

## **Q) Should I \*Date a Non-Christian?**

This is an honest question of many who desire companionship in this life. I like one evangelist's response to that: "I would not even date a lukewarm Christian."

God's wisdom and protection for your life would be to not to date or seek courtship with an unbeliever. It is obviously a great temptation for many, yet God's Word is clear:

**2 Corinthians 6:14 "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?"**

God does not want to steal your fun, but to protect you from future harm. I have seen many well-meaning believers justify their dating/courtship habits.

Excuses some have used for dating non-Christians:

1. *"I am not attracted to anyone in my church and there are few singles my age."*

I don't believe God will make you marry someone you are not attracted to, but it simply comes down to trust. If we are "about our Father's business", and our hearts are set on doing His will, we will be content while waiting. Do you trust God for your future spouse? Is God big enough to bring someone into your life when and how *He* wants to? I have seen many singles attend a church for the sole purpose of finding a mate, as if they were shopping at a meat market. If they didn't find the cut of beef they wanted, they went shopping elsewhere.

2. *"I will lead them to the Lord."*

That is what some call "missionary dating". Sometimes people lead others to the Lord in a dating situation, but more often than not it is the Christian in this situation who compromises what they know to be God's will and they are lead further away from the things of God. King Solomon married many foreign wives who served foreign gods. His heart was turned away from God as a result:

**1 Kings 11:7-10 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded.**

I have known of some who finally saw their spouse come to Jesus only after enduring years of heartache and brokenness. This unnecessary pain was caused by disobedience, not God's leading.

3. *"I will not marry them, only date them."*

Any dating relationship can cause you to open yourself up to emotional attachment. It is self-deception to think dating cannot or will not lead to marriage. One should not "date" unless even considering marriage. It is not fair to the other person, to yourself, or to your future spouse. It is selfish to think otherwise. It is tough enough in this life being married to a Christian who desires the things of God. I could not imagine trying to go through life with someone who is not following Jesus.

4. *"This person seems to have it together."*

Satan doesn't usually tempt us with people who *don't* seem to have it together. The grass is greener on the other side, but when you get there you find out it is green-colored cardboard! Marriage is only part of God's plan, albeit a very important part, marriage itself should not be our goal. Seek His will and have long-term goals for your life instead of short-term satisfaction. You will be happier if you do things God's way in God's time.

**2 Corinthians 6:14 (AMP) Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers [do not make mismatched alliances with them or come under a different yoke with them, inconsistent with your faith]. For what partnership have right living and right standing with God with iniquity and lawlessness? Or how can light have fellowship with darkness?**

\*I use the term dating only because it is a common term. A proper godly approach to companionship should be courting. Dating is the world's way to satisfy what God intended for preparation for marriage.