

Christian dating, relationships, and marriage: By Erica Jermanus

Many Christians are alone in their singleness and feel lonely. So, they feel the need to be in a relationship. Many Christians are really desperate for marriage and children because they want to start their lives. Because of this desperation, many Christians settle for the wrong person or jump from one relationship to the next. Many Christians will go on dating websites and talk to men and women on there. But is that the way to go? Is that what God wants us to do? Can a man find a wife through a dating website? The answer is, it is possible, but it is not always the God thing to do.

God may want us to wait on Him for a spouse and not just any spouse, but the person that He has destined for us. He wants us to be willing not to settle out of loneliness, and desperation. He wants us to wait on Him and His perfect timing to meet the spouse He has for us. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

If you are single reading this, your spouse may already be in your life, and you may not know it, unless God has revealed that to you already. You may be waiting for God to bring that person into your life or to finally

meet that person. There has been a delay because God has been working on both you and your spouse, preparing you both to come together in marriage at the right time. There are some things you and your spouse need to go through before you can come together in marriage.

You and your spouse may need to learn some lessons before you can enter the relationship or marriage. Sometimes, God will have us go through something really hard or painful before we enter our next season of marriage. That is because God is shaping and molding our character to prepare us to steward the spouse and marriage He has for us. Romans 5:3-4 says, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope."

But for those who may be single or just getting out of a relationship, the devil is going to try to tempt you to date again by going on dating websites. That is because you may feel lonely and desperate to be with someone because you have not completely healed from past relationships. So, you may feel like you need to be in a relationship to complete your life. But the

truth in the matter is that only Christ can complete us. Only He can give us our heart's desires that align with His will and timing. We just need to trust in Him and know that His timing is perfect.

Ask God to fill the void inside that you have for a relationship. Ask Him to give you work on you and heal and restore you before you enter a new relationship. If you do enter a new relationship, do not go on dating websites. Allow God to lead and guide you to one that He has for you at His right time. It is when you are focused on Him and serving your purpose that He brings you your spouse. When you are in alignment with His will, plan, and purpose for your life, that is when God will see that you are ready for a spouse and for marriage.

So, the question to ask is should Christians go on dating websites to find a spouse? First, I want to say that dating websites are not always safe or the answer. There are many sex offenders on dating websites that take advantage of women, and use them for their bodies. Not all men and women date to marry or marry to fulfill a God-given call and purpose. Many just want to date or get married for romance. Christian couples

do not just date to date. Their intention is to date to marry.

Dating really is not for Christians. Usually, Christians will courtship rather than date. Courting is when Christian couples have the intent of getting married. Oftentimes, Christian couples get married within the first few months of a relationship because it is God destined and God ordained. Jesus Christ may lead the couple to get married right away instead of being in a relationship for years, which can lead to fornication or sexual immorality. 1 Corinthians 6:18 says, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

When a Christian couple gets married, it is for a purpose and an assignment to serve God together and to fulfill a greater call and mission. Many Christian couples are called to start families and teach their children the ways of the Lord and the Bible. Many Christian couples are called to start businesses and ministries or to build homes and gardens. Christian families are called to leave a legacy for the next generation.

Going back to the dating websites, God wants Christian women and men to be very careful of the people they allow into their lives, especially through dating websites and social media. The devil will try to send counterfeits into your life before He sends the real person. The counterfeits are sent by the enemy to steal, kill, or destroy. John 10:10 says, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

We need to be very careful when it comes to choosing the person we marry. Many counterfeits are put on a facade until after the marriage and deceive the other spouse. Then, the spouses end up getting a divorce. The counterfeit men will end up getting the woman pregnant, and then she is stuck with a child with that man.

So, if you are ever dating a person, the first question you want to ask them is if they have accepted and believed in Jesus Christ and if they have the Holy Spirit. Also, you want to ask them if they know their purpose in life. Because if they say no, then that is not a person that you want to date and marry. The person

that God has for you will already be equally yoked with you.

That person may not be perfect, but they will be the right person for you. That person will compliment you in a way that a counterfeit would not. That person will be right for you because you will both be able to meet each other's needs. You will both be able to use your gifts and talents to serve each other. You will both be able to hold each other accountable for your actions. Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

It is a man that finds a wife and not a woman. Proverbs 18:22 says, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD." A man is the one to chase a woman, not the other way around. A woman may try to chase a man because he is good-looking or because of his personality. But it goes much deeper than that. The man does not just look at the woman being attractive on the outside, but on the inside. A man should look for a God-fearing woman. A man should look for a woman who loves Jesus Christ and who wants to serve Him with her life. That is the same with a woman finding a man as well. God will bring two

Christians together with the same purpose in mind and that is to glorify God in their relationship, marriage, and lives.

Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:8 says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 10:9-10 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."