wooden fence and a lush green landscape under a blue sky.

- Marriage strengthens two committed people
 - But it can be a disaster when one or both is immature
 - Neither of you will be perfect. Yes, have mercy.
 - But never lower God's standards