

Dating

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I. Two Types of Dating

A. Casual diversified.

1. Dating in High School.
2. A number of people on a friendship basis.
3. People similar in age.

B. Steady Exclusive.

1. One person.
2. Possibility of Marriage.
3. DANGERS:
 - a. This type of dating too early may cause loss of other relationships and friendships.
 - b. May retard spiritual growth.

II. Benefits of Dating

A. May help develop your personality.

1. Learn things about yourself.
2. Learn things about someone else.

B. Help to understand and communicate with the opposite sex.

C. Help you to develop your role.

1. Men can learn to graciously lead.
2. Women can learn a lovely submission.

D. Help to learn social graces.

1. Guys – Learn to be considerate!
2. Guys – Learn to take care of your appearance

E. Help determine God's Will about whom you should marry.

1. Stands in opposition to arranged marriages.
2. Can help you get to know someone.
3. IS this someone you'd like to spend your life with?

F. Help you to find ministerial similarities.

1. Do you both get excited about the same types of ministries?
2. Are your interests compatible?

III. Pitfalls to Dating

A. Irresponsible use of time.

1. Time in studies may suffer.
2. Time in ministry may suffer.
3. Don't be on a constant date!

B. Irresponsible use of money.

C. Irresponsible physical relationship.

1. Would I have behaved the same way had Jesus been sitting in the car?
2. God's is always present. (Hebrews 4:13, Psalm 139:23)

D. Standards of purity should be determined by God's Word and nothing else.

1. Don't date non-believers.
2. Don't date to witness. (2 Corinthians 6:14)
3. Don't date the stagnant Christian. (1 Corinthians 3:3)

E. Don't let dating interfere with your personal walk with God.

F. Don't do anything in your dating life that is not glorifying to God.

1. Immorality (Genesis 39:9-12, 2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Thessalonians 4:13)
2. Defrauding – stirring up desires which you cannot righteously satisfy (If you can't cook, don't turn the fire on)

IV. Trust God concerning your future partner

A. Be willing to be single if God chooses.

B. Delay marriage if God chooses.

C. Only marry when convinced this is God's will for your life. (Psalm 84:11, 34:10, Lamentations 3:22, 23)

D. God will lead you to the right person.

Study Questions

1. Are you praying about your future partner? _____

2. Have you determined scripturally how far you will go on a date? _____

3. Are you seeking God first, and then a mate? _____