

Wheaton College  
Wheaton, Illinois

My dear M. K.,

I'll bet I've got you on that one. Do you know what "M. K." means? It's almost the same as "P. K." A "M. K." is a Missionary's Kid and a "P. K." is a Preacher's Kid. Well, enough of that.

This letter really is going to be brief (for a change). I started another letter to you tonight, but will be unable to finish it. But I want you to remember that I am constantly thinking of you and I am deeply, deeply in love with you. Another thing, if I fail to send some kind of a letter, I'm afraid I'll receive none.

On Thursday I finish my exams and then I'll have a nice long letter for you. Alright?

Mom received a letter from your mother yesterday. We were surprised to hear things to be as bad as they are. But we do know that the Lord has a plan and He knows the solution of every problem.

So that I might study, I'll have to say, "Good night, my love."

Your loving husband,

*Bernie*  
*J*

June 16, 1948

Darling,

Guess what? Your letter just arrived. I have been waiting for it so that I could complete this letter to you. All week I have been watching the mail-box. I didn't realize how obvious my hopes were until Elaine started kidding me. When I blushed I guess I gave it all away. Oh well, I love you and they must realize it by now anyway.

I'm glad you wrote, but I'm sorry your letter was so brief. I'll forgive you if you don't let it happen again. We had a Conference in our Church some years ago, and I can remember how busy I was then. So, be sure to have a good time and behave yourself (if you can!).

Yes, Sweetheart, I need you too. Your letters are important, but they are not enough. One of these days when I go for my mail, I hope that you will be there and I can pull you out of my box. Do you think you can fit into it?

You know, Sweetheart, I often have tried to decide why I am so attracted to you. I am sure that there are many reasons, as there should be. When a fellow looks at a girl for the first time, the attraction is physical. This is natural. But a physical attraction is not sufficient grounds for matrimony. Never-the-less, many young people marry with no stronger bonds than just that. That is when infatuation is mistaken for love. Such infatuation ~~often~~ seems very real; but with time it dissolves and disappears. Yes, Darling, you are very pretty and for me you have a very definite physical attraction. But, Sweetheart, I believe our love goes far deeper than just that. I have learned to admire you and to love you for

No. 20 - 4.

the swell girl that you are. In other words, when the years roll by and you are not as pretty as you are now, I can and will still love you with all my heart, for I have learned to adore the little Dodo that is under that beautiful form. Understand? I believe I love you, and if I love you I want to marry you. But love alone is insufficient basis for marriage. True, love is absolutely necessary for a happy marriage; but a marriage based on love alone seldom can be successful. Love, of course, is the emotional aspect. The basis for a successful marriage must not only be emotional, but intellectual. I'll try to explain what I mean. Suppose you love someone, yet that person has a disease that will soon take his life and that you might catch; everyone knows that it would not be good sense to marry that person. Or perhaps the person you love is not a Christian; the Word of God forbids you to marry him. Or again, suppose the Lord calls you to the mission field, and the man you love refuses to go; would you turn your back on the Lord's leading for the sake of love? The Lord may even have allowed you to fall for such a person to test your faithfulness for Himself. You see, Honey, we need more than love for marriage. Love is necessary, but so is the intellectual side - marriage must be sensible as well.

Then there is the other extreme. Some foolish persons marry for the intellectual side alone. As with the other extreme, such a union seldom can be a success. For example, you realize that you can play the piano rather well, so you choose a fellow who can sing, not necessarily because you love him, but you know you will make a good team. Perhaps he is a good speaker and can play a horn as well. It looks like a good deal for you. So you imagine that you love him, though down deep in your heart there is another. Many preachers marry for this reason. For their church they need

No. 20 - 5.

a pianist; so they marry one (cheaper that way). Marriage must be for more than just practical reasons. It must be based on both common sense AND love.

