If You Marry, Choose Wisely  
Judges 14:1-3

Introduction:
A. Samson typical of too many young people.
   1. Listen to hormones rather than head.
   2. Listen to no one, just “get her for me.”
B. “If you marry” – one can choose not to marry and remain celibate.
C. Except for choosing to serve God, choosing a mate is most important decision one can make.
   1. Only get one shot at it.
   2. Affects life physically, spiritually and emotionally.
D. Let’s look at some things that will help folks choose a mate wisely.

Discussion:
I. Be Patient.
   A. Avoid too serious, too soon – be “likers”, not lovers.
   B. Avoid too steady, too soon.
      1. Need time to look over the field, reduces temptation to play around later.
      2. Too easy to take “liberties” when going steady.
   C. Avoid intimacy too soon.
      1. God did not ordain marriage to “legalize” a pre-existing relationship.
      2. Premarital sex is as sinful as extra-marital sex (Heb. 13:4; Rev. 21:8)
      3. Such intimacy clouds one’s judgment in making a wise choice.

II. Be Defensive.
   A. Pray often “lead us not into temptation..” (Matt. 6:13).
   B. Avoid wrong company (1 Cor. 15:33; Psa. 1:1).
   C. Avoid situations where yielding would be easy (cf. 1 Cor. 6:18)
      1. Home alone.
      2. Parked car – be honest tell yourself and friend why do not need to park.
   D. Create situations where pure heart is easy (Matt. 5:8).

III. Be Sensible.
   A. Study the scriptures dealing with marriage.
      1. Those that deal with consequences of failed marriage.
      2. Those that show not all lawful marriages are wise (1 Cor. 7)
   B. Pray for wisdom (Jas. 1:5).
   C. Seek and hear wise, experienced, and objective counsel (Prov. 12:15; 19:20)
   D. Wise enough to know that while you are not marrying a family, will have to deal with the family.
   E. Do this before becoming blinded by emotions (cf. Brother Elam’s letter).

IV. Be Selective.
   A. Date the kind of people you would want to marry.
      1. Not necessarily the person, but the kind of person.
      2. The kind of person that you want to be parent of your children.
   B. Date and marry a faithful Christian.
      1. No, mixed marriages are not unlawful – but are unwise (Cf. 2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Cor. 7:13, 14)
      2. Share in more, differ in less
      3. Dating is poor evangelism – may “convert” to win you.

Conclusion:
A. Parents assume your children will marry, do your best to prepare them.
B. Young people be patient, defensive, sensible, and selective.