

THE KEY QUALITIES OF A "REAL MAN" AS DEPICTED IN THE WEDDING TRADITIONS OF GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE, THE JEWS

2 COR 6:14 NIV DO NOT BE YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS.

1. THE PROSPECTIVE BRIDEGROOM TOOK THE INITIATIVE AND TRAVELED FROM HIS FATHER'S HOUSE TO THE HOME OF THE PROSPECTIVE BRIDE

✓ INITIATIVE (A LOVE CONFIRMED BY "PURSUIT")

**** IS HE A SELF-STARTER? DO I FEEL PURSUED BY HIM? DOES HE HAVE AN ADVENTURE WITH GOD PLANNED?***

2. THE FATHER OF THE WOMAN THEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE PROSPECTIVE BRIDEGROOM THE PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID TO SECURE HIS BRIDE.

✓ COURAGE (DOING THE RIGHT THING IN SPITE OF THE COST)

**** IS HE WILLING TO BE UNPOPULAR FOR GOD AND FOR YOU? WILL HE PROTECT YOU FROM PARENTS, KIDS, THE NEIGHBORS, ETC?***

3. WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM PAID THE PURCHASE PRICE THE MARRIAGE COVENANT WAS THEREBY ESTABLISHED. AT THAT POINT, THE MAN AND WOMAN WERE REGARDED TO BE HUSBAND AND WIFE, EVEN THOUGH NO PHYSICAL UNION HAD TAKE PLACE.

✓ SELFLESSNESS (THE WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE)

**** WILL HE SUBORDINATE HIS INTERESTS FOR GOD'S, YOURS, & THE KIDS? IS HE KIND?***

4. THE MOMENT THE COVENANT WAS ESTABLISHED, THE BRIDE WAS DECLARED TO BE SET APART EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE BRIDEGROOM. THE GROOM AND THE BRIDE THEN DRANK FROM A CUP OVER WHICH THE BETROTHAL BENEDICTION HAD BEEN PRONOUNCED. THIS SYMBOLIZED THAT THE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

✓ **HONESTY** (NO LIES; NO DECEPTION)

** DOES HE LIE? DOES HE HIDE THE TRUTH? IS HE LIKELY TO PROTECT YOU WITH THE SWORD OR RUN YOU THROUGH?*

5. AFTER THE MARRIAGE COVENANT WAS IN EFFECT, THE GROOM LEFT THE HOME OF THE BRIDE AND RETURNED TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSE. HE REMAINED THERE FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS SEPARATED FROM HIS BRIDE.

✓ **SELF-CONTROL** (INCLUDING SEXUAL PURITY)

** IS HE A MAN OF THE TEXT? WILL HE MAKE HIS DECISIONS ON HIS FEELINGS OR ON GOD'S WORD? DOES HE HAVE ANY ADDICTIONS?*

6. DURING THIS PERIOD OF SEPARATION, THE BRIDE GATHERED HER WARDROBE AND PREPARED FOR MARRIED LIFE. THE GROOM PREPARED LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE FOR HIS BRIDE.

✓ **INDUSTRY** (THE DESIRE & ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR HIS BRIDE)

** IS HE STILL LIVING OUT HIS HIGH SCHOOL DAYS? DOES HE ENJOY THE CHALLENGES OF MANHOOD? IS HE A HARD WORKER?*

JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, WAS ALSO THE PERFECT "REAL MAN." HIS CONDUCT WITH HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH, IN WINNING OUR SALVATION DEMONSTRATES THE ABOVE QUALITIES.

- ***CHRIST LEFT HIS FATHER'S HOUSE AND CAME TO EARTH TO GAIN A BRIDE FOR HIMSELF (EPH 5:25-28).***
- ***HE HAD TO PAY THE PRICE WITH HIS OWN BLOOD (1 COR 6:19-20).***
- ***THE BELIEVER HAS BEEN DECLARED TO BE SANCTIFIED OR SET APART EXCLUSIVELY FOR CHRIST (EPH 5:25-27).***
- ***CHRIST SYMBOLIZED THIS MARRIAGE COVENANT THROUGH COMMUNION AT THE LAST SUPPER (1 COR 11:25).***
- ***CHRIST RETURNED TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSE FOLLOWING THE PAYMENT OF HIS PURCHASE PRICE (JOHN 6:62).***
- ***HE IS PREPARING A PLACE FOR HIS BRIDE AND IS ALSO SENDING PASTORS AND TEACHERS TO PERFECT THE BRIDE FOR THE COMING WEDDING (JOHN 14:2; EPH 4:11-13).***

1 COR 16:13-14 NAS

BE ON THE ALERT, STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH, ACT LIKE MEN, BE STRONG. LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE.

LADIES! READ: PROV 31:10-31; TITUS 2:3-5; 1 PET 3:1-6

AND, BE VERY "CHOOSEY" IN SELECTING A MATE; THEN ADVISE HIM IN LOVE, SUBMIT TO HIM AND SUPPORT HIS LEADERSHIP.

