

A Biblical Primer on Dating



“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.” —2 Corinthians 5:16

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.” —2 Corinthians 6:14-16

Three Purposes in Dating

1. **Unity and discipling:** Jesus prayed for unity (John 17:23). In Rom. 15:15, Paul prayed for a spirit of unity and oneness. Worldly views of dating can bring much disunity to the singles or campus ministry.

Narrow focus dating (dating a select few, only those you like or that have a similar background)
vs. dating to encourage, fulfill one another relationships, to build friendships and grow the body of Christ.

Narrow:

- A. You reject getting to know many people.
- B. You can cause resentment and division (cliques).
- C. You create artificial situations instead of really getting to know someone.
- D. You miss the opportunity to honor others above yourself.

Broad:

- A. You make friends across a wide-spectrum of brothers and sisters.
- B. You use dating to put into practice all the one another passages: Many one another passages:
 - 1. Teach and admonish one another with all wisdom (Colossians 3:16)
 - 2. Each part should have equal concern for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
 - 3. Carry each others burdens (Galatians 6:2)
 - 4. Therefore encourage each other with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
 - 5. Always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
 - 6. Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others (1 Peter 4:8)
- C. Building friendships help you genuinely know people.
- D. You impact the world when you love and accept one another because of Christ (John 13:34-35)

2. **Social Training:** Paul says, *“To the weak, I became weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”* – 1 Cor. 9:22-23.

- A. Dating helps us become relatable.
- B. It provides much needed social training as men and women.
- C. Builds our confidence.
- D. It teaches us to be accepting and broadens our knowledge.
- E. It helps us to be thankful for one another.
- F. Helps us in our evangelism: 1) Family 2) Workplace 3) Neighbors
- G. In heaven there will be neither marriage or giving in marriage. People will be one with Christ and one another. Only people’s soul or essence will be there. Dating is an opportunity to view people that way now.

3. **Purity:** Not dating is one of the biggest factors that contributes to impurity.

- A. Isolation leads to impurity in mind and heart.
- B. Loneliness produces longings that turn into lust.
- C. We become more tempted by the world when not dating (ie brothers and sisters who have married unbelievers.)
- D. We feel rejected and inferior when not dating and this can lead to temptations to go to the world.

The Bible's Guidelines on Dating

Ephesians 4:29-5:15

Let these passages set the boundaries and the priorities in your dating. If you do, God will bless your dating life, encourage your heart, and help you build up others.

1. **Eph 4:29:** No unwholesome talk; Only what is useful for building others up according to their needs...
2. **Eph 4:31:** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, slander, every form of malice.
3. **Eph 4:32:** Put into practice one another attitudes: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, etc.
4. **Eph 5:1:** Follow God's example, dearly loved children. Treat each other as brothers and sisters.
5. **Eph 5:3:** Not a hint of sexual immorality or of any kind of impurity or greed (these are improper for God's holy people). Pay careful attention to:
A. Where you go. **B.** When you go. **C.** How you go. **D.** Who you go with.
6. **Eph 5:4:** Nor should there be:
A. Obscenity **B.** Foolish Talk **C.** Course joking
 Which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.
7. **Eph 5:5:** Paul emphasizes again—no immoral, impure, greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God. Do not partner with them.
8. **Eph 5:8:** Live as Children of Light. The fruit of the light consist in all goodness, truth and righteousness. Find out what pleases the Lord.
9. **Eph 5:11:** Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful to mention what goes on in secret.
10. **Eph 5:15:** Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise.

If you emphasize building great friendships, staying pure, staying focused on God, then many of these friendships will eventually lead to deep romantic love and marriage.