

OBTAINING YOUR OWN PARTNER FOR LIFE

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Assuming God designed us, then also designed a way for us to avoid being alone, let us very briefly consider the systematic steps God completed, in His pursuit of a bride.

A Lonely God

1. God decided, literally ahead of time, before even beginning the work of creation, how high of a price He would be willing to pay for a forever companion.
2. He built a physical home for us beforehand.
3. He created and shaped his bride into what He could love unconditionally.
4. Then He named us, and in doing so, took responsibility for us.
5. He continued to love His bride, even when we miserably failed to meet His expectations.
6. He then established the price for His bride, as the need to give up His life and His blood.
7. He then built a body, capable of giving up its blood and its life. Innocent blood would be required to shield His bride against righteous judgement.
8. He kept that blood spotless by resisting every temptation ever endured.
9. He built the framework for a new relationship with His bride, by training eleven men to create the church.
10. Then He began a relentless march toward the cross, where He would die and shed enough blood to keep paying for the life of His bride, no matter what mistakes we make. He even arranged to die in such a way to bleed that body out, to insure there would be an adequate supply of redeeming blood.
11. Then He went away, to build a forever home for us, a spiritual one this time, so we could be with Him forever.
12. A place where God can join together with His bride, Spirit with spirit.

A Lonely Us

If you are not yet considering a lifetime partnership, this section will mean nothing to you. Come back and read this again, when you have reached the stage in your life, where you are seeking more than just another toy with which to play.

Boredom is the impetus behind the search for mere pleasure. Loneliness, the sensing of incompleteness and a void in your life, will be the impetus behind a search for a forever partner. Most eventually reach a point in their lives when they stop wondering what they might have missed out upon, and begin wondering what they can become.

Note that there are some who have no interest or desire to give up any part of their life for anyone else. If you can handle the loneliness, choosing to remain alone can be a valid choice. It does free you up to pursue other goals single-mindedly.

1. Decide how high of a price you will be willing to personally pay, for a loving partner for life. How much of your time, comfort, autonomy, wealth and career goals would you give

- up, to obtain a forever partner? Price tags help determine value. What you are willing to pay will be a significant factor in setting the value you will place on your partner.
2. Decide ahead of time, what kind of home you wish to create with your partner. Exciting? Peaceful? Filled with children if possible? Child-free? Warm? Cold? Frequent changes? Stability? Stay-cations or frequent travel? That home life and environment will be the base from which the two of you will do life.
 3. Decide what characteristics your future partner will need to possess, What conditions will need to be met, before you can love them? Since we are rarely able to love unconditionally. Note that this list will likely say even more about your character, than about their character. Also be careful that you are not seeking from a spouse, the fulfillment in life that only God can provide. Unlike our Creator, a partner will not likely understand your every need, provide for your every need, calm your anxieties, be ever-present and so on.
 4. Once you have determined what you seek, don't enter relationships with anyone who does not meet those qualifications. You might accidentally fall into lust or infatuation. Understand the difference between infatuation and love. Infatuation is simply when you desire to obtain something someone else possesses, like their body, their popularity, or their wealth. Love is when the needs and the wants of someone else become more important to you, than your own wants and needs.
 5. Dating for fun is a dangerous game, in which both players learn to just leave the other when they stop getting what they want from them. That tendency then carries into marriages with disappointments ending in divorce.
 6. Refuse to engage in tryouts. You are both worth more than that. Pursue only friendship until you are both sure about making it a forever union.
 7. Watch anyone who interests you, well before they become aware of your interest. Some very good clues as to a future with another individual are these, because their character has pretty much been molded by the time you meet them. Their existing relationship with God will be the same, once you have been united with them. How they treat their mother or their father, is exactly how they will treat you. How they react to a contest or game in which they lose or do not get their way, will be how they will react to being disappointed by you. Watch them from afar.
 8. Understand from the beginning that the real price of a lifetime of love, will be the rest of your life. If you truly love them, for the rest of your life, every decision you make and every action taken, should be for their benefit.
 9. Then while you are looking or watching, what steps can you take to begin becoming the kind of partner such a person would deserve? In preparation for marriage, and if you are not already doing so, work on respecting your father and treating your mother like a queen. And learn to lose gracefully. Can you keep or support a homestead? Would you be able to maintain your relationship with God, while joined to another? To avoid going broke eating out, someone will need to be able to cook. Learn now to manage money. Learn about raising children. If in doubt about areas of life in which you need to learn about being a true partner, ask someone you admire, who has been in a committed relationship for many, many years.
 10. Make sure that you at least are worthy of someone else's forever trust, by doing all you know to do beforehand, and learning all you can about completing someone else's life.

11. If you are not ready, what do you need to do now to achieve that status? Study for the role, like you would any other.
12. Always remember that men desire to be respected. That is due regard for, and deference to, the feelings and rights of others, admiration for abilities and achievements. Women primarily seek to be cherished. That is the sure knowledge that they matter to their partner, more than anything else in this world. Can you feel those needs, or will your partner eventually try to find them in a relationship with someone else?
13. When you both are sure you have found the right one, decide to love them without reservation, even when they fail you or break your heart. Understand that the attempt to do so, might result in a broken heart and feeling like a failure, if your level of commitment is not matched by the other half. There is a saying that it is better to have loved and lost, than to have never loved at all. Learning to love may be the best character development possible. If the other half decides they are not yet ready yet and bows out, then a decision will need to be made. Will you wait for them to become ready and if so, for how long? Or will you begin your search again?
14. Love is a decision, on the part of both partners. It follows a lot of communication, in which it is established, that this other person is a friend with whom I could and would like to share my life forever. A partner with whom to pursue my dreams. Love is not an emotion. The emotions will follow the decision.
15. When spending time together before marriage, understand that intimacy occurs in a progression. It follow a path to a point where emotions and hormones take over, and seek to fill the God-given goal of actual marriage, the joining together of two bodies and souls. If you wish to reserve that level of intimacy for marriage, then agree together to establish limits beforehand, as to how far down that path toward intimacy you will go. This far and no more.
16. When you decide to join your lives together, understand that every dollar spent on a lavish ceremony, is one less dollar that can be used to begin establishing a financial future together. Marriage is the commitment that occurs, not the splendor of the ceremony. Decide together what is needed in the ceremony, to fill the needs of both partners.
17. Once you are married, consider this. If you both have the goal of putting the other one's happiness ahead of your own, how can that not be a happy life?
18. Making love to your partner is not only an exchange of pleasure, it is also an exchange of souls. It is the means God designed to knit two people together. Contrary to the movies, it is not always wildly romantic, but it should always be enjoyable. If you really have no idea what you are doing, in what is a pretty simple process, your body will teach you what it enjoys. But that also means you must ask and listen to your partner, to learn what pleases or displeases them. Communicate with one another. Then change what is being done, to better please them as well and meet their needs.
19. This listening to, and changing things to please a partner, refers to everything in your shared lives. How you spend money. What you eat together. The temperature in the home. How you discipline children. The list just goes on and on.
20. Making love with your partner is also an obligation. If their needs are not being met, it should come as no surprise that they will eventually beginning seeking their fulfillment elsewhere. You can drive a partner away by recreating the loneliness within them, the union with you was supposed to eradicate.

21. For those who understand this, when two people are independently pursuing a goal of drawing closer to God, geometry dictates that you will also be drawing closer to each other in the process.