

“When Dating, Keep Both Eyes Open. When Married, Shut One.”

A Guide to Dating With Discernment, Wisdom, and Covenant Intention

Dating is the only season where you have full permission — and full responsibility — to evaluate clearly. After the wedding, grace governs. Before the wedding, wisdom must.

“The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty” (Proverbs 22:3). Romantic infatuation is the most effective blindfold ever invented. Both eyes open is the deliberate removal of that blindfold.

7 THINGS YOU MUST SEE CLEARLY BEFORE YOU COMMIT

1

See How They Handle Anger.

How a person responds to frustration before marriage is exactly how they will respond after it. The wedding does not change the pattern — it reveals it permanently and removes the motivation to conceal it.

2

See How They Treat People Who Can Do Nothing for Them.

Waitstaff. Cashiers. Janitors. How someone treats people beneath them socially reveals actual character — far more accurately than how they treat the person they are trying to impress.

3

See How They Handle Money.

Financial incompatibility destroys more marriages than most people admit. Have the money conversation — fully, honestly, specifically — before the altar. Debt concealed in dating becomes crisis revealed in marriage.

4

See Their Relationship With Their Family.

How a man treats his mother is frequently how he will treat his wife. How a woman relates to her father often predicts how she will relate to her husband. Family of origin patterns travel — always.

5

See How They Respond to Correction.

A person who cannot receive feedback without defensiveness or rage will be an impossible spouse. Defensiveness in dating becomes entrenched in marriage. See it now — before the covenant makes it permanent.

6

See Whether Their Faith Is Real or Performed.

“Do not be unequally yoked” (2 Corinthians 6:14). Faith performed for courtship disappears after the wedding. Watch how they live — not just how they worship.

7

See Their Relationship With Themselves.

A person who does not love themselves well cannot love you well. Unhealed wounds and unaddressed trauma do not stay contained. They expand into the marriage and become its most persistent challenges.

Both eyes open in dating is not cynicism. It is stewardship — protecting the covenant before you enter it.

Both eyes open in dating is an act of stewardship — protecting the covenant before you enter it. One eye shut in marriage is an act of grace — honoring the covenant after you have entered it.

See clearly before you commit. Grace generously after you do.

— Lloyd Allen

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