

## **Matthew 5:8**

**8** Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

## **Psalm 24:3-4**

**3** Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

**4** He that hath **clean hands**, and a **pure heart**; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Purity is important to God and important to the success of our relationships.

## **Dating**

When addressing this subject, it's important to remember the purpose of dating.

## **Proverbs 18:22**

**22** Whoso findeth a **wife** (spouse) findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.

The ultimate purpose and goal of dating is **MARRIAGE**.

The goal is not to have a guy or girl on your arm. The goal is not to have someone to have sex with. The goal is **MARRIAGE**.

Dating with no intention of marrying is like going to the store with no money. You either leave frustrated or end up taking something that doesn't belong to you.

If you can't see yourself marrying them, you have no business dating them.

We need to stop looking at the world's dating pattern. They do dating **WRONG**.

Dating is such an elastic word in the world. It can mean something very innocent like going for a cup of coffee, all the way to living and sleeping together as if your married, minus the marriage certificate.

In the world people move in together, they sleep together, and they are just "boyfriend and girlfriend" - this is their idea of "dating". Don't pattern your romantic life after this nonsense.

If you take your dating cues from the world, you will either frustrate yourself or end up in sin, because the world does it **WRONG**.

Here's how the world does relationships. They connect:

### **Physically - Emotionally - Spiritually**

In the movie *The Guardian*, starring Ashton Kutcher (I have never seen this movie), this pattern is illustrated perfectly. Supposedly this is a great movie full of many positive messages like sacrifice and selflessness, but even in a great movie there is garbage.

In the movie, Ashton meets some girl, and after knowing her for like eight minutes they have sex. Later they have sex a second time and then Ashton asks her a question, "Would you have dinner with me?" Her response sums it all up: "I'm not sure I'm ready to be that intimate."

The world believes that sex is just a bodily function and fundamentally it is insignificant.

This message is portrayed in so many movies and media outlets. The world does it wrong!

That is backwards to how God wants us to connect with members of the opposite sex. He desires we connect:

### **Spiritually - Emotionally - Physically**

#### **Connect Spiritually**

That's why the Bible says.

#### **2 Corinthians 6:14**

**14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

#### **Amos 3:3**

**3** Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Date in the church! It's important that you connect spiritually!

The image in these verses is of two oxen being connected by a piece of farm equipment called a yoke. This yoke would allow the farmer to harness the strength of both animals to pull a heavy plow and till a field.

If each oxen wanted to go in the opposite direction, either they would pull against one another and they wouldn't get anywhere, or one oxen would cave in and follow the other.

If you date someone in the world, one of two things will happen:

1. It will be a relationship filled with tension and you won't get anywhere.
2. One person will cave in and follow the other person. 99 times out of 100 it is the christian following the sinner because obviously their convictions weren't that strong to begin with.

If you think that you will be the exception and you can win them to God, win them **FIRST**, then date them!

Just because they attend CCC or some other apostolic church, doesn't necessarily mean they are fair game. If they don't go to the altar, if they don't pray or read their Bible, if they sit in the back pew and don't worship, if they don't tithe to the church, if they miss church often, if they aren't submitted to their pastor, if they are worldly, it doesn't matter if they go to church, they aren't good dating material.

### **Connect Emotionally**

Before you connect physically, it's important that you connect emotionally. After the newness of sex wears off in your marriage, you will want someone who you actually like.

Take the time to ensure you have common interests. If sex is your only common interest, your marriage is going to be pretty boring.

It's important that you take time to converse at this stage in your relationship. If your dates are nothing more than watching a movie in the dark while making out, that is not developing a common interest. You already know you like to make out with each other. Check that off your list and figure something else out! Go for a walk. Go bowling. Visit with family members. Go for dinner. Go on double dates or group dates. Play board games. Go for drives WITHOUT parking in the dark. TALK TO EACH OTHER!!

So many people skip over this phase in the relationship, or at best rush through it.

If you don't take the time to connect emotionally and you get married only knowing that you want to see each other naked, you might just get married and a few months down the road realize that you have little to nothing in common with your spouse. You don't want that!

Take the time to make sure they are **NICE**.

