

Ask Bishop Dennison



Q. The Bible makes it very clear that we should not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers (II Corinthians 6:14). As relates to dating, how do you think God feels about a “seasoned” Christian woman seriously dating and considering marrying a new convert, or a man who is not as spiritually “seasoned” as she is? Is this considered being unequally yoked as well? If the man is not as seasoned as the woman is, how can he spiritually lead his family, when in fact she is the spiritually mature one?

A. When it comes to dating, the bible does not address that subject specifically. In bible days, the wife was usually chosen by the man’s parents. However, Proverbs 3:5-6 is our guide for subjects like dating. “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

The bible says that believers are to marry believers (II Corinthians 6:14). Do not become sidetracked by whether or not you feel as if you are more spiritually mature than the man is. It should be noted, however, that being unequally yoked with a believer could involve different doctrinal beliefs. For instance, you may differ in your interpretation on water baptism, female preachers, speaking in tongues, Sabbath-keeping, and tithing, among other things. This could potentially place you in a position to compromise your spiritual beliefs.

You do not want to enter into a relationship that could potentially weaken or interfere with your relationship with Christ. Here are some things you should consider before marrying a newly converted man or a mature Christian man:

1. Is Christ first in his life?
2. Does he really love you?
3. Do you both share the same spiritual desires to grow and live for Jesus Christ?
4. Do you both share the same doctrinal beliefs?
5. Is he mentally, financially, and spiritually prepared to commit to a marriage?

If you are willing to submit to his position in the relationship, then pray and trust that God will give him the ability to lead his family. Read Ephesians 5:22-25 and Proverbs 18:22

Bishop Larry J. Dennison
Compassionate Outreach Ministries
320 SE 43rd Street
Gainesville, Florida 32641
Phone: 352-373-1888
Fax: (352) 335-9684
Email: info@compassionateoutreach.org