

Singleness, Relationships, and Wisdom

1. The _____ priority: Bringing your relationships under the Lordship of Jesus
3 tests to determine if Jesus is first place (Col. 1:18)

- Do you Submit to the authority of Christ and His Word? (Luke 9:23-26, Col. 1:18)
- Do you trust in the sovereignty of Christ? (Is. 14:24, Is. 46:9, Dan. 4:35)
- Is Sanctification (becoming like Christ) your ultimate goal? (Eph 4:15, Rom. 12:1-2)

2. The why and when of dating: What is your _____?

- Dating is a pathway to _____
 - Why do I want to date?
 - The Bible never envisions a romantic relationship that isn't aimed at marriage
 - I shouldn't pursue a romantic relationship if I am unready or unwilling to be married in the near future
- What is marriage?
 - Marriage is an opportunity to serve, represent, and glorify God in ways you could not do alone
 - Marriage is a lifetime commitment that one man and one woman make to one another where God joins them together as one flesh in order to fulfill His intended purposes (Gen. 2:23-24).

- God's design in marriage
 - The Priority of Marriage – A God-honoring couple gives their marriage the highest priority of all of their human relationships (Gen. 2:24)
 - The Purity of Marriage – A God-honoring marriage is committed to God's standard of purity within the marriage (Heb. 13:4)
 - The Permanence of Marriage – a God-honoring marriage is commitment for life, which is God's design (Matt. 19:6)
 - The Preeminence of God – A God-honoring couple must make Christ to have first place in all of their marriage (Col. 1:18)
- God's purposes in marriage
 - Purpose #1 – Companionship (Gen. 2:18, Prov. 2:17, 1 Pet. 3:7)
 - Purpose #2 – Children (Gen. 1:26, Mal. 2:15, Ps. 127 & 128)
 - Purpose #3 – Characterization (of Christ's relationship to His church – Eph. 5:22-32)
 - Purpose #4 – Completion (Gen. 2:18)
 - Purpose #5 – Contentment (1 Cor. 7)

3. Godly _____

- Cultivating godly men (Titus 2:2-4)
 - Life on life
 - Older men training younger men
 - Older women training younger women
 - Friendships that revolve around the Word of God and spiritual conversation

- What is a godly man?
 - He thinks soundly and exercises self-control (vs. 6)
 - His entire life is characterized by Christ-like good deeds (vs. 7a)
 - He knows and believes sound theology (vs. 7b)
 - He is worthy of respect (vs. 7c)
 - His speech uncorrupted and above reproach (vs. 8a)
 - His reputation with others is blameless (vs. 8b)
- Summary (1 Tim. 4:16)
 - Does he have Christ-like Character?
 - Does he know and believe biblical Content?
 - Is he truly Committed to Christ and His Word?
- When does a boy become a man? (Al Mohler)
 - Spiritual maturity sufficient to lead a wife and children.
 - Personal maturity sufficient to be a responsible husband and father.
 - Economic maturity sufficient to hold an adult job and handle money.
 - Physical maturity sufficient to work and protect a family.
 - Sexual maturity sufficient to marry and fulfill God's purposes.
 - Moral maturity sufficient to lead as an example of righteousness.

- Ethical maturity sufficient to make responsible decisions.
- Worldview maturity sufficient to understand what is really important.
- Relational maturity sufficient to understand and respect others.
- Social maturity sufficient to make a contribution to society.
- Verbal maturity sufficient to communicate and articulate as a man.
- Character maturity sufficient to demonstrate courage under fire.
- Biblical maturity sufficient to lead at some level in the church.

Leadership ideas?

- Establish dating guidelines to honor God and honor your date
- Initiate communication with the girl's father before reaching out to her
- Initiate spiritual conversation
- Enforce guidelines

4. Godly _____

- Cultivating godly ladies (Titus 2:2-4)
 - Life on life
 - Older men training younger men
 - Older women training younger women
 - Friendships that revolve around the Word of God and spiritual conversation

- What is a godly girl?
 - She understands and demonstrates biblical love in her life (vs. 4b)
 - She thinks soundly and exercises self-control (vs. 5a)
 - She lives a pure and holy life (vs. 5b)
 - She happily embraces God's high calling to be a home-worker (vs. 5c)
 - She is characterized by high standards (vs. 5d)
 - She understands her role as a wife and demonstrates it by submitting to authorities in her life (vs. 5e)

- Summary (1 Tim. 4:16)
 - Does she have Christ-like Character?
 - Does she know and believe biblical Content?
 - Is she truly Committed to Christ and His Word?

