



Finding a Conjugal Partner

Lesson Overview

1. Watch a Video

Watch *How to Find Your Perfect Partner!* online at bit.ly/GCEDPartner (4min 38sec). Discuss.

2. Read

Does everyone have a partner?

3. Activities

My Ideal Partner.

4. Take Home

Marriage: How can I prepare to become a partner?

New Church Concept Conjugal Love

Chastity in marriage comes about through totally rejecting relationships that are based on natural sexual attraction from religious principles. The reason is that chastity is the removal of unchasteness. See *Conjugal Love* 147.7

No love can ever become pure in human beings, nor in angels. So neither can conjugal love. But because the Lord primarily regards the intention that is in the will, therefore to the extent that a person has the intention and perseveres in it, to that extent he is introduced into the purity and holiness of this love, and gradually makes progress in it. *Conjugal Love* 71

FaithBuilder 1 | Lesson 21 | Conjugal Love

Watch a Video

Watch *How to Find Your Perfect Partner!* | Number Hub with Hannah Fry | Head Squeeze at bit.ly/GCEDPartner (4min 38sec). (Enter bitly link in web browser bar at the top of your screen.)

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. Is there such a thing as a “perfect partner?”
2. Does the Lord create a perfect partner for each person? Or might several people *become* your perfect partner?
3. Is finding a “perfect partner” a matter of identifying a person with the qualities you are looking for?
4. What’s more important—to find a perfect partner, or to become one?

Read

What are your chances of finding a marriage partner who is perfectly suited to you out of the seven billion people on earth? We live at a time when there is much confusion about marriage. Movies and popular culture glamorize behaviors that do not lead to lasting happiness. Many people believe this is the way to live—it may even feel like “everyone” lives that way. So what are the chances of meeting a partner who embraces your values?

The Writings say the following:

The source of human attraction and repulsion is feelings that emanate from people’s minds. These feelings attract others who have similar feelings and repel other who do not. Although these emanations are countless and are not picked up by any physical sensation, they are perceived by the sensation of our soul as a single thing. *True Christianity* 365:4

Some similarities and dissimilarities are internal, and some are external. Internal ones trace their origin solely from religion. In contrast, external similarities and dissimilarities are qualities not of souls but of dispositions. By dispositions we mean people’s outward affections and consequent inclinations which are implanted after birth chiefly through their upbringings, associations, and resulting habits. It is the same with dissimilarities in manners. As for example, in the marriage of a quarrelsome man or woman with one who is peaceable—in short, in the marriage of an unmannerly man or woman with one who is well-mannered. In human beings dissimilarities show in habits of behavior. See *Conjugal Love* 246

For people who desire truly conjugal love, the Lord provides similar partners, and if they are not found on earth, He provides them in heaven. This results from the fact that all marriages of truly conjugal love are provided by the Lord. *Conjugal Love* 229

Focusing on becoming the kind of person we hope to marry is a healthy way to address concerns about whether or not we will find a partner. The Lord certainly wants to bless each person with His gift of marriage. And the Heavenly Doctrines do promise that there *is* a partner for each person—whether or not we meet and marry a partner on earth. Cultivating habits that support the marriage we want can help us recognize these qualities in others too.

Discussion

Choose questions for discussion.

1. What attracts us to others? Why can qualities that are quite different from our own be attractive?
2. What personal qualities do you envision in your future partner?
3. Is it possible to fall in love with *any* person and receive conjugal love? After all, developing a personal faith and acting lovingly and wisely takes a lifetime. Can partners develop conjugal love *within* their relationship?
4. Which is more important—to share the same fundamental values and beliefs with a partner, or to love the same kinds of music, clothing and activities?
5. What kinds of indicators tell us whether a person will make a good marriage partner?

Activity: My Ideal Partner

Visualize

What qualities do you want your married partner to have? Visualize 10-12 personal qualities e.g. understanding, spiritual, caring, funny. Write these qualities below.

Rank

Now rank these qualities in order of importance to you.

1.	5.	9.
2.	6.	10.
3.	7.	11.
4.	8.	12.

Optional: Organize the ranked qualities as a word cloud that highlights the most important qualities.

Angels from the golden age told Swedenborg, "We have lived a blessed life in heaven from the earliest time, remaining forever in the same flower of youth that you see us in today." I looked at them closely, because I perceived that they represented conjugal love in their life as shown in their faces, and in their outward appearance as shown in the clothing they wore. The husband's eyes flashed a light sparkling with the wisdom of love. His face seemed to be inmostly radiant with this light, and because of the radiance from within, outwardly his skin virtually shone. In the case of the wife, the bright glow of a blazing light, shone in her face, so that I was simply amazed by it. Noticing this, the wife spoke to me, saying, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see only conjugal love and a picture of it". See *Conjugal Love* 42:2-4

The states produced by conjugal love are innocence, peace, tranquility, inmost friendship, complete trust, a mutual desire of the mind and heart to do the other every good; also, as a result of all these, bliss, felicity, delight, pleasure, and, owing to an eternal enjoyment of states like this, the happiness of heaven.... On the deepest levels the Lord infused into people conjugal love to which He could impart all kinds of bliss, felicity, delight and pleasure, states which, together with life, proceed and flow in solely from the Lord's Divine love through His Divine wisdom. Consequently they flow into people who are in a state of truly conjugal love, because they alone are receptive of them. See *Conjugal Love* 75

Marriage

Excerpted from "*From the Top of the Yardstick*" by Donnette Alfelt
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Just now, the time for finding the right person or planning your wedding day may seem very distant. However if you honor and long for a marriage of trust and commitment to one partner, now is the time to begin working on it. There are things you can do now based on your beliefs and hopes about the marriage covenant:

- Get to know who you are and what you value.
- Avoid influences and actions that might degrade the ideals of marriage.
- Work on qualities in yourself that you will be looking for in a partner. The moral virtues of honesty, chastity, communication skills, loyalty, compassion, etc.
- Learn to understand and appreciate how the sexes differ and how they can complement each other.
- Learn practical skills that will help make your future home run more smoothly.
- Improve your mind through education so that you will be able to work if desired or necessary and so that you can become a more informed, interesting and useful partner.
- Work on healthy friendships with both sexes in preparation for a friendship with your married partner.
- Practice kindness and communication skills with family and friends who are in your life now.
- Learn to deal with the unexpected.
- Look for mentors.
- Trust in the Lord and follow His leading.
- Of course all of these things will lead to a more interesting and happy life even apart from marriage.

You live in a culture that for the most part doesn't seem to value marriage. It will often be very difficult to rise above the influences that bombard you with messages that dishonor and disrespect the marriage vows.