

# BIBLICAL GUY-GAL RELATIONSHIPS / CLAY & BEV MILLER

Rev (2/11/15)



## 7 Lesson Course:

- I. Being Single is OK
- II. Biblical Definition of Marriage & Divorce
- III. Wrong Relationships & Forgiveness, Part 1 & 2
- IV. Dating or Courting? [PRE-COURTSHIP/GROUP DATING]
- V. When am I ready to Propose or Say Yes? [COURTING, ENGAGEMENT, MARRIAGE]
- VI. Marriage as a Ministry Platform
- VII. Guys Only & Gals Only (Conduct)

January							February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

Note: there is a good chance these lessons may be taught in a different order than shown.

### Before we get started:

1. The content of this course is made up of three things:
  - a. **C** - God's Commands - are to be obeyed
  - b. **P** - God's Principles - are to be applied when making decisions
  - c. **S** - Our Suggestions - plenty of room for debate; please take these to Scripture yourself
2. Our goal is for you to come to the place where:
  - a. You are willing to follow the Lord's leading in being content with being single, or
  - b. If His will for you is to be married, you marry His choice at His time, so you may have a successful marriage
  - c. You let Him use your life & relationships for His glory
  - d. You have a lifetime position of credibility when you teach others to know & follow Christ
3. Who we are: Bev and I have been married for 27+ years and have raised 5 sons, two of whom have married. Bev was 28 and I was 27 years old when we married. We have spent half our life as singles and half our life as marrieds. We are not perfect. We do not have a perfect marriage and are far from being perfect parents. What we have are a lot of God's grace and a lot of experiences. This course flows out of our life.
4. There is no judgment for your situation, whatever it may be.

## IV. Dating or Courting?

- a. **Let's create a set of definitions first – so we are all talking about the same thing**
  - i. **Definitions:**
    1. Romantic relationship: A love affair between a man and a woman.
    2. Girlfriend/Boyfriend: A man and woman, who are not married, in an exclusive romantic relationship.
    3. Date: an appointment between two people to go somewhere and do something, often out of romantic interest.
    4. Dating: The act of a man and woman who are in an exclusive romantic relationship and who go on dates. There is no requirement

to be ready to be married first, or even a requirement to have marriage as an end goal.

5. Pre-Courtship Dating: Non-exclusive dating; for social reasons only.
6. Group Dating: Members of the opposite sex going out on a date, without pairing up or becoming exclusive.
7. Arranged Marriage - when a husband and a wife are brought together by their parents, rather than their own efforts.
8. Courting: A man and women, who are (a) both ready to get married, (b) in a romantic relationship with the (c) goal of determining whether they *should* be married to each other.
9. Courtship: the period of courting prior to becoming engaged.
10. Engaged (betrothed): a promise between a man and a woman to be married. Aras/Mnesteuo=engage
11. Marriage: a life-long union between a man and a woman based on a vow to each other before God
12. Defraud: to use someone to meet your own needs at their expense; to create expectations which cannot be met without disobeying God.
13. Fornication: sex before marriage. **Heb 13:4**
14. Divorce: the termination of a marriage, which results in the breaking of a vow between a man and woman.

## b. Dating

### i. Reasons why people Date:

1. Peer Pressure
2. Parental Pressure - parents want to be reassured that you are "normal"
3. Security Needs - looking for comfort & affirmation
4. Ego Gratification - desire to conquer & control
5. Commercial Pressure
6. Shopping for a Partner
7. Other?

### ii. Examples of Dating in the Bible: there are none.

- ### iii. [Opinion] The problem with Dating (as defined in a.i.4 above and as practiced by the majority of Americans):
- Dating is a man and woman (or boy and girl) pairing up and enjoying the privileges of marriage without the responsibilities, duties, commitments, boundaries or accountability. It does not have marriage as its goal yet it is at the best, pretending to be married. It is dependent on the self-control and high standards of both parties while ignoring all natural God-given urges, in order to not fall into sin. The concept of "1:1 Dating" is not found in the Bible and it is culturally unique to approximately the last 400 years of human history, only. It is great "divorce training" because it promotes multiple partners and the idea that you can always "walk away" from relationships which do not meet your expectations.

