

### Top Ten Qualities

1. To know and love God, or be willing to do so
2. Willing and absolutely freaking thrilled to have kids
3. A friend as well as a significant other, specifically best friend
4. A talker not a yeller, good communication
5. Views and treats me as an equal
6. Matches my humor
7. Encouraging/supportive
8. Hard worker in daily life and relationship, passionate
9. Good with stress and anxiety for me and him
10. A family man

First and foremost, my number one is a non-negotiable. My faith is incredibly important to me and The Lord should always come first and always lead in a relationship. I decided to add the “be the willing to do so” part because I wasn’t a christian until I met my boyfriend. We spent an entire year together before I came to Christ. If he hadn’t stuck with me, or hadn’t been willing to even date me in the first place because of my lack of salvation, I would be a completely different person. So, if we were to break up I would need someone who is already saved or someone who would be willing to be.

I have to have kids. It is a non-negotiable. I have babysat since I was 13, I work 2 childcare jobs now in addition to irregular babysitting, and I still miss my kiddos when I am not with them. I have baby fever to the max. I understand that I am 19, in college, and not married, but I love babies!!! If a man ever wasn’t willing to have kids or couldn’t match my excitement about parenthood, I couldn’t imagine starting a family with him. I need to know he would love and adore our children. I need to know that he would want to spend all the time he could with them and would be willing to do his fair share in raising them. Absolute non-negotiable!

My boyfriend and I have been friends since the 6th grade, and we didn’t start dating until Junior year of high school. I think our friendship is a HUGE reason that we got together and why

we have stuck together. We know how to be significant others and we know how be friends. I need someone who will listen to me gripe about my coworkers or my roommates and wants to keep up with their names so he can follow what is going on. I need someone who will wrestle around with me. I need someone who I know is always going to be my friend, even if something doesn't end well between us.

I grew up in a yelling family. We yelled and we fought and we slammed doors and we stormed out. I am a yeller. I hate it. I absolutely hated yelling at my parents like that. However, I've never yelled at my boyfriend. He has never yelled at me. It is so so important that I have someone who is a talker and not a yeller. I need someone who will sit down and discuss an issue and won't storm out on me when we are both upset. I know it leads to nothing good. I need good communication.

I think it is very important for a man to view me and treat me as an equal. I need them to understand that I am goal driven, ambitious, and very passionate. A man who is insecure and would be uncomfortable with me being so would cause unnecessary problems. I need everything to be equal. I want to feel as though my voice is heard and understood and that there isn't condescension.

I really want someone who matches my humor. At first I just thought oh, I need someone with a sense of humor, but that's not just it. I need someone with MY humor. I need someone who gets my jokes and laughs at the same stuff and will make fun of me because he knows I'll make fun of him too, lovingly.

My last relationship before my current boyfriend ended poorly. Granted, we were 16. One of our main issues was I constantly felt stupid. I felt like I was making all the wrong choices in everything I did because he never agreed and never wanted me to do certain things. It's

important for me to have someone who encourages me and supports me in whatever I want to do.

Going along with that, I would also like to have someone who is a hard worker. I want someone who matches my ambitions and my passion for things. I desire someone who works hard to better themselves for me and for our future. I want someone who works hard in his work and school but also won't give up on us easily.

I've often had problems with stress and anxiety. I was very, very involved in high school. Each year I seemed to add more things and each year got busier. Eventually, I developed anxiety issues. It was rough couple years, and having a boyfriend that genuinely understood and worked with me was incredibly important. I really need someone who has patience and is willing to understand something that he doesn't go through himself.

As I mentioned, I really want kids. I want someone who will adore his family as well. I also mentioned earlier that I never had a great relationship with my family. I want someone who adores and cares for his family. It's important to me that he has strong family values because I don't come from a close knit family. I want to have a close knit family with good communication and that starts with the parents. This is something I might be willing to forego because a man can't choose the family he is born in to, much like I can't change mine. There is no point in throwing away a relationship simply because of his family.

So, as I've mentioned, I have a boyfriend. His name is Isaac, we have been dating for 2 years and four months, he goes to Liberty University (4 hours away please help me), and I love him very much. He was essentially my guide for this project. When I couldn't think about what my qualities were I just had to think, what do I love about him? What has made me stay with him? In all honesty, he has all ten of my qualities. Why would I be with him if he didn't?

I learned a lot about myself in this paper. It caused me to reflect on myself and my relationship. It forced me to say, if I expect all of these things out of my significant other, am I matching that? Am I supportive and encouraging? Am I ever condescending? Do I make sure that everyday he knows he is loved? Am I doing all that I can to make sure Christ is at the center of our relationship? I realize that I tend to want things I don't necessarily have. I want someone with a good family because I don't have one. I want someone who is a talker when I am a natural born yeller. I want someone who can handle stress and anxiety well because I sure can't. However, there are somethings that I need a person to match me on. Things like my faith, my passion for kids, and my passionate and ambitious nature. It was an interesting, introspective night. I really enjoyed this assignment. Thanks, Dr. Bacon- you rock.