

**(Letter to Chad McKay during the time he was courting his future wife, Wendy Hale)**

January 23, 1985

Dear Chad,

It was good to hear from you. We always appreciate hearing from others and especially from family members. Your letters are always interesting and I would say your brevity is only exceeded by your neat penmanship!

Colorado looks like it is going to be great. Our ward is friendly with a lot of church members around our neighborhood. The kids are enjoying school. Mavis has made a good adjustment and I'm busy trying to get business up and running.

Your letter reminds me of the feelings I was having in trying to decide if I should ask Mavis to marry me. Allow me to share some things with you that may or may not be of some help to you:

1. You are a great person and considering who you are and your tremendous potential here on earth you have every right to be very concerned about who you marry. You want someone that will help you reach your eternal goals just as you will help her.
2. Be objective and analytical about the person in whom you are interested. List what you perceive to be strong points and qualities about the individual. Are these consistent with your ambitions and objectives in life? List what you might consider to be weaknesses. Are they short term? Is she trying to overcome them? Are they so big or bothersome that they will effect your mission to build the kingdom and return to Heavenly Father a faithful servant? Do this exercise on paper - make it a detailed, comprehensive study.
3. When I considered asking Mavis I asked myself some simple, yet important questions:
  - What is this person's background? Is it similar to mine; church life, education, strong family, similar interests, knows value of work, cleanliness, etc.?
  - Does this person have a similar intelligence level as me? Can we converse on the same plane? Does this person know how to listen? Sympathetic? Empathetic?
  - Does this person have a testimony of the gospel, born of the spirit? Does this person honor that light and knowledge given them? Do they thirst for more? Is their attitude one of service and dedication to the church? What are their feelings about family and the priesthood?

I gave these some careful consideration and really felt Mavis and I were a very good match on all accounts. Remember, when tough times hit a marriage, it's not friends, parents or good looks that pull you through; it's being founded on common, proven principles of the Gospel.

4. I asked myself what is going to be really important to me 10 and 20 years from now? Then I asked myself if I thought those same things would also be so important to Mavis when that time arrives? I felt they would.
5. We eventually knew that our relationship had grown to the point where we needed to make some decisions. One week when I was going to be in California and Mavis was going to be in Provo we decided we'd really think things over and make it a matter of prayer.

I took the approach found in D&C 9:6-9. I went through the pros and cons, asked myself all the important questions, thought about our relationship to date and came to the conclusion that Mavis was truly a wonderful person and someone I knew would help me reach those objectives in life that were really important - eternally important. I decided I wanted to ask her to be my eternal companion.

I then took my decision to the Lord. As I prayed for Father's blessing and approval I can remember feeling a great calmness. I was at peace with myself. I didn't feel bothered or burdened down with the matter. I felt so comfortable with my decision.

This was unlike a year or two earlier when I was praying about a similar decision. I was confused and uncomfortable. As I prayed I can remember literally forgetting what I was praying about. In both cases I felt I received pretty clear answers.

6. Ask yourself, "why not marry this person"? Any clear reason why you shouldn't?
7. If this person was in a car accident after you were married and was paralyzed from the neck down, would your feelings toward her change? If it happened to you, how would she feel about you? Is there unconditional love?
8. I'm convinced that just about any two people can have a very successful marriage if they both enter that union with unselfish attitudes - are both more interested in the welfare of the other person more than themselves? Do they know that it is "what is right" not "who is right" that really counts?

Couples will always have disagreements, but, it is how those disagreements are resolved that is so very important. Does your future mate show maturity and wisdom in the decisions that they make?

Chad, I know you'll make a good decision when the time comes. And I know you'll make sure it's right by working 110% after the decision is made to have things the way they should be. Marriage is hard work, but, generates many happy rewards. One should enter marriage with his eyes wide open and then keep them half closed after he says, "I do".

We think the world of you and miss being with you and the family. Good luck in school and any forthcoming decisions! Say hello to all for us. Love,

Chris, Mavis and Family