



12 Questions

EVERY FATHER SHOULD ASK A PROSPECTIVE SON-IN-LAW

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1. ARE YOU UNITED SPIRITUALLY?

God isn't a matchmaker, but he does ask that husbands and wives be "equally yoked" (2 Corinthians 6:14). Has the man accepted Christ as his savior? Is he pursuing a daily relationship with Christ? Is he a Christian but has fallen away from his faith?

2. ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A LIFELONG COMMITMENT?

The young man is *freely choosing* your daughter, and your prospective son-in-law needs to be prepared to do whatever it takes to make it work.

You want to be sure that he believes that marriage is for a lifetime—that the word *divorce* isn't in his vocabulary.

3. WHAT DO YOU SEE IN MY DAUGHTER THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO MARRY HER?

You want to know that he is drawn to your daughter's *inner* character traits (i.e., integrity, generosity, kindness, loyalty, spirituality).

You want to make sure that he values their differences and see how their individual strengths and weaknesses complement each other.

4. DO YOU AGREE ON CORE VALUES AND BIG DREAMS?

Do they both agree on the "big stuff," such as children and career goals? Do they both generally want the same things out of life?

Make sure they're both heading in the same direction.

5. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO SUPPORT MY DAUGHTER?

An important part of marriage is God's command to leave your mother and father (Genesis 2:24). A newly married couple cannot "leave" Mom and Dad if the couple's still depending on them for housing or financial support. What is his job situation? What are his career goals? Is he bringing debt into the relationship?

6. WOULD YOU MARRY...*YOU*?

A healthy marriage requires two healthy individuals. Obviously, you're not looking for perfection, but you want to see if he is aware of his weaknesses, growth areas and blind spots.

7. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MY DAUGHTER?

Obviously, you'd like to assume that your daughter and her boyfriend like each other, and that they like spending time together. But what does he specifically like about her?

8. DO YOU HAVE MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATION?

Communication is the lifeblood of a marriage. How well do they communicate? Ask him *what* they talk about. Is it mostly about to-do lists and schedules? Or do they talk about deeper emotional issues?

9. HOW DO YOU MANAGE CONFLICT?

There is no such thing as a win-lose situation in marriage. You will either win together or lose together. Is he respectful and loving to your daughter when they disagree? Does he value her point of view? Are they able to repair their relationship after a fight? Do they find solutions that feel good to *both* of them—as teammates?

10. DO YOU AND MY DAUGHTER AGREE ON BIBLICAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

Biblically, a husband's role in a marriage is all about sacrificial leadership. But what does that mean? Do they both agree on the wife's role within marriage?

Yes, husbands and wives have different roles and different gifts. But they were created as equals—both made in the image of God (1 Peter 3:7).

11. HAVE YOU HAD A RANGE OF EXPERIENCES TOGETHER?

Has the young man seen your daughter when she's stressed? Has he seen her when she's grieving or frustrated? Ask if they've had a wide range of relationship experiences.

Are they compatible in a wide variety of situations?

12: ARE THERE ANY RELATIONAL RED FLAGS?

Ask to hear their "love story" from his perspective—and pay attention to problem areas. For instance: Have they broken up and gotten together multiple times? Has there been any abuse or violence? Do they live together? Are they simply "sliding" into marriage? And while a red flag doesn't necessarily mean a marriage is doomed before it even begins, it does mean that all parties should be extra cautious going forward.

Encourage him to initiate individual or couples counseling before you give him your blessing.



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