

## **UNEQUALLY YOKED**

We are currently studying a series entitled, Courtship to Marriage. It is part of the [Dating, Diamonds, and Diapers](#) series.

This is our third lesson in the Courtship to Marriage series.

**We have defined Courtship as having reached an age of adult independence and responsibility; and finding a person with mutual interest to spend exclusive time together to explore compatibility towards the possibility of marriage.**

Each week we have given you a **special case study** related to the subject of the lesson. This week our case study is Samson's courtship to marriage of a Philistine woman (Judges 14:1-20) (**Unequally yoked**).

<b>This lesson will study <u>three aspects</u> of Unequally Yoked as it relates to Courtship to Marriage.</b>
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### **1. In our lesson text, Paul warns believers against becoming Unequally Yoked with unbelievers.**

(2 Cor.6:14a) “**Do not be** (me ginimai / p.m.impv.2pl) [Command] **bound together** (heterozugeo / p.a.ptc.nplm) [Unequally yoked] (Present periphrastic - very strong stop!) **with unbelievers** (apistos).”

#### **Believers are to marry believers.**

##### **Widow**

(1 Cor.7:39) “She is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”

##### **Unmarried**

(1 Cor.9:5) “Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?”

##### **Married wives**

(Eph.5:22) “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

##### **Married husbands**

(Eph.5:25) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also the church and gave Himself up for her.”

### **2. There are three categories of spiritual conditions of believers that must be changed before marriage otherwise do not marry.**

(1 Cor.7:28b) “Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.”

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Category:**

**Do not marry** an improperly divorced believer. Someone divorced for some reason other than fornication (Matt.5:31-32; 19:7-12) (porneia).

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Category:**

**Do not marry** a neurotic-psychotic believer.

**Red flags:** Someone who is addicted to drugs or alcohol, or extreme jealousy expressed in negative behavior, explosive temper tantrums that scare you, verbal and physical abusive behavior expressed by kicking your car destroying your private possessions, control freak that isolates you from your family and close friends.

(Prov.22:24) “Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man.”  
(Prov.25:24; 27:4; 20:1)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Category:

**Do not marry** a believer in Reverse Process Reversionism ([RPR](#)) (2 Pet.2:17-22).

(2 Pet.2:22) “It happened to them according to the true proverb, ‘A dog returns to its own vomit.’  
And ‘A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.’ (Prov.26:11; 2 Cor.6:14-16)

### 3. Marrying in God’s timing is very important to the first three years of marriage.

These are the foundation years of marital life.

(Eccl.3:1) “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.”

(Prov.18:22) “He who finds a wife finds a good thing. And obtains favor from the Lord.”

There are four times when you should not marry until the issues are resolved.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Timing - Don’t be pressured into marriage.

<b>Herd bound</b> - all my friends are getting married.	<b>Unhappy home life</b> – escape from fire to frying pan
<b>Last chance</b> – age and don’t date a lot	<b>Parents</b> – old maid and grand children
<b>Lonely</b> – alone is different than lonely	<b>Financial or social status</b> – good catch, social ladder

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Timing – Don’t marry in teens.

These are fickle years of kiss a frog and get a prince, puppy love, and bogus romance.

Teens have 2 times higher divorce than 20s. 50% of teen marriages divorce within five years.

2/3 of your life will be spent with the person you marriage for life (Rom.7:2).

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Timing – Don’t marry until both acknowledge confidence about marriage and date of wedding.

When in doubt, talk it out. Get counseling.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Timing - Don’t marry if strong disapproval of presents or family and /or close friends.

Pay attention to what they are all telling you.

Think about **Samson’s** Courtship to Marriage (Judges 14).

(Judges 14:2-3) “So he came back and told **his father and mother**, ‘I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.’ Then **his father and mother** said to him, ‘Is there no woman among daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?’ But Samson said to his father, ‘Get for me, for she looks good to me.’” (Ex.34:15-16; Deut.7:1-4)