Are they nice to you? Do they respect you? How do they treat their parents? The way a guy treats his mother is probably how he will treat you. Are they snobby to waitresses? How do they act in public? Are they whiney?

Looks fade away. Bodies get wrinkly and saggy. You want to make sure that the person you are left with is a nice person.

Solomon had his fair share of women.

### **1 Kings 11:3**

**3** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: **and his wives turned away his heart.**

Side note - marriage has the potential to derail your life and turn your heart away from God.

Solomon had about 1000 women in his life, and no doubt he learned a thing or two.

### **Proverbs 25:24**

**24** It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

- It would be better to put your bed up on the roof and sleep in the elements than to share a house with a woman who isn't nice!

### **Proverbs 9:19**

**19** It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

### **Proverbs 19:13**

**13** A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.

### **Proverbs 27:15**

**15** A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

- **Waterboarding** is a form of torture in which water is poured over a cloth covering the face and breathing passages of an immobilized captive, causing the individual to experience the sensation of drowning.
- I'm don't think this is the specific image Solomon was going for, but nonetheless...

You want someone who is **NICE!**

Not only did Solomon have an understanding of what a *bad* woman was like, he had an understanding of what a good woman was as well.

## **Proverbs 31:10**

**10** Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

He goes on to describe her in this chapter, and guys, I would recommend you read and re-read Proverbs 31 and pray that God will lead someone like that into your life.

You want a nice, virtuous, wholesome companion in your life.

Do the leg work up front and connect with that person emotionally.

Don't just put it off until after your married. If you realize they aren't right for you at that point, it's already too late.

### **Connect Physically**

After you've connected spiritually and emotionally, and if you feel it's the right thing to get married, put a ring on it, have a wedding and connect physically.

This might be a bit redundant from last week, but DO NOT have sex before your wedding night. Even if you are one week from your wedding, DON'T DO IT! It will bless your marriage immensely.

Divorce rate among 30 year old women:

One sexual partner - 20%

Sex with just one other partner - 50%

Two other partners - 60%

Having sex before the honeymoon will forever impact your relationship for the worse. It might even end the relationship.

Girls ... giving a guy sex before he marries you is like paying someone in advance to do a job. There's a chance they won't show up!

Wait until your guy puts a ring on your finger and says "I do" at the altar, then give him sex. Wait until he gets the job done before you pay up!

Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free? What is the incentive for a guy to marry a girl if he is already getting sex?

Don't think that giving him sex will be extra incentive for him to marry you. It is the exact opposite. Sex is a marriage deterrent.

If you want the guy to marry you and stay married to you, don't put out until your wedding night. If you have the itch to get married, girls, put an extra layer of clothes on. Keep the mystery of what is beneath your clothes very high.

God takes sex outside of marriage very seriously.

### **Ezekiel 16:30-34 (NLT)**

**30** “What a sick heart you have, says the Sovereign Lord, to do such things as these, acting like a shameless prostitute.

**31** You build your pagan shrines on every street corner and your altars to idols in every square. In fact, you have been worse than a prostitute, so eager for sin that you have not even demanded payment.

**32** Yes, you are an adulterous wife who takes in strangers instead of her own husband.

**33** Prostitutes charge for their services—but not you! You give gifts to your lovers, bribing them to come and have sex with you.

**34** So you are the opposite of other prostitutes. You pay your lovers instead of their paying you!

Here's how **we** view things.

### **MORALITY - SEX WITHOUT MARRIAGE - PROSTITUTION**

Here's how **God** views things:

### **MORALITY - PROSTITUTION - SEX WITHOUT MARRIAGE**

God views people who give out sex for nothing as worse off than prostitutes. You don't demand marriage, you don't demand money, you just give it away for nothing. At least a prostitute has the moral sense to realize that **sex is worth something!**

Sex is valuable! Sex is sacred! Don't just give it away. Even if it's your fiancé. Even if it's your boyfriend or girlfriend of one or two years. Don't give it away for nothing! You're paying up before the job has been done. Get married first.

Being sexually active before marriage illustrates to God and to everyone around you that you think sex is worthless.

