

SIGNS YOU ARE DATING A WRONG PERSON

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3)

Who you marry is as important as who you want to become. Marriage can make or unmake you, it can build or tear you down, depending on the one you take this journey with and the foundation of the marriage. Marriage is really sweet but depends on the cutlery you use to eat it.

We should therefore be cautious in our dating relationships and love not only with opened hearts but also with opened eyes. For marriage can make life very enjoyable and can also make it very endurable. In this study we are going to look at eleven red flags in dating which can lead to an unhappy marriage.

1. YOU HAVE DIFFERENT BELIEF SYSTEM

There is agreement when darkness mixes darkness, and there is harmony when light meets light. But causing light and darkness to live together creates a state of chaos and conflict. When God created the light Genesis 1:4 says; "God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness." God divided one from the other with different names; 'day' and 'night' such that the two cannot live together the same time at the same place.

Let us therefore not put together what God has separated. God will not give you a spouse who will take you from Him. If you are a Christian and you want a happy marriage that won't hinder your Christian life and that of your children, then dating a non-Christian is not an option.

2. YOU HAVE DIFFERENT INTERESTS

Relationship is like music, you don't play it with someone who doesn't understand your lyrics. Of course two persons cannot agree on every matter, but someone who is your suitable helper will share a common interest with you in most cases. They will accept most of the things you accept and reject most of the things you reject. For how can you date someone who loves almost all the things you hate and hates almost all

the things you love? Two people cannot walk together, except they be agreed (Amos 3:3).

Marriage is a journey. Why should you travel with someone going the opposite direction? Marrying someone with opposite interest is like causing a donkey to plough with cattle, they will be working against each other instead of working together to achieve their purpose. For they are two different animals with different interests. Mutual interest is a key to a successful marriage. A person who doesn't share your pillow will never understand your dreams. If you want a successful marriage, then choose someone who shares your interest.

Now the fact that an oxen finds it difficult to plough with cattle doesn't make the cattle an evil animal, just that they have different interests. So the fact that your relationship with someone is not working doesn't necessarily mean the person is evil, maybe it's just that the two of you have different interests.

3. YOU DON'T FULLY TRUST THEM

A good relationship is built on the foundation of trust. A relationship with wavering trust is very disastrous and hopeless, it can break any time. We build trust in people base on their actions and people who are prone to lying are hard to be trusted. If you are in a relationship where there is a little trust, then you have to reconsider it.

4. YOU ARE ALWAYS ANXIOUS AROUND THEM

King Solomon said it's "better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife" (Prov. 21:9). A relationship is meant to be a source of relief not to add up stress. You don't always have to be nervous and feel under pressure when you are with your would-be spouse. If you are always nervous and agitated when with your partner, then perhaps something is not clicking and has to be checked.

5. YOU IMAGINE YOURSELF WITH OTHER PEOPLE

As a matter of fact we can't stop ourselves from noticing other attractive people even when with our loved ones. But there is a difference between acknowledging the beauty of others and imagining yourself in relationship with them. There is a saying that; 'If you love two people at the same time, choose the second, because if you really loved the first one, you wouldn't have fallen for the second.' This implies you don't consider a second person if you really love the one you are with. If you are in a relationship, especially for a long period of time and you still ask yourself whether or not you want to be with this person, then you probably don't want to, and must reconsider it before it's late.

6. YOU DON'T ENVISION A CLEAR FUTURE TOGETHER

A person who wants to be part of your life tries to know your future plans. Do you imagine having kids with the person you are dating, growing old together or moving into your own house? If these things are of little importance to you then you probably don't want to spend your future with that person. If you keep your plans to yourselves and can't share your future plans together, then you may need to think over this relationship.

7. YOU DECLINE INSTEAD OF GROWING UP

A relationship is to build you up, not to tear you down. I'm not saying there are no challenges in relationships, but someone who is your helper will support and struggle with you through the challenges. If you are in a relationship where the other person is enjoying but you are declining instead of growing up as a person, then you probably have to reconsider it. For a good relationship should be mutual.

8. THE RELATIONSHIP IS ONE-SIDED

Good relationships are not found, they are created. It takes active efforts to build a good relationship but a one-sided relationship can take more work than you can bear. Are you always making the sacrifices while your partner is always enjoying? Are you the one to always start a

conversation or send a text? Do you always want to ask questions while your partner is always giving half way answers? Or your partner always does these things and you don't really care? If this is so, then you need to think over your relationship. For it takes two people to build a good relationship.

9. LACK OF LOVE AND ATTENTION

We make time for what matters to us. No one is always busy; it just depends on what number you are on their priority list. Everyone deserves love, every wants to be appreciated whether male or female. Love and attention are things not to be begged for; they are enjoyable if they naturally flow from both partners. Reasonably, if you are in a relationship where you are always begging for love and attention, then you are probably in a wrong relationship.

10. NOT INTERESTED ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

The importance of family in a relationship cannot be overlooked. It is somehow dangerous if your partner is always hiding you from their family, especially in long term relationships. People who don't want to make any commitment usually don't want to disclose their relationships to their parents or families. If your partner is not interested about your family or is always hiding you from their family, then you probably need to reconsider and ask questions where necessary.

11. CHEATING / INFIDELITY

This I think is the worst of all. Premarital sex itself is a deadly sin not to talk of cheating. Cheating shouldn't even be mentioned in a Christian relationship at all. It may probably depend on the cause but generally, there is a higher probability for someone who cheats before marriage to cheat after marriage. One who can willingly commit fornication before marriage can also commit adultery after marriage. You need to think over if you are in a relationship with someone who cheats. For that is very catastrophic.