Concerning this matter, it is marvelous how the Lord has directed our lives, My Darling. We truly are made for each other. Personally, I know of no better match. Our marriage will be both emotional and practical - based on both common sense and love. We are very much alike and according to what I have been studying in psychology, this is essential for a close friendship. We have similar likes and dislikes. Some claim that we even look alike. We are both Christians and both have given our lives to the Lord. The Lord seems to be leading both of us to China. You can play the piano and sing and I have been taking vocal and cornet lessons. Though you were raised in China, and I in the United States, we have similar backgrounds: both Swedish Baptist, from Christian homes, etc. We both would like to have a family, both love children. And most important of all, we both have a hunger to win men and women to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus. This, Doris, is the practical side of our romance. I believe the Lord himself has taken care of emotional side. You claim to love me and I am sure I love you. We already have dedicated our lives and home to the Lord. He is the head of our house. Tell me, how can such a union help but be a success? I am lead to believe that since I was born twenty-five years ago and since you were born twenty vears ago, the Lord has in His own way been molding our lives, shapping them so that they would eventually fit together. Sweetheart, does it not seem that we are destined to become one, Just God and you and me.

There are at least two reasons why one ought to marry. The primary reason, I believe, is for fellowship - mutual assistance. I need your help and encouragement and love. Individually we cannot

No. 20 - 6.

serve the Lord as well as we can together. If I am to be a success in life, it will be because of your love for me. If you are to be a success in life, it will be because of my love for you. A person only can do his best when he is contented and happy. And who wants to see a down-hearted Christian? The world would say, "If that is Christianity, I don't want it." Because we are made to be man and wife, we can never be satisfied otherwise. That's just the way God has planned things. That's true for us too. We are in love and cannot be content until we are together. Yes, there are those women on the mission field who never marry. I admire them; I know they have suffered great heart-ache. I am sure that if enough men were willing to give themselves to missionary service, the Lord would want most all them to marry. I admire them for turning against love to do the will of God. But how much better they could have served if they had the assistance and encouragement of a mate. Yes, primarily marriage is for fellowship - for mutual assistance.

The other reason for marriage is to satisfy the God-given, natural desires. In fact, God has placed so much importance on intercourse that He has made the sex-drive perhaps the strongest of a person's desires. Sexual intercourse is an honorable and necessary part of married life. It is not to be shunned, but taken part in whole-heartedly. It is as natural as breathing. And further, it is ordained of God (see Hebrews 13:4). Not only is intercourse necessary for reproduction, but it is necessary for bringing the husband and wife into the very closest possible relationship, binding them body and soul together. But, as important as sex is, it is sometimes over-stressed. Many are attracted to those of the opposite sex for physical reasons and marry because of lust. I do not believe this is pleasing to the Lord. As for myself, Sweetheart, I want you to know that I am drawn to you physically (as you are drawn to me

No. 20 - 7.

physically). This is only natural. Yet, primarily I want to marry you not because you are a girl alone, but because you are a certain Doris Rinell, the one I love. In other words, I don't want to marry you primarily to satisfy the desires of the flesh, but because the Lord has placed a deep love in my heart for you. The sexual part of our marriage, though very important, will be only secondary. The basic thing is our fellowship - not the love of our bodies only, but the love of our whole selves.

Sweetheart, be sure to answer me, do you think I have spoken too freely on this all important subject? We are admittedly in love and I think we need to have an understanding on such all-important issues, don't you? And we are not children, but adults. Many people are afraid to speak on this subject. I think that is foolish. It is a part of us, God-given and as necessary as eating. The Bible is not quiet on sex, but deals with it plainly and openly; so why shouldn't we? I definitely don't believe in making fun of sex or telling filthy stories about it; but to you, my wife, surly I can talk freely.

Yes, Sweetheart, Mom and Dad do need me. But if I believe it is the Lord's will for me to go to Sweden, I'll go. However, I don't believe I should transfer schools this year; perhaps next. Eventually the folks will have to get along without me. I have two brothers in the city and they will have to help when I go. True, they have families; but so will I have a family (or so will we).

Well, I must get busy; there is much for me to do tonight. Remember, Darling, I'll be thinking of you always. Remember to keep away from those dumb Swedes. You're MINE and mine ALONE.

I was just thinking, how well do you remember Chinese? Just as soon as we are married, you will have to start giving me lessons.

If I have to depend on the Chinese language to make love, I'll

No. 20 - 8.

be sure to learn fast!!!!!! And if I am to know the language before returning to China, I'll have to start taking lessons very soon (YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!). About all I can say now is "Ding-how" and "Boo-how." When I see your picture, I say, "Ding-how!" Remember, Sweet, I love you.

Your loving husband,

Bernie

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