

***“HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT PERSON:
OR HOW TO KNOW YOU’VE FOUND THE RIGHT PERSON!”***

By Carri Taylor

If you were to think of three foundational qualities that are important to your own personal character and important in the character of a marital partner, what would they be? Take a moment and jot down three or four that come to your mind.....

Here are the three qualities that Gordon & I believe are most valuable.

1. Being a Learner. What does that mean? It means asking myself the question, “How do I look at life?” Are life’s challenges roadblocks or stepping-stones? Being a learner is an attitude. It’s the attitude I have when life presents situations and particularly when those situations are difficult and frustrating. I can look at them as opportunities to continue learning, growing and preparing for the future, or I can look at them as obstacles that are preventing me from moving forward. When I take on the attitude of a “learner,” life can be an exciting living laboratory of discoveries about others and myself.

2. Assuming Personal Responsibility. What does this mean? This involves taking ownership of my own observations, thoughts, feelings, wants and actions. This means when one of those frustrating, difficult situations happens, I first take a look at my part – what did I contribute to the problem? How easy it is (and human) to find someone or something to blame. After all, “to err is human & to blame someone is divine” (not sure who said that, except Gordon says it a lot – thank goodness he doesn’t do it... very often). The minute I blame something or someone, my own personal growth has come to a screeching halt

3. Being Accountable. What does this mean? “The only ground I cannot see is the ground on which I’m standing.” (Again, something I hear from Gordon a lot, but he can’t remember where he heard it.) Accountability must come from outside myself, from trusted individuals. Accountability and permission go together. No one can hold me accountable if I haven’t given him or her permission. That also works in reverse. I can’t hold anyone else accountable unless they’ve given me permission to do so. Accountability is not judgment; it is holding me responsible for doing what I said I would do, when I said I would do it. It is allowing someone else to share with me how I enter his or her world. I will expand on this in an upcoming newsletter. (“*Waking up to me and the world around me.*”)

Something to think about: Many times when we ask for input from close friends and family, it’s important to remember they are subjectively looking at our lives – particularly when our decisions impact them – which most of the time they do. The advice they give may be in their own best interests and not ours. These may be the times to seek objective professional counsel. The professional is not impacted by our decisions and is trained to listen and give feedback outside of the emotional force field that exists with family and friends.

How do we find the right person and determine that we are with the right person? First of all, the task is to be developing these three characteristics in myself - being a learner, assuming personal responsibility, and being accountable. After all, I attract who I am. Emotional equals meet and marry. If I develop these characteristics and find someone with the same, I will be able to grow with that person throughout life and tackle the tough stuff effectively. Maybe you’re already in a committed relationship and these qualities haven’t been developed. You now know what your next task is – it’s never too late to develop them!