

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSLIMS

Lessons for Online Missionaries dealing with Muslims

Lesson 24: Can You Help Me Find my True Love?

Many internet contacts ask for help in finding a spouse – they might use the words “true love,” or “life partner.” This is an example of such an email:

How are you? I'm Ali. I live in Pakistan and I am a Muslim. I am not rich. I want to marry an American or United Kingdom woman. Can you help me? Can you find any American or United Kingdom girls or women for me to marry?

You may find that many internet contacts who visited the MarriageAndGod or TrueLoveAndGod websites think these are matchmaking websites, designed for advertising for marriage partners. With this kind of “love” on their minds, how interested are they in the gospel? How can you respond to someone who asks you for help in finding true love?

First of all, it is good to remind the person that we are solely an online ministry helping people get to know God better. You can let him or her know that you are not in a position to help them find a spouse. If you are married, it might be good to let the person know that, so that they do not think of you as a potential wife or husband.

In South Asian culture it is normal for one's family to be very involved in the decision of whom to marry. If someone is secretly seeking a spouse online, it may not necessarily be a good situation!

This is an example of how one Online Missionary from South Asian background responded to someone who asked about finding a spouse. It shows a good understanding of the cultural traps in looking for a life partner. It gives biblical principles and points toward knowing Jesus Christ as a basis for finding true love.

Marriage is an institution ordained by God. God said in the Bible “it is not good for the man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Men and women are created by God to complement each other. When husband and wife come together in marriage, God considers them as one flesh, expressed in sexual union and in everything they share in life. Marriage is a sacred covenant, a life-long relationship of companionship and for raising godly generations of children. Therefore marriage should be entered seriously.

Since marriage is a life-long covenant, the choice of a life-partner needs wisdom. God has given us principles in the Bible as guidelines for living, including marriage. Money, raising one's status in society or outward appearance, are wrong motives for marriage. Marriage should be entered with much preparation, seriousness, willingness to take mutual responsibility and being accountable to each other. The couple that enters into marriage relationship needs to ensure

they are compatible. Partners must consider compatibility in areas like: physical, emotional, social, educational, and life goals.

A person also should be matured enough to enter into marriage. If you are not yet old enough or settled in life to be ready for marriage immediately, you should stay away from “falling in love” as it often results in damaged emotions. Meanwhile, you can develop your emotional and social maturity in several ways. Keep your mind and heart pure by not watching bad films or entertaining lustful thoughts. Pursue faithfulness and kindness among your current friendships. Seek spiritual truth, so as to base your future marriage on God’s foundation.

Since marriage is God's institution, when His principles are adhered to, marriage will grow, be successful and endure. When God becomes the centre of marriage there will be joy, peace and all God-intended blessings on the family. These blessings and more are offered to anyone, willing to obey, through the Lord Jesus Christ. When you receive His new life and make Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you can build your married life on a strong foundation.

Send comments/questions to flmcomments@nayajeevan.org