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about 740 words
Non-Fiction

IS HE THE ONE?

By Jill Williamson

Shopping for husband material is like looking for the perfect dress. It has to be a great fit, the right price, meet your needs, and look nice. For safety purposes, when I go shopping I need two things. A list and a budget. Without these two things, I get into big trouble.

So let's start shopping! Get a pen and paper and we're ready to go. First of all, there is no hurry. Like a really good sale, a potential husband will come to one who waits for the best deal, the best timing, and the one who fits the list and the budget.

MAKE YOUR SHOPPING LIST

List the qualities you want in a husband. Be careful not to describe your current crush or your favorite celebrity. Search your heart as you make this list. Pray about it. You have to live with this person until death do you part, so be brutally honest about yourself and your desires.

Some ideas are: Is close with his family, has brown hair, is good at conversations, opens the door for me, loves kids, plays a musical instrument, volunteers at church, likes to read, chews with his mouth closed, prays before his meals, is a good driver, plays a sport, knows what he wants to be and has a plan for his life, likes animals, makes me laugh, etc.

Buyer Beware! ‘Has a relationship with God’ needs to be at the top of your list. Do not be fooled by false advertising. A guy who claims to be a Christian isn’t good enough. A guy who goes to church every week isn’t good enough. Look for the guy who lives out his personal relationship with God in the way he treats himself, his family, his friends, and strangers. You can’t change him! That’s like buying that size 0 dress and planning to lose enough weight to fit into it. Odds are it ain’t gonna happen!

MAKE YOUR BUDGET

Now list the qualities you need to maintain in yourself to be the person God wants you to be. This is your game plan for staying true to yourself, setting boundaries for dating, and in the process screening out potential husbands from the rest. What’s important to you about yourself? These qualities should challenge you to be a woman after God’s heart and will help you become a better person.

Some ideas for your budget are: Dressing respectfully, clean language, playing soccer, maintaining relationships with your other friends, getting good grades, obeying your parents,

going on group dates only, keeping your curfew, no horizontal hanging out, going to college, Bible reading, wholesome music and movies, taking notes in church, etc.

If you find yourself compromising on your budget because of a guy you're with, move on! You can't afford to be with a guy like that. If you've always loved playing basketball and your date doesn't like you to play, he is not a good match. A potential husband won't ask you to compromise your values, dreams, or hobbies. He won't ask you to spend what isn't his.

TIME TO SHOP: USING THE LIST AND BUDGET TOGETHER

When you do go out or hang out with a boy, peruse him for the qualities on your list. Ask questions that will help you find out how he measures up. If you discover he doesn't match, you know not to go out with him or that he will stay a friend. He is not your future husband and therefore is someone else's. No sense investing your heart and his in a doomed relationship.

If he does fit the list, continue to date him, keeping a close eye on your budget to make sure you are staying true to who you are and growing as a woman. Read your list and budget every so often and make changes when you change. A year from now, 'prefers Batman over Superman' may not seem to important, and you may want to add, 'has a paying job.' Just be careful not to modify the list or budget because of the boy you think is super dreamy.

Your purity, deepest secrets, hopes, and dreams are for your husband. Sharing them with potentials you meet along the way isn't fair to anyone. Keep your relationships with boys platonic until you find a match. Saving that up for your marriage will be an investment you will always treasure.