

## News and Notes

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**Janice Ruffner** - Roelf Ruffner's wife, Columbia, TN. Blood clots, Fibromyalgia, Lung problems.

**Pat Miller** - Wife of Jim Miller, Gray, Maine preacher. In therapy from auto accident.

**Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.

**Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.

**Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems.

**Jo Ann McLerran** - COPD.

**Glenda Marble** - Lexington, Okla. - Heart problems.

**Debbie Post** - Wife of Salisbury, Maryland preacher Doug Post - Cancer.

**Sissy Craig** - For spiritual and emotional strength.

**Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure.

**Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.

**Chuck Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Undergoing treatment for Prostate Cancer.


**Don Smith** - Faithful brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

**ON THE ROAD** - Patrick and Sarah and their children are gone this week to Eastern Okla. to visit her brother Josh and his family.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** - Landry began teaching the first Thessalonian letter last week in the adult class.

**KENYA REPORT** - Contributing this week to the Kenya fund were, Ronald Skinner, Lexington, Okla.; The Parkview church of Christ, Odessa, Texas; and the Fish Hatchery Road church of Christ, Huntsville, Texas. We are grateful to all of our generous brethren who aid us in this great work.

Website - <a href="http://www.necocelkcity.com">www.necocelkcity.com</a> Face Book - <a href="http://www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok">www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok</a> You Tube - <a href="http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ">www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCNx52ouOrXoQ</a>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Those Who Serve</b>  <b>Sunday Morning, Feb. 4, 2018</b>                  First Prayer - Landry Brewer Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer                  Communion - Jerry Brewer Offering - Landry Brewer  <b>Sunday Afternoon, Feb. 4, 2018</b>                  First Prayer - Earl Reed Closing Prayer - Jerry Brewer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Records - Jan. 28</b>                  Bible Class.....17                  Morning Worship.....19                  Afternoon Worship.....17                  Contribution.....\$213.00</p>
<b>Weekly Meeting Times</b> Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....9:30 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30 Sunday Afternoon Worship.....5:00	



# Sound Doctrine

“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)

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## Things To Look For In A Mate

*Charles Pogue*

A marriage can be full joy or of trouble, disagreement, and bickering. A lot of problems could be avoided if young people look for the proper character and personality traits in a mate. Yes, we included personality traits in the statement. Character definitely comes first, but personality can make a big difference in the way husbands and wives get along with one another. So, what should a young person look for in one to marry?

First and foremost, one should look to marry a Christian. By a Christian, we do not mean merely a member of the Lord's church, but one who is a *faithful* member. Look for one who will comply with 2 Timothy 2:15, study to show himself approved unto God. One who is faithful to the Lord in all things. A spouse who never picks up his Bible to read and study is one who will usually be one hard to get along with. God instituted marriage in the beginning (Gen. 2:21-24), thus it makes perfect sense to marry one who is a faithful child of God. No one denies physical attraction is one of, if not, the first thing young people look for in a mate, but physical attraction will count for very little when the years roll by and the wrinkles roll in. Having a husband or wife who is faithful to the Lord will count for everything!

Second, look for a mate who understands and accepts what the Bible teaches respecting the roles of husband and wife in the marriage. A young couple contemplating marriage would do themselves a favor if they would sit together often (every day wouldn't be a bad idea) and read Ephesians 5:22-33. The husband is the head of the wife. He is not over her like a master is a slave. He is to love her as his own body. As the head, man is to take the lead in the home. There are several reasons God gave the man the leadership role. One of those reasons is a man is given to reason, whereas the woman is more prone to be moved by emotion. While there are exceptions, most important decisions need to be based on reason, not feelings. The wife is the caretaker of the home (Tit. 2:5). The verse is

not only talking about her washing dishes or laundry. Primarily she is a guard of the home. She sees it runs smoothly, and a good wife is good at it!

Third, look for a person who understands you are not perfect and do not expect them to be. We all sin from time to time (James 5:16; 1 John 1:8-10). Not only do we all sin from time to time, but we are not perfect in treating the relationship with our mate perfectly all of the time. When disagreements arise is one of those times love is tested the most, and it is one of the times wherein it is manifested if we are what we should be toward our mates. Be patient, be kind, be understanding, and most of all, be loving.

Fourth, look for a mate who understands you are taking the place of his family as the most important person in your life. The Lord Jesus affirmed Genesis two when He said, "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh" (Matt. 19:5). To be quite candid, one couple's parents or the other has on many occasions proven themselves to be a great source of trouble to their child's marriage. This is especially true if one or both sets are not Christians. Thus, it is imperative for the young couple to put God first in their lives, and then each other second. If Momma and Daddy continually cause trouble, we hear the North Pole is beautiful this time of year.

Fifth, and this relates to number one. Make sure to choose a mate who is a person keeping secular things in their proper place. If things of this world become too important to one or the other; things like work, entertainment, recreation, hobbies and so forth, there will be a rough row to hoe as the saying goes. God and faithfulness to Him must always take precedence over the things of this world. This world with its lusts will pass away but God's will abides forever (1 John 1:7). Two verses earlier the apostle wrote, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Sixth, look for a mate who will communicate. A problem can go unsolved; it can fester up and boil over into a knock down drag out fight, all because one mate or the other clammed up and refuses to talk. Experience is speaking here. Sometimes when a husband and wife talk a thing out, a voice may be raised here and there, but don't say something you will regret later. Keep your lips from speaking guile (1 Peter 3:10). Let your speech be with grace, seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6). Be angry, don't sin, and get over it (Eph. 4:26). Yes, there can be tense moments between a husband and wife when talking to resolve a problem, but 42 years of marriage says it is better to talk it out than to let it fester inside.

Seventh, and this was saved for last, not because it is least important, but rather after God being number one in a marriage between a man and woman, this may be the most important key to a happy marriage. We all have our differences, including husbands and wives, but the more things the two of you have in common the more they translate into many good and fun times. Don't let anyone tell you this isn't impor-

tant; it is! Additionally, if one spouse really likes something, and the other detests it, there may be bumps ahead. You ask, after my wife and I married I found out she loves a certain genre of entertainment, and I have nothing but disgust for it, what do I do? Remember she is an individual. Don't put her likes down, and don't run her down because she likes them. After all, she may let you clean that smelly old fish, right? We all have our differences, we must learn to live with them, so long as the thing one likes does not violate God's will.

A successful marriage takes a lot of hard work, but a good one is loaded with wonderful times. It is filled with a love superseding that between any other two individuals. A person must do his or her best in the things we have mentioned, and others as well. When are the two of you going to find out how true these things are in marriage? Wait till those children start coming along!

## Good News From Kenya

Good news of the work in Kenya came by email this week from Benard in reports from recent gospel meetings at Ogiek, Malele, Siagon, Benga Umuri, Goya, and Lighodo. Two were baptized in the Ogiek meeting, four at Mele, two at Benga, three at Umuri, one at Goyo, and one person was re-tored at Lighodo.

Of the church at Siagon, Benard wrote, "This congregation is big and has been meeting in someone's school building, but were told to look for a place of worship and are requesting brothers' help in putting up a temporary church building."



One of the baptisms at Ogiek



The church which meets at Siagon must now find another place to worship and hopes to erect a temporary building