

## ***Young Lady, Marry a Christian***

Before any young lady marries a non-Christian, she should consider the following problems which so often face the Christian in a mixed marriage.

**1. Problems in attending services.** She should ask herself, "What will I do when my husband some Lord's day drives away in the car at 9:15, leaving me with no transportation to the service?" "What will I do when my husband announces that his company is moving us to some distant community where no church of the Lord meets?" The husband may not be as co-operative as the young lady thought he would be.

**2. Problems in giving.** The young lady recognizes that if they are to reap bountifully, they must sow bountifully. She loves the Lord and His work, and wants to give liberally in support of it. Her husband, however, does not share her convictions and interest. He feels that a dollar is plenty to give.

**3. Problems in training children.** Yes, some have succeeded in bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord without the help of their companions. Eunice succeeded with Timothy. Other good women have succeeded. But the influence of a father is great, and many are the women who have not been able to overcome this influence to see their children become Christians.

**4. Problems in overcoming the influence of one's companion.** Marrying with the hopes of reforming one's companion is a dangerous thing. Often the companion is lifted to a higher standard, but seldom to the standard of a Christian. Instead, as the non-Christian's standards are raised, the Christian's standards are lowered, so that the two meet somewhere in between. The young lady should realize that the man whom she marries will be the greatest earthly influence on her life, and she should ask herself, "Will this man help me to go to heaven?"

**5. Emotional problems.** The problems faced in life are great, but the emotional problems faced in death may be greater. Recently a godly woman, having just received word of her husband's death in an automobile accident, cried, "Why couldn't it have been me or one of the children, for my husband was not ready to die?"

The young person reading this is probably thinking, however, that she will convert her husband. She may be able to do so, but statistics show that her chances really are not very good. For every one who has been successful in converting her husband, there are several who not only failed in converting their husbands, but were influenced by them to return to the mire of sin and to enter the ranks of the unfaithful. No, the risk is too great. The only safe course is for Christians to marry Christians.

**- by Bill Hall**

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## ***You Expect Me to Believe That?***

- In the beginning there was nothing. And suddenly for no reason nothing exploded and created everything. You expect me to believe that?

- At some point, by chance the right chemicals happened to float together at just the right moment to be struck by an electrical charge and become life. You expect me to believe that?

- Somewhere two non-human mothers each gave birth to a human child. They were born at the same time and in the same place, one was male and one was female. These two new "humans" gave birth to the human race. You expect me to believe that?

- One of the descendants of these first humans was born with a knowledge of right and wrong. No longer driven by instinct, this person suddenly was making decisions based on a morality for which there is no real explanation. You expect me to believe that?

I'm sorry. I don't have that much blind faith. It's all just too farfetched to be anything more than a fairy tale. I can't believe intelligent people claim it is "science" (cf. I Timothy 6:20).

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1: 1). I can believe that without stretching my imagination into the realm of the impossible. The universe was created by an all-powerful, all-knowing God. That I can believe!

- by **Phil Grear**

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## ***Dealing With The Unrepentant***

Are you discouraged because you can't get someone to change? Maybe you've worked long and hard to teach someone what they should do to be saved, but they simply won't accept it. It's clear to you and to them that there are things amiss in their life, but they just won't commit to do what is right. Or, it might be some erring brother in the church. You have struggled to convince him that he has sinned and needs to repent, but he steadfastly refuses to admit his sin and turn back to God. Surely, these are discouraging situations.

When we face these difficult scenarios, it should help us to remember that others before us have faced the same woes. In fact, when we 'hit a wall' while trying to convert the lost or restore the erring, we are joining the good company of God's faithful servants through the ages. Their words certainly strike a familiar chord:

*"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts" (Psalms 10:4).*

*"... they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return" (Jeremiah 5:3).*

*"Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent ..." (Zechariah 7:12).*

*"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye" (Acts 7:51).*

*"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God" (Romans 2:5).*

So, you see, your frustrations at being unable to change the ways of unrepentant folks is not new. Others have endured the same things. The key thing is for us to stay committed to our task of faithfully serving God. ". . . be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58)

- by **Greg Gwin**