

I. Establishing Intentions

The goal is to remove potential for confusion in the dating relationship

II. Emotional Intimacy

Proverbs 4:23 “KEEP YOUR HEART WITH ALL VIGILANCE, FOR FROM IT FLOW THE SPRINGS OF LIFE.”

-Intimacy and Commitment

-Time Spent

-Things you talk about

III. Accountability

Proverbs 15:22 “WITHOUT COUNSEL PLANS FAIL, BUT WITH MANY ADVISERS THEY SUCCEED.”

Proverbs 11:14 “WHERE THERE IS NO GUIDANCE, A PEOPLE FALLS, BUT IN AN ABUNDANCE OF COUNSELORS THERE IS SAFETY.”

Proverbs 18:1 “WHOEVER ISOLATES HIMSELF SEEKS HIS OWN DESIRE; HE BREAKS OUT AGAINST ALL SOUND JUDGMENT.”

IV. Conclusion

Overall advice: be unselfish, be clear, seek counsel, be wise, don't rush, don't linger, above all have accountability & seek God's glory!

Questions/Comments? Email me at radams@cfcbermingham.org

Equip—Singleness & Dating Class 3: Dating: Biblical Beginnings



Introduction

I. Defining Dating – *What are we talking about?*

Dating – a relationship between a man and a woman who are actively and intentionally together to consider marriage

Success in Dating – Relating to one another in such a way that you do not have regrets regardless of how the relationship ends.

II. Some of the Differences Between Christian Dating and Worldly Dating

- Future intimacy vs. immediate intimacy.
- Accountability vs. privacy.
- Complimentarian vs. egalitarian.
- Holiness vs. Getting your needs met
- Commitment comes *before* intimacy vs. a high level of emotional involvement early in a dating relationship.

Before Dating: Biblical Criteria

Being A Potential Spouse

- Are you a Christian? (John 3; Rom 10:9)
- Are you growing as a Christian? (I Tim. 3; Gal. 5:22)
- Are you spiritually ready to take on a relationship?
- Are you humble, teachable, and respectful authority?
- Are you able to maintain good relationships and friendships?

Some General Questions to Ask

- (1) Is he/she *clearly* a believer? (2 Cor 6:14-15)
- (2) Does he/she show an evident love for God (in how he/she spends time, money etc.)?
- (3) Does he/she show an evident love for God's Word?
- (4) Is there clear evidence of Christian character? Does he/she exhibit the fruits of the Spirit? (Gal. 5:22-23)
- (5) Does he/she show clear regard and care for others?
- (6) Does he/she have the same view and valuation of marriage as you?
- (7) Do you trust him/her and trust his/her character?
- (8) Do those who you know and trust think highly of this person?

Questions for Women to ask

- (1) Is he growing in godliness and in the characteristics of biblical manhood? (I Timothy 3; Titus 1; I Peter 3)
- (2) Is this a man you respect? Could you envision yourself submitting to and following him over the course of your lives together? (Eph. 5:22-24)
- (3) Do you believe he will care well for you and your children? Will he serve you and encourage your spiritual growth? (I Tim. 5:8, Eph 5:25-29)

Questions for Men to ask

- (1) Is she growing in godliness and in the characteristics of biblical womanhood (see Proverbs 31 and I Peter 3)?
- (2) Can you envision her following you and being responsive to your leadership? Would she encourage you in the task of leadership?
- (3) Do you believe she will care for you well and be a good mother and discipler to your children (as biblically defined)? (Titus 2:4-5)

A Couple of Words about Physical Attraction and Romance

Attraction should be a consideration, but not a primary consideration (Proverbs 31:30)

Romantic feelings make a lousy foundation.

Initiating a Relationship

Men Initiate

A man should take the initiative in asking a woman out on a date.

This will involve risk, but that is your responsibility to take on.

Women Respond

Let a guy know if he's wasting his time, and feel free to appropriately encourage him if he's not.

"What if he hasn't asked me out?"

Both Men and Women: Be careful about your ideal.

Early Stages of Dating

- Guiding principles from the negative perspective of 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

-Don't defraud one another (v.6)
- Guiding principles from the positive perspective of Romans 13:8-14

-Loving another as yourself (13:8-10)

-Recognize the nature of the life to come (13:11-14)