

# CONSIDERING MARRIAGE

Are You Fit to Be Tied?



HOPE  
*for the Heart*

June Hunt

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JUNE HUNT



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Considering Marriage: Are You Fit to Be Tied?

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Dear friend,

From the beginning of time, when God said, “*It is not good for the man to be alone*” (Genesis 2:18), people have sought to find someone special with whom to share their lives. For some, marriage has been immensely meaningful, but for others, it’s been pure misery.

What do you need to know before you tie the marital knot? Consider this true story about someone very dear to my heart.

This sweet-tempered, sweet-spirited college student began to date a handsome, winsome young man. He pursued. She pulled back. He pursued. She wanted time. He pursued. She left for the summer. He followed her. Shortly afterward, they were engaged and then married.

Meanwhile, I was delighted—what an attractive couple! A few years and a few children later, they divorced. *How could this be?* I wondered. Many of us were stunned, but we did not live in their home. We did not have all the facts.

*How could this be? What happened?*

While there were biblical grounds for divorce, in truth, she should never have married him

in the first place. This became increasingly clear as she shared from her heart, “June, I didn’t want to marry him. But he constantly pursued me, and I didn’t know how to say *no*.”

And then she made this statement, justifying her decision: “I remember praying, ‘God, if I’m not supposed to marry him, please stop it’—but He didn’t!”

For a period of time, she lived with anger toward God, blaming Him for not answering her prayer. Yet, in effect, God had already answered. He had already revealed His will. Simply put, God had not given her peace about marrying this man. Yet she allowed herself to be “people-pressured” instead of Spirit-led.

How much better if she had possessed the strength to “[*speak*] the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15)—the strength to say, “No. I think you have many wonderful traits. I like many things about you, but the type of love I have for you is not a marital love. Saying *yes* would be wrong toward you, therefore, I must say *no*.” Saying *no* when you need to say *no* requires strength of character.

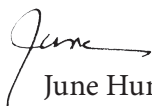
If you truly desire to prepare for marriage, first yield your will to the will of God. Then, if you are considering a certain marriage partner, pray that you will be led by the peace

of God. (Or pray that you will not have His supernatural peace if that person is not the right partner for you.)

Either way, be encouraged. God wants you to know His perfect will for marriage even more than you want to know it. He promises, “*If any of you lacks wisdom, [you] should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to [you]*” (James 1:5). Therefore, I urge you to pour out your heart to the Lord regarding every aspect of your romantic relationship. Ask for His divine wisdom. When you do, remember: While God always answers our prayers, sometimes His answer is “yes,” sometimes “no,” and sometimes “not now.”

May this book—along with earnest prayer and the wise counsel of trusted advisers—give you such godly guidance that you will know when God is leading you to say *yes* to marriage and when you need to say *no*. And on each step of your journey, may His thoughts be your thoughts as you surrender your will to His will.

Yours in the Lord’s hope,

  
June Hunt

# CONSIDERING MARRIAGE

## Are You Fit to Be Tied?

Once upon a time an unhappy frog lived in the enchanted forest. Year after year the frog stayed in his swampy pond until the day he coaxed a beautiful princess to kiss him. In the twinkling of an eye, the ugly frog turned into a handsome prince. Then the beautiful couple married and lived happily ever after.

While children assume marriage is like a fairy tale, if you are seriously dating, you need to distinguish fact from fiction. If you believe marriage will meet all your needs or miraculously turn your marriage partner into a prince or princess, you're living in fantasyland! God's Word exhorts us to be wise about our expectations for marriage and wise about whom we let into our hearts.

**“Above all else, guard your heart,  
for it is the wellspring of life.”  
(Proverbs 4:23)**





## DEFINITIONS

Regret, regret, regret! How many couples choose their mates too quickly and now live their lives full of regret? In order to build a strong foundation for marriage, learn as much as possible about yourself, your future mate, and God's purpose for marriage *before* you tie the knot.

**“Do you see a man who speaks  
in haste? There is more hope  
for a fool than for him.”  
(Proverbs 29:20)**

## WHAT IS Premarital Counseling?

Premarital counseling is practical advice given to a couple in preparation for marriage.

- ▶ Ministers and mentors often give spiritual, financial, and emotional guidance with special focus on relational pitfalls.
- ▶ Medical professionals give physical examinations and information about sexual and pregnancy issues, as well as genetic concerns.
- ▶ Wedding consultants primarily give guidance about the wedding ceremony and reception.

**“Plans fail for lack of counsel,  
but with many advisers they succeed.”  
(Proverbs 15:22)**

**QUESTION:** “Instead of going through a marriage ceremony, why not elope? Undoubtedly, eloping would save a lot of money and effort.”

**ANSWER:** A marriage ceremony, by design, is a sacred event to be performed in the midst of those who love and care about you. When you both recite the marriage vows, you make a commitment in the presence of those who will support you to keep the covenant for

a lifetime! The ceremony need not be big, elaborate, or expensive.

**“Come now, let’s make a covenant,  
you and I, and let it serve  
as a witness between us.”  
(Genesis 31:44)**

Premarital counseling involves teaching a couple open and honest communication in preparation for marriage.

- ▶ Communication is sharing and understanding each other, both verbally and nonverbally.
- ▶ Communication is listening and responding respectfully.
- ▶ Communication involves a willingness to be honest and vulnerable.

**“The tongue that brings healing  
is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue  
crushes the spirit.”  
(Proverbs 15:4)**

**QUESTION:** “How can I be 100 percent sure that the person I marry will remain committed to me?”

**ANSWER:** You can't be 100 percent sure about the commitment of any other person, but you can commit 100 percent of yourself to the marriage and choose to stay 100 percent committed to your covenant partner. This is God's desire as revealed in His Word.

**“She is your partner, the wife  
of your marriage covenant. ...  
So guard yourself in your spirit,  
and do not break faith with the wife  
[husband] of your youth.”  
(Malachi 2:14–15)**

## PREPARATION FOR Partnership

A couple needs to have an accurate understanding of each other's expectations and desires. *Preparation for Partnership* is an excellent exercise for opening the door to meaningful communication. Both parties should complete each sentence in writing and then talk through each point.

- My definition of love is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My reason for marriage is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My way of handling conflict is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My way of dealing with anger is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My preference for spending free time is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My concept of the role and responsibilities of a husband is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My concept of the role and responsibilities of a wife is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My views on sex within marriage are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- My commitments to my extended family are \_\_\_\_\_
- My commitments to my future in-laws are \_\_\_\_\_
- My expectation regarding time with friends (following marriage) is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My position on the use of alcohol is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My experience with illegal drugs is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My priorities for spending money are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My priorities for saving money are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My experience with debt and my commitment regarding debt are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My goals for marriage are \_\_\_\_\_
- My desires regarding children are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My commitment to be actively involved in a church fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_
- My spiritual goals and desires are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“How much better to get  
wisdom than gold, to choose  
understanding rather than silver!”  
(Proverbs 16:16)**

## **WHAT IS** a Christian Marriage?

A Christian marriage is a *covenant* agreement in which a man and a woman, both committed to Jesus Christ, are legally, physically, and spiritually joined as husband and wife.

- ▶ A covenant is a vow, a pledge, a promise.

*“When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.”* (Numbers 30:2)

- ▶ A covenant is a formal, solemn binding agreement.

*“God said to Abraham, ‘As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.’”* (Genesis 17:9)

- ▶ A covenant that is broken displeases the Lord.

*“You flood the LORD’s altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask,*