## c. **Better Paths to Marriage:** Arranged Marriage or Courting (with Parental Blessing)

- ### i. Biblical paths to marriage seem to follow a courting or arranged path. In the cases of Isaac, Jacob and Ruth - these marriages were suggested by parents (Abraham, Rebekah and Ruth's mother in law, Naomi) and there seems to be

a courting relationship between Jacob & Rachel, and Ruth & Boaz. **Gen 24:1-9; Gen 27:46-28:9; Ruth 3:1-5**

- ii. The only example in the Bible of a man arranging his own marriage was Sampson and that resulted in gross failure. **Jud 14:1-3**

#### d. Arranged Marriage

- i. Reasons parents Arranged Marriages:
  1. For political reasons (to form an alliance, to prevent war)
  2. For economic reasons
  3. Because the parents knew who was best for their child; the marriages came with their blessing since it was their idea
  4. Other?
- ii. Examples of Arranged Marriages from the Bible:
  1. Examples of *arranged marriage* in the OT: Adam & Eve, Isaac & Rebekah
  2. Examples of *arranged marriage* in the NT: Christ & the Church
- iii. The application here is that from the Bible, marriages which had parental blessing were the norm and did better than self-arranged marriages.

#### e. Courting

- i. Reasons why people Court:
  1. To determine if the other person is someone you should marry.
  2. It is best with the parent's blessing
  3. Other?
- ii. Examples of courting in the Bible:
  1. Examples of *courting* in the OT: Jacob & Rachael, Ruth & Boaz,
  2. Examples of *courting* in the NT: none

#### f. Four Phases of relationships with the Opposite Sex:

- i. Pre-Courtship/Group Dating, Courtship, Engagement, Marriage.
- ii. **Pre-Courtship/Group Dating** (objective: to observe & find one to court):
  1. Treat each other like brothers and sisters in Christ: **1 Tim 5:1,2**
  2. Do not defraud (**Matt 5:37, Matt 12:36, Matt 18:6**):
    - a. Dress - **Job 31:1**
    - b. Words
    - c. Intentions/promises/gifts
    - d. Guilt trips
  3. Exercise self-control. This comes from yielding to the Spirit, and not our own flesh: **Gal 5:22,23**.
  4. Stay in groups, odd numbers if possible; do not "pair up;" use a chaperone
  5. Stay in an accountability relationship - **Eccl 4:9,10, 1 Pet 5:5**
  6. Women do not pursue (call, text, FB chat, etc) men; women need to learn to wait on the Lord and men need to learn to be spiritual leaders. Men, avoid a woman who pursues you. Women, avoid a man who acts like a puppy dog and follows you around.
  7. Now is the time to practice your future roles:
    - a. We are all one in Christ: **Galatians 3:28**
    - b. Men & Women - submitted to God first - **James 4:7**

- c. In marriage, the wife submits herself to her husband's servant leadership: **Gen 3:16, 1 Cor 14:35, Eph 5:22, Col 3:18, 1 Tim 2:11-15, 1 Pet 3:1**
  - d. In marriage the husbands leads and sacrifices for his wife: **1 Cor 11:3,8-9, Eph 5:23,25,28; 1 Pet 5:3**
  - e. In the family, the husband must manage his children: **1 Tim 3:4,12**
  - f. In the family, the husband is the chief (not necessarily sole) provider: **1 Tim 5:8**
8. Use the time to get to know the other people socially
  9. Q: When am I ready to court? A: When I am ready to marry.
  10. **PRE-COURTSHIP/GROUP DATING COULD LEAD TO COURTSHIP** (Danny will talk about Courting, Engagement and Marriage)

