Bible passages on getting married or staying single

What about sexual boundaries before marriage?

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

2Timothy 2:22. Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Romans 13:13. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

1Thessalonians 4:3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God;

Ephesians 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

(Beware of and avoid whatever behavior may lead to passionate lust.)

(Reserve any sexual foreplay for marriage.)

(To avoid temptation, it may be best to meet in a public place.)

More Bible passages on how far is too far?

Should I marry or remain single?

Staying single can give you more freedom to devote your time and attention to the Lord's work. A good marriage offers companionship and intimacy, along with the responsibility of caring for a spouse. Both can be good choices. (Genesis 2:18, 24 and 1 Corinthians 7:2–5, 8–9, 28, 32–35) Be aware, unlike a Hallmark movie, marriage can have many troubles. (1 Corinthians 7:28)

1Corinthians 7:

8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. 26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin

marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

36 If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. 37 But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. 38 So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better.

39 A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. 40 In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

Is this person a good match for me?

Dating is a time to get to know each other and see if she/he is a good match.
See and compare different options. Which is a good match, a helper suitable for you.

- Beware of and avoid a bad match.

Proverbs 21:9 Better to live on a corner of the roof
than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.
(Do we communicate well, disagree respectfully? Is she kind and understanding?)

Proverbs 14:1 The wise woman builds her house,
but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.
(Do we lift each other up? Do we encourage or discourage each other?)
(Does she build me up mentally, emotionally, spiritually, socially?)

2 Corinthians 6:14
Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.
(If yoked together, then it is important to have the same faith, values, goals and priorities.)

Proverbs 12:4 A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

• Find a good match, a helper suitable for you.

Genesis 2:18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds what is good
and receives favor from the Lord.
(Finding a good wife, a good match, is a blessing.)

Proverbs 19:14 Houses and wealth are inherited from parents,
but a prudent wife is from the Lord.
(Seek a wise, discerning and godly woman.)

Ephesians 5:33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself,
and the wife must respect her husband.
(Find a woman who shows respect.) (Find a woman whom you love.)

Galatians 5:23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Proverbs 11:25 A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Joshua 24:15 But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Proverbs 11:16 A kindhearted woman gains respect.

Proverbs 14:11 Blessed is he who is kind to the needy.

Proverbs 31:
10 A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies.
11 Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.
12 She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.
15 She gets up while it is still night;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her female servants.
16 She considers a field and buys it;

out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
17 She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.
18 She sees that her trading is profitable,
and her lamp does not go out at night.
19 In her hand she holds the distaff
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
20 She opens her arms to the poor
and extends her hands to the needy.
21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household;
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
22 She makes coverings for her bed;
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
23 Her husband is respected at the city gate,
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
24 She makes linen garments and sells them,
and supplies the merchants with sashes.
25 She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
26 She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
27 She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
28 Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
29 “Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.”
30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
31 Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Titus 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Don't be led astray

Genesis 39:
7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"
8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

Proverbs 7:
6 At the window of my house
I looked down through the lattice.
7 I saw among the simple,
I noticed among the young men,
a youth who had no sense.
8 He was going down the street near her corner,
walking along in the direction of her house
9 at twilight, as the day was fading,
as the dark of night set in.
10 Then out came a woman to meet him,
dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.
13 She took hold of him and kissed him
and with a brazen face she said:
18 Come, let's drink deeply of love till morning;
let's enjoy ourselves with love!
19 My husband is not at home;
he has gone on a long journey.
21 With persuasive words she led him astray;
she seduced him with her smooth talk.
22 All at once he followed her
like an ox going to the slaughter,
like a deer stepping into a noose
23 till an arrow pierces his liver,
like a bird darting into a snare,
little knowing it will cost him his life.
24 Now then, my sons, listen to me;
pay attention to what I say.
25 Do not let your heart turn to her ways
or stray into her paths.

The woman in Proverbs 7 was married, but the warning applies to dating too. If someone you're attracted to tries to persuade you to cross a sexual boundary, think about where that choice will lead. Decide what honors God before you're under pressure. (Proverbs 7:21–25 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3)

Isaiah 53:6
We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.