

## LOVEmonth: First Things First

Younger Generation Church • February 20, 2010

*What is the DNA that propels our love relationships? Looks? Personality? Affluence? Power? This weekend we explore what first things will foster forever love.*

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### Attractiveness

The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

- 1Samuel 16:7b [NIV]

**Looks deceive. Looks are often an illusion and/or a distraction.**

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

– Proverbs 31:30 [NIV]

**Looks decline. Looks don't last.**

**Seek first a mate with a beautiful, God-fearing heart.**

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### Personality/Charisma

Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.

– Proverbs 21:19 [NIV]

Husbands, love your wives. Don't be mean to them.

– Colossians 3:19 [NIV]

**Looks don't make up for deficit of character.**

**Seek first a mate with a virtuous, Christ-centered character.**

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## Affluence/Money

You cannot serve both God and Money.

- Matthew 6:24b [NIV]

<sup>31</sup>So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**Money is a sinister mistress.**

**Seek first a mate who depends on God for everything.**

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### Power

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>**Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.**

<sup>25</sup>**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** <sup>26</sup>**to make her holy**, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

– Ephesians 5:22-31 [NIV]

The same goes for you husbands: Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them. As women they lack some of your advantages. But in the new life of God's grace, you're equals. Treat your wives, then, as equals so your prayers don't run aground..

- 1Peter 3:7 [NIV]

**Power is destructive.**

**“Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely” – Lord Acton**

**Seek first a mate who submits to and serves Jesus. Follow Jesus' example in how you treat each other.**