



# Courting **Disaster**

Class 4. Manitoulin Youth Conference 2009

**Strong Marriages**



**Strong Families**



**Strong Ecclesias**

# Purposing in Our Hearts

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*Seeking the LORD has to be a conscious decision we proactively apply to the little choices of life.*


# Watching Our Affections

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- ✓ **Set your affections on things above, not on the things on the earth**

***Carelessness in this matter is faith-wrecking. Things with small beginnings grow; therefore let us watch the “beginnings.”*** Especially is this necessary in the matter of companions without the Truth; progress in the wrong way is easy—acquaintance, friendship, affection, ending, — alas!— how often in marriage with the alien and forsaking the Truth. Solomon’s experience is recorded for our admonition... the true Christadelphian’s affections are set upon the things of God and of His Truth; his companions are those of “like precious faith”.

(Christadelphian Standards by W.J. White, pp.9-10)

A photograph of a desert landscape featuring sand dunes. The foreground shows intricate, wavy ripples in the sand, likely formed by wind. A path of footprints leads up a dune. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The overall scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

**“ Oh be careful little feet where you go  
For it's the little feet behind you  
That are sure to follow ”**

# Myth Busters

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- ▶ **Myth # 1.** “help meet” is a noun.
- ▶ **Genesis 2:18** “and the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an **help meet** for him.”



**A help meet**

# Myth Busters

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- ▶ **Myth #2.** “It won’t hurt me if I date/marry someone who is an unbeliever.”

# A Conflict of Allegiance

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## ✓ By the Numbers...

### Within the Christian community

MARRIAGE WITH A ...	BELIEVER	NON-BELIEVER
Remained active in the Church	<b>92%</b>	<b>27%</b>
Left the Church	<b>8%</b>	<b>72%</b>
Divorced	<b>3%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Converted the Spouse	<b>-</b>	<b>17%</b>

Statistics compiled by Bobby Key from the church in Miami, Oklahoma congregation over the 20-year period regarding 143 Christians over 20 years ending about 1977.



# A Conflict of Allegiance

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## ✓ By the Numbers...

Is this what you see?

MARRIAGE WITH A ...	BELIEVER	NON-BELIEVER
Remain strong in the Truth		
Leave the Truth		
Get divorced		
Convert our Spouse		<b>17 %</b>

Based on 120 young people

# A Conflict of Allegiance

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## ✓ By the Numbers...

Don't be naïve.

MARRIAGE WITH A ...	BELIEVER	NON-BELIEVER
Remain strong in the Truth		
Leave the Truth		<b>72 %</b>
Get divorced		
Convert our Spouse		<b>17 %</b>

Based on 120 young people

# A Conflict of Allegiance

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✓ **A Sociologist who studied the Christadelphians made this observation:**

"There can be no doubt that the rule against exogamy (marriages outside the faith) effectively promotes the individual's allegiance to the faith, and that most Christadelphians are so brought up that the rule operates without them feeling very much constraint. **For those who make outside affiliations, a real conflict of allegiance develops.**"

(Sects and Society by Brian Wilson)

# A Conflict of Allegiance

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## ✓ Unequal Yoking

“This ‘real conflict of allegiance’ is called in Scripture ‘unequal yoking’. It relates to the yoking of two dissimilar animals such as an ass and an ox. The different stride makes for great hardship and irritation for each animal. **This is what marriage with an unbeliever brings.**”

(The Way of a Man with a Maid by bro. Ron Abel, pg.14)

“ You are **RESTRICTED**  
by Your own affections ”



# Myth Busters

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- ▶ **Myth #3.** “All the verses you bring up talk about marriage – it might be wrong to marry outside the Truth but the Bible doesn’t say anything about dating outside the Truth”

# Myth Busters

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- ▶ **Myth # 4.** “The Christadelphians are too small of a group to choose from – there’s no way we could all find partners for life in the Truth.”

# Myth Busters

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- ▶ **Myth # 5.** “I have been hurt so bad by a Christadelphian boyfriend that it’s clear to me that I can’t find a great spiritual companion in the Truth. I’m better off looking outside to find a nice guy to be in a relationship with.”



# Myth Busters

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- ▶ **Myth # 6.** “I think regardless if I date in or out of the Truth, things will work out if it’s meant to be, and I pray about it.”