

## **Biblical Dating**

### **What the Bible says About Love and Relationships**

- ⇒ Relationships are good and God does not want any of us to be alone
  - **[Genesis 2:18] The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”**
  
- ⇒ Three loves
  - Agape- unconditional love
  - Philos- brotherly/friendship love
  - Eros- romantic love
  
- ⇒ Things we can confuse with love
  - Infatuation
  - lust
  
- ⇒ God is love and the truest example of love that we have is Christ dying on the cross for us while we were still sinners. Because of the love that God has shown us, we can and should show love to others.
  - **[1st John 4:8-10] Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**
  
- ⇒ Because God's love is sacrificial, we are called to love others in the same way, putting others first, sacrificing our own desires because we love others. This sort of love is not confined to our romantic interests but is how we should love everyone, particularly our brothers and sisters in Christ.
  - **[John 15:13] Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**
  - **[1st John 4:11] Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.**

## God's Purpose/Timing for Dating

- ⇒ God has a plan for your life and very specific timing for different things. He has given you parents to set standards for you and His Word to guide you. You can trust that he is in control and that he knows whether you will be married someday. If God does have a plan for you to get married then he also has someone just right for you.
  - **[Ecclesiastes 3:1] For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.**
  - **[Jeremiah 29:11] For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**
  
- ⇒ It would be wise to start today making a list of non-negotiable characteristics that your future spouse would absolutely need to have. Maybe even make a list of the non-negotiable characteristics that your future spouse absolutely must NOT have. Pray about this list and feel free to edit it from time to time but stay true to it when considering who to date...
  
- ⇒ The purpose of dating is
  - to find a future husband or wife
  - to discover what kind of person you would (or would not) want to marry
  - to learn skills that will help you later on in married life, like how to communicate, compromise, and empathize with a partner.
  
- ⇒ Dating is *not* about
  - making yourself feel good/loved/important
  - fitting in/getting others to accept you
  - proving that you are mature/old enough
  
- ⇒ There are alternatives to the kind of dating that you hear about at school and see in the media.
  - Group dates
  - Friendship first
  - Parent-chaperoned dates

### Purity/Modesty

- ⇒ Mime/skit about saving yourself for your future spouse
- ⇒ WHY is it important to stay pure?
- ⇒ Difference between guys and girls: physical temptation vs. emotional brokenness
- ⇒ How to set standards and stick to them on a date
- ⇒ **[2nd Timothy 2:22] Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**
- ⇒ **[1st Corinthians 6:18] Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.**
- ⇒ **[Ephesians 5:3, 5] But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people... For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.**
- ⇒ **[1st Thessalonians 4:3-5, 7] For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God...For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness.**

### Biblical Examples of “Datable” Men and Women

- ⇒ While the word “dating” is not found in the Bible, we are given some principles that Christians are to go by during the time before marriage. The first is that we must separate from the world's view on dating because God's way contradicts the world's.

- ⇒ We should not date nonbelievers
  - **[2nd Corinthians 6:14-16] Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.**
  - **[1st Corinthians 15:33] Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character.**
- ⇒ Example of couple that got it right- possibly: Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Joseph, other?
- ⇒ Example of couple that did not listen to God and got it wrong- possibly: Samson and Delilah, Solomon and pagan wives, other?
- ⇒ **BOTTOM LINE:** the only datable person is a believer who is walking with God.
  - Think about your dream “datable” person... do you think *you'd* meet the criteria on *their* list? Are you the “datable” person that God wants you to be? While you wait for Mr./Ms. Right, focus on becoming the kind of person that your dream spouse would want to marry.

### **Being Content as a Single Person & Finding Peace in Christ**

- ⇒ **[Philippians 4:11-13] I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**
- ⇒ **[1st Samuel 8:6,7] But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.”**