**“Failure to Launch” by Zane Reavis**

Do You have a “soul mate” out there…somewhere?

One of the most devastating thoughts to an unmarried person can be that you are not “the most important person” in someone else's life.

Most all of us need a soul mate;

Someone with whom we can confide in and they in us;

Someone with which there is an unmatched acceptance, understanding and love that exists between the 2 of you.

The purpose of this article is to help you move closer to that dream relationship.

But first, let’s look at correcting our mistakes. If you are the typical unmarried person,

You have made these mistakes. Your challenge in reading this article will be in noting some of the reasons why you have **not** found “that special someone” yet; before going on to discover **how to** find your soul mate. There are simple and yet typical mistakes that we all make in our day-dreaming of how this event called “finding our soul mate” will take place. I call them our “Failure to Launch.” You will notice that these are not mistakes in our actions, but mistakes in our train of thought.

Failure to Launch #1

“When I meet them, I will know!”

Countless studies have been done that prove the happiest marriages are those where the 2 had to weather some storms together, and developed a deeper love, understanding and appreciation for each other.

Failure to Launch #2

“You haven’t found your soul mate yet because you’re not close enough to God yet. When you get close enough, He will reveal your soul mate to you.”

2 things tend to take place here.

1. We are “guilting”ourselves in a way that is Spiritually unhealthy. This does not line up with the character of God as described in His Word. It creates a “works based” faith where we have to be worthy before God does anything for us. This way of thinking ignores the teaching in His Word that we are counted worthy because of His death on the cross. We will never be worthy enough, so He died for us. (Ephesians 2:8-9, and Paul’s teachings in the book of Romans.)

Our love and appreciation for what He has done for us should be what motives us to want to please Him.

Which brings me to my 2ndpoint here: We can be tempted to pursue a relationship with God with wrong motivation. (James 4:3).

Failure to Launch #3

“My soul mate will be one that focuses on me and my needs to the neglect of their own.”

This can come out of our cultural philosophy that is self-centered and focuses on

“What’s in it for me?”

Think about it! Isn't that the way we think about church.”? What can the church do for me?” (Instead, we should be seeking to serve not be served.) And what about friendships or other relationships: “What can this person do for me?”

“Lisa” of Focus on the Family’s “Boundless” series, quotes a friend as saying that she never realized how selfish she was until she got married.

Failure to Launch #4

“I have ONE soul mate out there…somewhere!

If I miss it, I’m doomed to live with someone who wasn't meant for me.”

The fact is that God is bigger than that! Many people say, “This must not be the one” at the first sign of trouble.

Many people wind up divorced because of this shallow way of thinking. I've found the same to be true in choosing a career path. God has many options for us because He is big enough and merciful and creative enough to offer us options.

Again, traditional church teaching is that God only has ONE option for you. Again, the falsehood is taught that the only way to figure it out is to get close enough to God that He shows you “THE ONE.” The problem is, Our God is Bigger; too big to fit in such a little box.

O.K. FINALLY…Here comes “the good stuff!” You've read and waited long enough. :)

Let’s call these points: “Fueling for a Successful Launch.”

Fuel #1

Cultivate friendships and close friendships with a few.

This corrects a common mistake that singles make because we are too busy or because we've been hurt, etc. We don’t take time to develop friendships with other Christian brothers and sisters out side of just superficial social gatherings. Singles tend not developed the ability to be in a deep relationship outside of dating with other friends, yet they expect to enter into an intimate relationship with someone because they are dating.

Too many go into marriage without ever having cultivated a friendship.

Studies done by Focus on the Family and others have shown that every unmarried person needs a same sex intimate friend as well as an opposite sex intimate friend. “Intimate” here does NOT refer to sex, but defines an open relationship that is built on trust, confidentiality and accountability; as well as fun. These relationships need to exist outside the realms of “dating.”

Fuel #2

Work at “Be coming marriageable” verses looking for someone to marry.

Waiting until your married to be a great husband or wife is like expecting to be a great athlete in any sport during the game without ever practicing or training beforehand.

Search Scripture. Seek pastoral counsel. Read Christian self-help books or search the Internet for on line courses and seminars.

You might wonder why it's taking so long for God to bring you someone. It may be because you are not ready for someone he has for you.

Perhaps that "someone" is not ready for you, yet.

Fuel #3

If you have a list, shorten your list of requirements you have for the person you will marry some day. For example, delete requirements like “color of hair and eyes, knows how to cook, knows how to sing, etc. What if God brings you someone who is blonde who can cook, but can’t sing and/or someone who is a brunette who can sing but can’t cook?

 Here is the only scriptural base list you need:

1. They have to be of the opposite sex
2. They have to be a Christian
3. They have to be growing in their faith, preferably at the same place in their spiritual growth and maturity as you are. (Equally yoked.”)
4. You have a “Shared Calling.” Separate careers and ministries are o.k. as long as they do not lead you apart. Of course, “Sharing” in some type of ministry and helping each other is more of a Biblical picture of marriage.

\*This article is based on a radio program discussion of Focus on the Family’s “Turn you heart toward home,” and my own prayerful thoughts and studies in Christian marriage and relationships.

You can listen to this discussion in full and even down load it, by going to:

Focusonthefamily.com/radio and click on the “boundless” tab.

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