If you want to be successful in your dating relationships, connect:

### **Spiritually - Emotionally - Physically**

## Practical Dating Tips

1. Don't try to **find** the one, try to **be** the one.

If you can't love yourself, how can you truly love another. Don't think another person will fix all your issues. Marriage won't solve your problems, it will actually introduce new ones.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:8 ... it is good for a man not to marry. He goes on to explain in verse 28 ... if you marry, you will have trouble.

Strive to better yourself while your single.

2. If you are single, go out on casual dates with lots of people!

"Casual" is the key! Go out for coffee with people. Go out on group dates. Go and have conversations with people of the opposite sex. The more you interact with people of the opposite sex, the more you learn about what you like and need in a companion.

That's the issue with many young relationships - they are so intimately involved, overly committed and pretty much inseparable, and they miss out on the opportunity to connect with others.

Don't get tied down in a relationship until you are getting really close to engagement and marriage.

Which leads to my next point...

3. Don't be overly [emotionally] intimate with people.

The more intimate you are with someone, the more attached you become, and the harder the breakup will be.

There is no need to pour out your heart to someone and tell them all your dirt until you get close to engagement.

Getting emotionally intimate with people and breaking up again and again is more a training ground for divorce, not marriage.

4. Don't throw the "L" word around casually. Save it for the one you really do love.

5. If you do have a past, don't wait until after your engagement, and especially not after your wedding to spring it on someone.

If you have had sex with a girl or a guy, or have been sexually active, even raped, you owe it to your significant other to let them know. There's no need to tell them on date one, but if you feel like it is starting to get serious and marriage is entering the conversations, tell them. They deserve to know what they are getting into.

6. Hang out with other people. Don't be so isolated that you lose all of your other friends.

If and when the relationship ends, you don't want to be left with no one to talk to. Don't stop investing in other relationships just because you are dating.

7. Go on one date per week.

When Trish and I dated, we went on one date alone per week for about 4-6 hours. Even though that seems small, that is plenty!

Some of these points crossover, but don't be one of those couples that spend every waking moment together. Hold back to one date a week.

8. Plan your dates!

Don't just pick them up with no plans. You will probably end up bored, and boredom is a breeding ground for fornication.

Idle hands are the devil's playground.

9. Postpone anything physical as long as you possibly can!

When you first get together with someone, you can't wait to just take them by the hand and go for a walk. In the infancy stages of a relationship, the small things are enough to satisfy you. Leverage that to your advantage and hold off on even the slightest physical touch.

If you are kissing after date one or two, where are you going to go from there? Beyond kissing you are into fornication, and you are over the line.

Hold off on even holding hands for as long as you possibly can!! It will make things SOOO much easier down the road.

10. Watch where you put your hands.

Some of you have "Russian" hands and "Roman" fingers. You lay hands on one another, but not the way the Bible says.

Let me say something awkward that will hopefully stick in your mind and prevent future fondling:

If you wouldn't touch a family member there, don't touch them there.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 7:1 ... It is good for a man to not touch a woman.

11. Be careful where and when you go alone.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:22**

**22** Abstain from all appearance of evil.

If you want others to respect your relationship, don't put yourself in situations that look bad.

ie - Sleeping over at each others house. Going on long trips. Hanging out in each others bedroom. Going behind closed doors to watch a movie. Being out alone past midnight.

Even though it's not right to assume, people still do it. Don't give them any reason to assume you're in sin.

People love to talk, and your reputation could be badly tainted by doing something that just **looked** like sin.

I could list names of people that you would recognize, who were immoral during their young years and some who maybe weren't, but left it open for question, and that stigma is still attached to them. I'm not saying it's right for people to hold things over the heads of others, but some do!

If no one else is home, don't go over. That includes going to each others apartment. Please **DO NOT** do that. It looks like you are sinning even if you aren't!

12. If you are dating and are having sex, break up or get married.

### **1 Corinthians 7:9**

**9** But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

If your mentality is, "Well we've already done it once..." that's a dangerous place to be.

13. If you are interested in someone, seek advice and wisdom from your parents and pastors.

If parents are too awkward, come to your leaders at church. We are here to help you make wise decisions.

14. Keep God first in every relationship!

15. Fast seven days and seek God before you pop the question. If you feel hesitancy, wait. If you realize they're not the one, get out!