

Dating, Love, and Marriage Bible Study

Basic Scriptural Foundations

Should I (want to) marry?

2022.12.16 – Week 1

We have many questions:

- I want to feel secure, I want stability, I don't want to be alone
- I have sexual desires, what should I do with it?
- I want to marry, but don't know how to go about dating
- I am seeing someone, but don't want to or know if I should marry

Blockers! Getting to know people requires:

- Vulnerability/intimacy – what if the person makes fun of me, or takes advantage of my true self?
- Caring for someone beyond myself – I am high maintenance as it is, how can I care for someone else?
- Opening up past hurts and starting new ones. Possibility of rejection.
- Money (inadequacy) – the other person may want to see that I am successful, but I am not there yet
- Change and reevaluation of your identity (as you adapt to the other person)
- Going out of the way to find someone who is single, available, and fitting my preferences
- ***(Why else would you be less interested in meeting someone?)***

General Progression

- 1. Single, 2. Dating, 3. Engaged, 4. Married, 5. Children (family) ← ***Which of these are God-ordained?***

Good things intended by God can go bad (Because sin pervaded the world).

- Wine and food... good things that can be distorted into alcoholism and gluttony.
- Relationships, sex, and intimacy are God's ideas! Gifts to us when He created us in His image
- History of Dating

Dating and Divorce

Concept of dating says

- I meet him and him and him until I feel satisfied
- If the person satisfies me, I'll stay.. I'll leave when I am no longer in love (feeling) or the person does not satisfy me.
- Shallow and selfish love. ***I do what I want. I leave when I want.***

Rise of feminism and desire for independence

Relationships are messy - Due to sin, life is hard. There is great uncertainty. And there is shame. (See Genesis 3:17-19).

Reason why many relationships fail today

- The reason many relationships fail today is because we fail to go deep (rather they are shallow and many).
 - People do not know how to have caring, unselfish, loving relationships. (It is also where the Church fails today)
- Older people fail in relationships because they have developed an extensive list of qualifications the other person must have. Throw that out. Let God choose for you.
 - o Instead, ask God for initial glimpse (attraction), pray (with others!) then commit as God opens doors.

The Failure of the Church

- People learn about relationships from media (the fallen world, where Biblical principles are not followed)
 - Relationship wisdom is in Scriptures! Christians should be **role models** in relationships! God created it!

Your Small Groups

- Like life, relationships are confusing. You need Godly, loving people—called a small group—to walk with you.
- As you walk in and pursue your relationships, do so from a position of being loved, so you may operate out of love.

When God created us, He designed us to be well off. He blessed us, but sin messed it up.
Which of the following are good in His original design? How have they been messed up because of sin?

Genesis 1:26-31 (NLT)

26Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." 27So God created human beings 28Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." 29Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. 30And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life." And that is what happened. 31Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.
 ptents.com/s/Gen1.26-31

Genesis 2:18-25 (NLT)

18Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." 19So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. 20He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him. 21So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. 22Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. 23"At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" 24This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. 25Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.
 ptents.com/s/Gen2.18-25

Is this good (a blessing)?	Verse	What does reality look like to you?
Becoming more like God		
Reigning over things and circumstances		
Having many children, having sex		
Eating, being healthy, and having abundance		
Being alone, independent		
For men to find women attractive/desirable For women to find men dependable/security		
To separate from parents to become one		
Husband and wife to be vulnerable and not feel shame		

Discussion Questions:

- Which above do you struggle with?
- Would you like to improve on any of the above with others in your small group?

Consider:

2Timothy 3:1-4 (NLT)

1You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days **there will be very difficult times**. 2For people will **love only themselves** and their money. **They will be boastful and proud**, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and **ungrateful**. They will **consider nothing sacred**. 3They will be **unloving and unforgiving**; they will slander others and have **no self-control**. They will be **cruel and hate what is good**. 4They will **betray** their friends, be reckless, be **puffed up with pride**, and **love pleasure rather than God**.

ptents.com/s/2Ti3.1-4