

Dear Foxracingboy,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked how a man could meet a Christian life partner.

As Christians, we know how important it is for us to determine the Lord's will in all matters of our lives. The Apostle Paul says, "I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2) Once we truly put our lives in the Lord's infinitely capable hands, our earthly desires begin to pale. We see the bigger picture of God's plan for all humankind and want to have a share in the future blessing of others. As we pray and meditate on God's holy word, we grow in understanding and grace so that we are able to rise to new levels of spiritual thinking.

Being spiritually minded does not imply that we should not marry. God blessed the institution of marriage (Genesis 2:24). Although marriage is good, the Apostle Paul tells us that he who does not marry does even better (1 Corinthians 7:38), meaning that one will be able to focus all his or her attention on Christian service and sacrifice without the additional obligation to spouse and family. If, after much prayer, you believe that it is God's will for you to marry, you must give that matter over to the Lord and allow Him to guide you, as you trust Him and accept His will, not yours.

The first indication that the Lord is directing events will be that the prospective mate is a believer in our Lord Jesus. The Apostle Paul admonishes us not to be yoked together with unbelievers. "What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-15) Then, if the two of you want to move forward, much important work will need to be done. There is more to a marriage than just being attracted to each other and having the same faith, moral values and spiritual vision. Although these elements are the building blocks for a sound foundation, there are many topics that need to be discussed before one proceeds to make a life-long commitment. Finances, careers, children, likes and dislikes are just some of the myriad of issues that will need to be worked out. If each partner is willing to give 100% of him or herself to the marriage and is also willing to let go of the unessential issues and mutually compromise on others, putting his or her partner's preferences first, then the marriage will be a success.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her; In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself." (Ephesians 5:25, 28) "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

We hope we have answered your question and expanded your thinking on the very serious matter of marriage. Please write us again.