

MARRIAGE PREPARATION
LESSON 3

Qualities to Consider in a Spouse



There is no perfect time
and no perfect person.

There is a good time and a good person,
and neither of them is perfect.

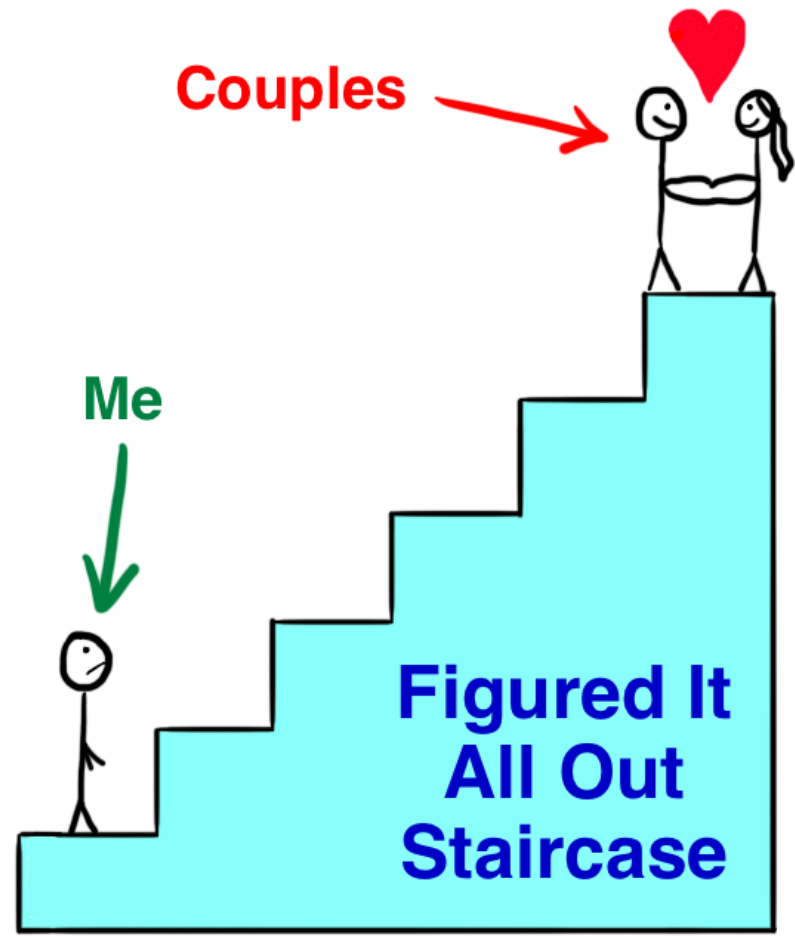
Society's marital advice:

- Stay uneducated and let romance be your guide
- Let chance or fate decide who is THE ONE, your soul-mate
- Hurry, or you'll be left out



Risk of following that advice:

overly romantic, fear driven, externally influenced, shallow



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Consider this:

- Does this person have an addiction?
- Is there a history of abuse?
- Is your sweetheart trustworthy?
- How does this person treat family members?
- How does this person drive?
- Does your beloved have ambition-education, employment, a self improvement plan?
- How does your sweetheart react in times of stress?
- Have you discussed expectations about money, sex, children, in-laws, division of responsibilities, careers?
- Does your sweetheart have a physical, emotional, or learning problem that will impact your relationship?
- Do you have compatible values?

Elder Joe J. Christensen:

“Occasionally we hear something like, “Why, we have been married for fifty years, and we have never had a difference of opinion.” If that is literally the case, then one of the partners is overly dominated by the other or, as someone said, is a stranger to the truth. Any intelligent couple will have differences of opinion. Our challenge is to be sure that we know how to resolve them . That is part of the process of making a good marriage better .

How much you have in common
is not as important to your marriage
as how you react to the things
you do not have in common.

Values

Testimony, forgiveness, grace

Church commitment

Gratitude

Reverence for life

Sacrifice and service

Genuine love and concern for others

Self-esteem

Appreciation of health

Importance of trust, honesty

Work ethic, cooperation, wise use of time

Value of education

Financial responsibility

Family traditions

Cultural traditions

Humor and recreation

Sensitivity to art and literature

Respect for property and laws

General civility