

## The Bible and Dating / Clay Miller - January 8, 2014

Goal: To see what the Bible has to say about what we call “dating”

### My motives for you today are:

1. First, to have a *successful marriage* (if it is God’s will for you to be married) which is a *lifetime testimony* to the faithfulness of Christ to His bride, the Church. Great marriages start with great relationships. Great relationships are built on the Word of God, not the ways of the World.
2. Second, to have a *lifetime position of credibility* when you teach others how to walk with Christ, including your own future children.

### Definitions:

#### Positive

- ✓ Commands: What God says to do or not to do; commands are God’s will for everyone
- ✓ Principles: Guidelines based on Biblical truth. Principles help us determine God’s will for any given situation
- ✓ Wisdom: advice on how to find success based on experience
- ✓ Group Dating: Members of the opposite sex going out on a date, without pairing up.
- ✓ Courting: A man and women, who are both ready to get married, in a relationship with the goal of determining whether they *should* be married to each other.
- ✓ Engaged (betrothed): a promise between a man and a woman to be married. Aras/Mnesteuo=engage;
- ✓ Marriage: a life-long union between a man and a woman based on a vow before God

#### Neutral

- ✓ Date: an appointment between two people to go somewhere and do something, often out of romantic interest.
- ✓ Dating: The act of a man and woman going on a date.
- ✓ Girlfriend/Boyfriend: A man and woman, who are not married, in an exclusive romantic relationship.
- ✓ Romance: A love affair.

#### Negative

- ✓ 1:1 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.
- ✓ Defraud: to use someone to meet your own needs at their expense; to create expectations which cannot be met without disobeying God.
- ✓ Fornication: sex before marriage. **Heb 13:17**
- ✓ Divorce: the termination of a marriage, which results in the breaking of a vow between a man and woman.

### Reasons why people 1:1 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

These are *unBiblical* reasons to have a relationship.

- Examples of *dating* in the OT: none
- Examples of *dating* in the NT: none
- Examples of *courting* in the OT: Jacob & Rachael, Ruth & Boaz,

- Examples of *courting* in the NT: Christ pursuing His disciples
- Examples of *arranged marriage* in the OT: Adam & Eve, Isaac & Rebekah
- Examples of *arranged marriage* in the NT: Christ & the Church

Biblical paths to marriage seem to follow a courting or arranged path. In the cases of Jacob and Ruth – both marriages were suggested by moms (Rebekah & Naomi). The only example in the Bible of a man arranging his own marriage was Sampson and that resulted in gross failure.

The application here is that from the Bible, marriages which had parental blessing were the norm and did better than self-arranged marriages.

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

### 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 2:22,23**.
4. Stay in groups, odd numbers if possible; do not “pair up;” use a chaperone
5. Stay in an accountability relationship – **Eccl 4:10, 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.
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. Q: When am I ready to marry? A: When 7 things are true:
  - a. **YOU ARE EQUALLY YOKED.** You both are saved and of the same spiritual maturity level: **2 Cor 6:14**
    - i. Don’t think you will win them to Christ by marrying them - **1 Cor 15:33**
  - b. **YOUR WALKS.** Are you personally walking with Christ and is Christ is the true Center of your life? Does the other person have a heart which follows hard after Jesus Christ? Do they spend regular time in the Word? Are they known among others as a Man or Woman of the Word? Will they double your ministry or will they cut it in half?
    - i. **Matt 6:33**
    - ii. **Prov 3:5,6**
    - iii. **2 Cor 6:14**
    - iv. **Phil 2:2**
    - v. **1 Kings 11:4**
  - c. **TIMING.** Is the time right for him or should he wait?
    - i. **Deut 24:5**

- d. **EMPLOYMENT.** Does he have full time employment and is he earning enough to take care of himself, a wife and a child?
  - i. **Prov 24:27**
- e. **THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS WHOM YOU KNOW.** How do they treat your family and friends? How do they treat their own family?
  - i. **Ruth 1:16**
  - ii. **Eph 6:1-3**
- f. **PRAYER.** Have you each really prayed about this individually?
  - i. **John 16:24**
  - ii. **Psa 106:13**
- g. **COUNSEL.** What do people who know and love YOU the most, who have God’s highest interest in mind for YOU, think about him or her, and have YOU bothered to seek godly counsel?
  - i. **1 Kings 12:6-8**
  - ii. **Prov 1:5**
  - iii. **Prov 11:14**
  - iv. **Prov 13:10**
  - v. **Prov 19:20**
- h. These seven areas are where the biggest mistakes I have ever seen people make - they do not follow the Lord - they just follow their own hearts. And they end up with a LIFETIME and a LEGACY of grief. See **Jeremiah 17:9**. On the other hand, if you men find a godly wife and marry her - you find a GOOD thing! See **Psalms 128 & Proverbs 18:22**.

## 10. PRE-COURTSHIP/GROUP DATING LEADS TO COURTSHIP

### Courtship (objective: to determine if they are the one):

1. How do we find that one? Keep your eyes open: God could very well use your observations during Pre-Courting Days to reveal a potential person to court. **Proverbs 18:22** “He who \*finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.” [\*mä•tsä’ – a verb. It means to find or to come upon.] **Proverbs 31:10** “An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.” Only God can find such a one. Live your life and let the Lord bring the right one along. **Genesis 2:18** “Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a \*helper suitable for him."” \*[Strong's H5828 ā'•zer masculine noun] – help, one who helps.
  - a. God identified the need for a mate for Adam - **Gen 2:18**
  - b. Adam’s role was to obey God, then sleep - **Gen 2:19-21**
  - c. God brought the woman to the man - **Gen 2:22**
  - d. Man received the gift of a wife and named the woman - **Gen 2:23**
  - e. The husband leaves his parents and cleaves to his wife - **Gen 2:24a**; implied is a responsibility to her father
  - f. The husband and wife become one flesh and are unashamed about their nakedness - **Gen 2:24b-25**
  - g. What God has joined together let no man put asunder - **Matt 19:6**
  - h. God hates Divorce - **Mal 2:16**
  - i. We are married for this life only - **Matt 12:18-25**
2. Listen/look for the suggestion of the Holy Spirit (possibly through your parents or spiritual parents); follow the leading of the Holy Spirit; keep your desires between you and God – do not broadcast them (on Facebook, to the other person, etc); ultimately this will be a step of faith – **Heb 11:6**
3. When the man feels led to court a woman, he starts by seeking permission from the male spiritual leadership in the woman’s life, to court her
4. Women: stay under the male spiritual leadership/protection in your life
  - a. Dad, brother, uncle, spiritual father...
5. Stay in an accountability relationship
6. Stay in the light

- a. Never go into a house or room alone with the other person
  - b. Observe curfews
  - c. Stay in the public
  - d. Think of your romance as a future testimony to your kids
7. Treat each other like someone else's future spouse
  8. Use the time to get to know each other socially & spiritually
  9. **ENDS IN A PROPOSAL FOR MARRIAGE**

### **Engagement** (objective: to confirm & plan the marriage):

1. Men: ask the male spiritual leadership in the woman's life for their blessing to marry her
2. Stay in an accountability relationship
3. Stay in the light
4. Use the time to get to know each other socially, spiritually & emotionally
5. **LEADS TO A WEDDING**

### **Marriage** (objective: to become one in Christ):

1. Use the time to get to know each other socially, spiritually, emotionally & physically
2. Date!
3. **RESULTS IN ONENESS**

