

Don't Be Like Catherine

Tips for Unmarried Females

A young girl named Cathrine lived for the day she would be a bride. Long before she met her man, she faithfully read all the books she could, saved her money, and dreamed of that day and her blissful relationship with Prince Charming.

Then the day came when she met him. She thought about how thrilled she would be to iron his shirts and how she would plan every little detail of their home. When the wedding day arrived, they had the most exquisite service the little town had ever witnessed. Oh! It was sweet!

The first day after they returned from the honeymoon, Prince Charming just picked at his breakfast and said, "I'm sorry, Honey, but I don't like eggs Benedict." When he arrived home for lunch and sat expectantly gazing at the bare table, he mumbled something about how his mother always had his daddy's meals on time. Later that evening, he became irritated again when she asked why he had stayed at the office so late. Her dreams lay shattered. Prince Charming was treating her awfully. They did not last long. It ended in a bitter divorce in less than two years.

Why did the marriage fail? Were her expectations realistic? Was she properly prepared for a marriage relationship? Did she have a false idea that happiness would instantaneously happen in a romantic relationship? If so, she was brutally wrong. In this modern world individuals must be prepared to enter a lifelong romantic relationship.

Keep in mind that there is no instant happiness in a romantic relationship. It has to be cultivated and nurtured. Then, there are important things that must be in place first before entering a romantic relationship. I am addressing females in this article. Why? They seem to be the ones to get wounded first in most relationships, and one of the reasons might be how they are raised as females in the home. Hence, here are a few points I want all never-married singles to think about.

1. Make sure you are emotionally mature and ready to be in a relationship. If you are between the ages of sixteen to twenty, there is a likelihood that you are not emotionally ready for a life-long relationship. You

are not truly an emotional or psychological adult yet. Adulthood begins between the ages 21 and 25. Do not entangle yourself in one too soon.

2. Make sure you do not need a partner before you enter a relationship. If you need a man to love because you need to get out of your parents' home, you will, undoubtedly, have a miserable relationship with that person. You will be used and abused. If you are wounded female, your woundedness will cripple the relationship. You may not experience it at first, but some time soon you will, and you will feel trapped. Ensure all wounds of the past have been healed before entering a romantic relationship.

3. Do not have sex on your first, second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth date, etc. Sex destroys objectivity. It can befuddle the mind. Doing so you will be selling yourself cheaply, and it would be difficult to wisely evaluate your feelings and even admit you are being wounded all over again. Do not allow your sex drive to determine your heart or head drive. Use your brain and not your libido.

4. Do not sit and wait for years for your partner to ask you to marry him. Remember you have the power to decide. It is false to believe that the man is to direct your heart. You are in charge of your own heart. In healthy relationships, both partners literally talk themselves into marriage. It is a natural conversation that leads to the altar. If you go the old-fashioned way, note that the phrase "Will you marry me?" is not just a question. It is a statement of affirmation. In other words, in healthy relationships, it is not a surprising question. Both would have had many conversations about getting married and what their expectations would be. In fact, there are some couples who have never asked the question. They simply agree to get married.

5. This is a big one. Do not have long engagements. Engagement is the time to prepare for marriage and should last only six months to about a year. Engagement is actually a date to marry. If there is no date to marry, there is no engagement. You will only be engaged to be engaged. Far too many females sit and wait for the man to decide what to do next. Note that in romantic relationships, you have equal voice, vote, and authority. Learned how to become truly partners.

If you take the time to grow and become mature before getting romantically entangled, there is a better chance you will have a life-long romantic relationship. Please remember, ladies, do not give your body before you give your heart. The giving of your heart takes time, plenty of time. You do not want to end up like Catherine in our story.

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