

Dating and Relating

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I. Introduction. There are many extremes in dating.

II. Types of dating.

A. Diversified dating through friendship.

B. Exclusive dating, this should precede engagement and marriage.

III. Standards.

A. Standards of purity should be determined by God's rules.

B. One should never establish a dating relationship with a nonbeliever. For girls, missionary dating may make the girl the spiritual leader. (I Corinthians 6:14, Amos 3:3)

C. One should never date someone who is not growing.

D. Dating should not interfere with a person's walk with God or ministry.

E. Do not do anything that will interfere with one's walk with God: immorality (I Corinthians 6:13, II Timothy 2:22, I Thessalonians 4:3), defrauding (stirring up desires one cannot satisfy outside of marriage).

F. Trust God in this area.

1. Be willing to be single if God so desires. Do not get hung up on being married. (Matthew 10:11-12, I Corinthians 7, I Timothy 6)

2. Be willing to delay marriage for ministry training.

3. Do not marry until you are convinced it is God's will for you. (Proverbs 19:14)

G. God will not withhold a good thing from someone who seeks Him. (Colossians 3:3, Proverbs 18:22, Psalm 84:11, 18:34, I Kings 18:56, Proverbs 19:55)

Application questions:

1. What are the types of dating? Why might it be helpful to distinguish them?

2. Why is it important to be willing to be single as a believer?

3. How have you seen a dating relationship interfere with someone's walk with God? What can you learn from this? Explain.
