

Neher: I have a couple of questions.

Fine what are they?

Neher: First, relating to people who are not yet married. You spoke of the danger of a person going on a purely superficial attraction. How can a person who is heading toward marriage make a sober evaluation. What are the things he should have in mind? Whether or not he's making a mistake.

The primary thing, of course, is whether two people are really earnest Christians wanting to serve the Lord then I think any two if they really want to do it they can make a happy marriage. But that means being absolutely sure the other person is as well as that one is one's self.

That is the primary thing. I've known people who have said, If they were considering proposing to a woman they would drop around to her house in the morning when she wasn't dressed up at all and get an idea what she looked like. Others say when she wasn't fixed up or dolled up or expecting you see how she took it. I've heard others say they would try to see what her mother was like. ~~A woman is very apt to be 20 or 30 years later very much like her mother.~~  
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I know a very fine minister whom I talked with at some length --we rode together on a plane one time-- he told me about his son and how his son who had been trained for the ministry had been very much interested in a young woman who was having a very unhappy home life. Her mother was very mean to her, and he wanted to take her out of that situation and so he got married sooner than he would have ordinarily perhaps. He went into the ministry and after a few years left the ministry and took a position teaching somewhere, because, the father told me, as time went on the woman became more and more like her mother and she made so much trouble in the church by her criticism of people that he had to get into a work where she would not have much connection with his actual work. Here he was taking her out of a situation and yet she developed into just the same way.

I didn't gather from him there was anything wrong or wicked but it was more an attitude of criticism and making little difficulties, etc. The thing was that the == seeing what the mother is like doesn't necessarily prove what the daughter will be like later. But that is one guide that some have found very helpful. I think it is also very important seeing what interests people have in common. That's not so easy, because people like to be together and want to seem interested, want to be interested. But they won't keep on being interested later on if they don't have a real interest. So if one can find out what a person has been interested in before-- what their amusements are, what their attitudes have been ~~and~~ in various situations. It's always wise to learn all one can before making irrevocable decisions.

I don't think that any decisions short of actual marriage should be considered as irrevocable. I think it is very important