- When does a girl become a woman? (modified from material by Al Mohler)
 - Spiritual maturity sufficient to follow a husband and raise children.
 - Personal maturity sufficient to be a responsible wife and mother.
 - Economic maturity sufficient to hold an adult job and handle money.
 - Physical maturity sufficient to keep house and manage a family.
 - Sexual maturity sufficient to marry and fulfill God's purposes.
 - Moral maturity sufficient to be an example of godliness.
 - Ethical maturity sufficient to make responsible decisions.

- Worldview maturity sufficient to understand what is really important.
- Relational maturity sufficient to understand and respect others.
- Social maturity sufficient to reach out to those in need.
- Verbal maturity sufficient to communicate and articulate as a woman.
- Character maturity sufficient to demonstrate a quiet and gentle spirit.
- Biblical maturity sufficient to serve in some way in the church.

5. Pursue _____ now (Phil. 4:11-13)

- Contentment is something you get from Jesus, not a relationship
- If you aren't content as a single, you won't be content (ultimately) in dating or in marriage

6. Only pursue a growing _____ (2 Cor. 6:14-16)

7. Plan, pursue, and protect your purity at all costs (Prov. 5, 1 Thess. 4:3)

- How do you live an impure life?
- PLAN - You must plan NOW how you will develop, pursue, and protect your purity – if you wait until you're in a relationship, you'll probably be too late
- PURSUE - Living a pure life doesn't just happen. We are all naturally bent toward impurity. You must want it, work at it, and not give up until you get it. NOW is the time to commit to it
- PROTECT - Protect – Establish convictions and guidelines NOW to protect your pursuit of purity
- AT ALL COSTS - Jesus taught the principle of radical amputation (Matt. 5) Do whatever you need to do to avoid temptation and impurity
- Marriage is not the solution to lust (1 Cor. 7:3-5)
- Live above reproach (Titus 1:6-7)
- Actively kill sexual sin (1 Thess. 4:3)
- Guys, minister to your sisters by guarding their hearts (Song 2:7)
- Girls, minister to your brothers by dressing modestly (1 Tim. 2:9)

8. Learn how to _____ (Eph. 4:15)

- Speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)
- Learning how to listen (Prov 18:13)

9. Practice repentance and _____ (Ps. 32, Ps. 51, Luke 17:3, Matt. 7:1-5)

- Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker* (Baker)
- Practice biblical confession (1 John 1:9, Luke 17:3-4, Ps. 32, Ps. 51)
 - Address everyone involved (All those whom you affected)
 - Avoid if, but, and maybe (Do not try to excuse your wrongs)
 - Admit specifically (Both attitudes and actions)
 - Acknowledge the hurt (Express sorrow for hurting someone)
 - Accept the consequences (Such as making restitution)
 - Alter your behavior (Change your attitudes and actions)
 - Ask for forgiveness
- 4 promises of forgiveness (Jer. 31:34)
 - I will not dwell on this incident (Mind test)
 - I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you (History test)
 - I will not talk to others about this incident (Gossip test)
 - I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship (Relationship test)

10. Invite _____ to participate (Eph. 6:2, Prov. 1:5, 11:14, 12:15)

- Parents and families
- Godly friends
- Pastors, elders, disciplers, mentors

11. Don't waste your _____ (1 Cor. 7:32-35)

- Undivided service
- Undistracted devotion

Resources

Ernie Baker, *Marry Wisely, Marry Well*

Al Mohler, *From Boy to Man*

Stuart Scott, *Biblical Manhood*

Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker*

Richard and Sharon Phillips, *Holding Hands, Holding Hearts*