



He Said-She Said: Is There Anything Special About Marriage?

EDITOR'S NOTE: He Said-She Said is a biweekly advice column for singles featuring a question from a Crosswalk.com reader with responses from a male and female point of view. If you've got a question about anything related to singleness or living the single life, please submit it to hesaid-shesaid@crosswalk.com (selected questions will be posted anonymously).

Note: Due to copyright restrictions, only Kris' answer is listed below. If you would like to see Cliff's answer, go to www.Crosswalk.com

QUESTION: It seems men will not date a woman these days unless she sleeps with him. It's expected that if you're dating, then you must have a physical relationship. Many wonder if a woman has a fear of intimacy if she doesn't submit to a man's carnal desires from the outset. Whatever happened to dating to get to know each other? The problem only seems to get worse with age. I have just turned 30, and when I express that I believe dating should be for getting to know each other and sex should be saved for , I find myself dropped right away (or called any number of unprintable names). While I would rather know sooner than later that the man I'm talking to is not actually interested in me, I am left with a burning question: how are women these days supposed to enjoy relationships without feeling like a whore? Do men really not value anything other than free sex?

SHE SAID:

Wow, you have really been through a tough time. My first question is, where are you spending your social time to meet these type of guys? If it's a bar or other secular environment, then yes, that is what is out there. But if it's a church, then I say no - not all men are like this. Now, I realize that the church can often attract some of the same type of guys. People often come to church while living one foot in the world and one foot in Christ. Some are there to simply find a "good" girl to date/marry without make any changes to themselves.

I know when I was younger in Christ I dated men who were at my maturity level (or lower) and well, they were still living in ways of the world (expecting physicality and sex). Because of my own immaturity, I would find myself starting to fall in this area. But as I matured over the years, I started looking and waiting on God to bring me a guy who was like Christ, not like me. I chose to stay single with Christ, waiting on the right guy - vs. married with Christ to the wrong guy. And because of this †I have dated some amazing, godly men whose goal was not to get down my shirt or anywhere else. They understood the verse††"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." They understood that what they do in our relationship should also be to edify the other person in Christ and this includes not pressuring them to have sex or calling them any kinds of names.

So how do you find these men? First, make sure you are going to a Bible-teaching church. Attend a healthy singles group, even if it's at another church. Take the time to build friendships with both men and women. Ask questions that reveal information about a person's heart, character, purpose and mission in life. Spend quality time with folks at dinners, retreats, or mission trips so you can truly get to know people. Also, don't be afraid to ask others about a guy who seems interested in you. The more information the better.

If you speak with your friends about your convictions (waiting to have sex, waiting to touch, to kiss, etc - until you are married) then others will know where you stand and there shouldn't be any surprises. I would also not date anyone that you have not had a chance to befriend first. Please remember: trust God for your mate, not man. Draw closer to God for He knows where your man is.

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of , having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water () .

Kris Swiatocho, the President and Director of [and](#) . Kris has served in ministry in various capacities for the last 25 years. An accomplished trainer and mentor, Kris has a heart to reach and grow leaders so they will in turn reach and grow others. She is the author of three books: (co-authored with Dick Purnell of); ; and the most recent, with Study Questions (includes a leader's guide and of the same name).

DISCLAIMER: We are not trained psychologists or licensed professionals. We're just average folk who understand what it's like to live the solo life in the twenty-first century. We believe that the Bible is our go-to guide for answers to all of life's questions, and it's where we'll go for guidance when responding to your questions. Also, it's important to note that we write our answers separately (we think they sound eerily similar sometimes, too!).

GOT A QUESTION? If you've got a question about anything related to singleness or living the single life, please submit it to hesaid-shesaid@crosswalk.com (selected questions will be posted anonymously). While we are unable to answer every inquiry, we do hope that this column will be an encouragement to you. [Click here to visit the He Said-She Said](#) .

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