

SUNDIE MORNING SISTAS.ORG

Kim's Kaleidoscope for Singles
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Wide Open!

Sistas, let's have an open and frank discussion about compatibility. We know that 2Corinthians 6:14 tells us that we ought not to be unequally yoked, but we gotta' keep it real—I'm talking about some way down deep *keepin' it real*. Because, a lot of us have preconceived notions about the difficulties of partnering with an unsaved man, but truth be told, I've heard stories about Christian marriages that are in trouble big time—marriages where both the individuals are born-again believers. And they are having just as many problems as those who may not know the Lord. You might have heard a few stories yourself, and you may be thinking that an unsaved man doesn't look all that bad. Well, hold up a minute. Let's break it down a little bit, shall we?

Some will ask, "*Unequally yoked means that I can't marry someone who doesn't believe in Jesus Christ, right?*" Well, unequally yoked refers to an individual who is under a different yoke than the believer. Either by choice or default, this person has no interest in accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. 2Corinthians 6:14 tells us not to fellowship with such a person. When we say "*fellowship*" in this context, intimacy is inferred, because we know that human connections are very intimate in nature. We develop ties to and with one another, and God is telling us to be watchful and careful about who we tie ourselves to. We are to proceed with caution.

The one thing that you can see for yourself, is that people in general become very attached to their beliefs. So much so that those beliefs dictate who they will be and how they will behave. We, as humans, take on the yoke of our beliefs or non-beliefs, and we wear this yoke everyday of our lives. The puzzling thing is that when you meet someone initially, sometimes you really can't tell what kind of yoke they are wearing, because they may appear to be non-committal to any belief system at all. But sooner or later some type of belief system will come to the forefront, and if that yoke is set against the love of Christ, and you've allowed yourself to become emotionally invested...well....you've got a major problem on your hands.

I believe one of the major reasons why Christians marriages struggle so much is because both the man and the woman lose sight of God's agenda. They forget that their lives don't belong to them, and that God has a plan and they both have an integral part in that plan. In a Christian marriage, the bottom line is that you have to trust God implicitly; you have to trust Him with your finances, your children, and your sex life. It can't be about you, the spouse, or the child. It has to be about the love of God. If marriages where both individuals are Christian struggle with this, imagine what it is like when one spouse is trying to hold the marriage together...whewww!

The one thing you will do well to remember is that God gave us 2Corinthians 6:14 for our own spiritual benefit. Sure, there are some wonderful and extraordinarily gifted unbelieving men out

there. Is one of them your future husband? It's not impossible, but you had surely better check in big time with the Father before you make the biggest mistake of your life.

While in expectation mode, many of us Sisters will envision the characteristics and qualities that we would like the man we marry to have—right down to the very shoes he wears. Because a man may fit this criteria, we will try to force our hand to get him to commit to our beliefs. Sometimes, very often times, this doesn't work. It's no use trying to fit a square peg into a round hole. That only demonstrates your distrust in God to provide for your need.

God has your back, and your everyday actions must speak to the fact that you know this in your heart. You must remember that your expectations of what's ideal for you may be completely different than what God knows you need. I say this with the hope that women will keep an open mind and more importantly an open heart, so that they are flexible to God's plan when it comes to partnering. You may not feel it, but right now, God is preparing you to accept His presentation. So make sure that your eyes are wide open.

If you're the type of person that hates to be wrong about something, then it may be a bit of a challenge for you to surrender your ideas of the perfect man. It may be hard for you to allow the possibility of something new and different in your life. For instance, your ideal mate may be the kind of man that prioritizes YOU above all else. However, in order for this kind of man to enter into your world, your level of devotion to God must be incredibly strong. Your commitment to love and nurture must be tight enough to put up with all the other stuff that comes with having someone focusing on you all the time. Additionally, the qualities you seek, such as commitment, a loving and devoted nature, and a generous heart may come in a completely different package than you'd expect.

Sometimes we have our minds so set on what we want, that we forget the important details like whether or not the man will foster our spiritual growth or tear it down. You see, our Heavenly Father does not see out of the flawed lenses that we do. And I don't mean that your views are without honest intention, what I'm suggesting is that it is impossible to know all that you need to know about a man before you walk down the aisle. God sees your future and your potential husband's future as well. So bottom line, whoever he is, saved or unsaved, don't be foolish. YOU are the only you that you have. Give yourself the gift of keeping your eyes wide open. Don't see what you want to see, see what God is showing you. Waiting for Him to tell you concretely, resolutely, beyond any uncertainty, that your future husband's yoke was divinely ordained to be joined with yours. ●