

V. Compatibility for Ministry

The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord. – 1 Corinthians 7:32b-35

Are we more devoted to the Lord together or apart?

What compatibility (mainly) isn't: better together than apart in *doing* ministry.

What compatibility (mainly) is: better together than apart in who we are *becoming*. (1 Cor. 10:31 as whole-life ministry)

How does a couple *complete* each other?

1. Marriage teaches you to love a stranger (your spouse).
2. Marriage gives you insight from a different perspective.
3. Marriage brings the strengths of two to every challenge.
4. Marriage allows two people to raise a family.

To what extent do you see/envision these things in your relationship?

Questions? e-mail deepak@capbap.org or jamie@capbap.org

Core Seminars—Singleness & Courtship Class 11: Chemistry & Compatibility



I. Introduction

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”

– Proverbs 31:30-31

Last week's class: fear of the Lord (the Bible's take on what the Bible thinks is important in a spouse)

This week: beauty and charm (the Bible's take on what the world thinks is important in a spouse)

II. What does the Bible say about chemistry?

The Bible sees attraction and desire as good

“His mouth is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable.

This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.” – Songs 5:16

“You have captivated my heart, my sister, my bride; You have captivated my heart with one glance of your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace.”

– Songs 4:9

Caution #1: chemistry is more grown than innate

Desire in marriage is an imperative, not an aspiration:

“Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the life of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love.” – Proverbs 5:18-19

Wrong view of chemistry: marry a person you have huge attraction to and hope it lasts through marriage.

Right view of chemistry: marry someone you’re attracted to, but focus on growing that attraction through marriage.

III. So what do we do?

1. Mature in what you’re attracted to.

Grow in Christ-likeness.

Be careful about what influences what you desire.

- Obviously sinful influences
- Influences that aren’t necessarily sinful (Phil. 4:8)

2. Ask yourself why you’re attracted.

Great topic of conversation with a good friend.

Do you see any idols behind that attraction?

- desire for control
- desire for pleasure
- people-pleasing
- desire for success
- desire for money
- desire for comfort

3. Be wary of dating if you have big struggles with contentedness.

4. Don’t jump ahead physically in your relationship

“Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.” – Songs 2:7 (NIV)

IV. What does the Bible say about compatibility?

The world’s view of compatibility

“if you are truly compatible, you don’t have to change”

BUT: one of God’s main purposes for marriage is so that we will change.

In what ways are you tempted to look for a spouse who will require no changes of you?