



# CHRISTIAN DATING

# Definition

## Date (Dating)

- ▮ the social or romantic appointment
- ▮ something you do if your single and of age
- ▮ a natural precursor to marriage
- ▮ and generally considered something to be desired, whatever form it might take.

# Modern Dating

A method of introduction and carrying out of a pre-marital relationship between a single man and a single woman that:

- ▮ begins with either the man or the woman initiating with the other;
- ▮ is conducted outside the formal oversight or authority of either person's family or church; and
- ▮ that may or may not have marriage as its goal and is often purely “recreational” or “educational.”

# Differences between Modern Dating and Biblical Dating

## Modern Dating

- Modern dating philosophy assumes that there will be several intimate romantic relationships in a person's life before marriage.

## Biblical Dating

- Has its goals to be emotionally and physically intimate with only one member of the opposite sex... your spouse.

# Differences between Modern Dating and Biblical Dating

## Modern Dating

- Tends to be egalitarian (no differences between men and women in spiritual or emotional “wiring” or God-given roles.)

## Biblical Dating

- Tends to be complimentary (God has created men and women differently and has ordained each of these spiritual equals to play different and valuable roles in the church and in the family)

# Differences between Modern Dating and Biblical Dating

## Modern Dating

- Tends to assume that you need to get to know a person more deeply than anyone else in the world to figure out whether you should be with him or her.

## Biblical Dating

- Suggests that real commitment to the other person should precede such a high level of intimacy.

# Differences between Modern Dating and Biblical Dating

## Modern Dating

- Tends to assume that a good relationship will “meet all my needs and desires.” and a bad one won’t – it’s essentially a self centered approach.

## Biblical Dating

- Approaches relationships from a completely different perspective – one of ministry and service and bringing glory to God.

# Differences between Modern Dating and Biblical Dating

## Modern Dating

- Tends to assume that there will be a high level of emotional involvement in a dating relationship, and some level of physical involvement as well.

## Biblical Dating

- Assumes NO physical intimacy, and more limited emotional intimacy outside of marriage.



# Differences between Modern Dating and Biblical Dating

## Modern Dating

- Assumes that what I do and who I date as an adult is entirely up to me and is private (my family or the church has no formal or practical authority).

## Biblical Dating

- Assumes a context of spiritual accountability, as it is true in every other area of the Christian life.

# In Summary

## ▮ Modern Dating

“Finding the right person for me.”



## ▮ Biblical Dating

“**Being the right person** to serve my future spouse’s needs and be a God-glorifying husband or wife”

# In Summary

▮ Modern Dating

Intimacy leads to  
commitment

▮ Biblical Dating

Commitment leads  
to intimacy



# In Summary

## ▮ Modern Dating

Tells us that the way to figure out whether I want to marry someone is to act like we are married. If we like it, we make it official. If we don't, then we go through something emotionally – and probably physically – like a **divorce**.

## ▮ Biblical Dating

Scripture guides us as to how to find a mate and marry, and the Bible teaches, among other things, that we should act in such a way so as not to imply a marriage-level commitment until that commitment exists before the Lord.



**AT WHAT AGE CAN WE  
START DATING?**

# Acceptable Age?

- "Acceptable" is such a loose term, so it's hard to say what is "acceptable" for any given person. After all, everyone is a different individual and their situations and maturity will vary greatly. Something that is acceptable for one person may not be acceptable for another.
- Also keep in mind [1 Corinthians 10:23 \(NIV\)](#), which says, "'I have the right to do anything,' you say—but not everything is beneficial. 'I have the right to do anything'—but not everything is constructive." We have many freedoms through Christ, but that doesn't mean that everything will be healthy or good for you.

# Biblical principles to help decide if dating is OK for you right now.

- ▮ First of all, if your parents have said that you are not allowed to date, then you *must* obey their rules. **Proverbs 1:8** says, "Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching..." **Colossians 3:20** says, "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord."
- ▮ If they have said that it's OK, then you move onto the second thing, which is evaluating your motivations. Why do you want to have a boyfriend or girlfriend? What is it about having one that attracts you to the idea? Do you want a romantic relationship that could lead to marriage? Or are you just trying to have fun?

# Biblical principles to help decide if dating is OK for you right now.

- If your reasons for wanting to date are merely for selfish gain or personal happiness, then those are honestly unhealthy motivations. Relationships are not about US; they are about serving someone else. If a girl just wants a boyfriend so she has someone to tell her she's pretty and take her to prom, that's a selfish reason. If a guy just wants a girlfriend so his friends will stop hassling him about being a single virgin, then that's a selfish reason.
- **Romans 12:9-10** says that we should "let love be genuine" and to "love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." Our love should not be selfish or self-serving but rather kind and patient (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**).



# What does this kind of love look like in your life?

- Well, it looks a lot like a really awesome friendship actually—a friendship with another believer ([2 Corinthians 6:14-15](#)). It looks like you becoming such close friends with someone that you would call that person your best friend. It looks like a friend who cares just as much about you as you do about them ([Romans 12:9-10](#)). It looks like a trust between a guy and a girl that knows no bounds and is focused on loving the way God intended ([1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#)). It looks like two best friends who respect each other enough to encourage one another in their faith and stand behind their morals and convictions to remain physically pure ([1 Thessalonians 5:11](#)).
- Our first commitment should be to the Lord ([Matthew 10:37](#)), then those in need, then romance can come in later. Yes, romance is a lovely thing, and God designed marriage so that a man and woman could enjoy each other for a lifetime. But if you are not in a position to pursue marriage, then dating may simply be a distraction that takes away your focus from growing in your relationship with God.

# Everything we do should be for God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31)

- ▮ Is a dating relationship going to help you do that at this point in your life? If not, or if it would cause you to get distracted from what God wants you to do, then this is probably not a good time for you to start dating. If a boyfriend or girlfriend becomes your "everything," then you're putting your romance before God ([Galatians 5:20](#); [Colossians 3:5](#)).
- ▮ Dating or courting or whatever you want to call it can be a great way to solidify an already super strong friendship if your parents have given their blessing, God is at the center, and you are both ready to step it up. If you want to shoot for a lifelong, God-honoring union with your best friend, then that is when you know it's time to start a romance ([Genesis 2:24](#); [Matthew 19:5](#)).



# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT FLIRTING?

# What does the Bible say on flirting?

- ▮ Flirting in a nutshell, is to behave in such a way as to attract another person but without serious intent to pursue them or only pursue with sinful intentions.
- ▮ When it comes to our attractions to other people, sometimes we can't help it. While it is **not a sin to be attracted to another person**, how we RESPOND to those attractions may lead us into sin.
- ▮ As believers, we should check our motivations before emotions get us flirting carelessly with some unsuspecting person (**Proverbs 4:23; Proverbs 6:25**). The purpose for flirting is rarely one with godly intentions.

# What does the Bible say on flirting?

- ▮ You know how they say you'll attract those who act way you act? If you're being flirty, you may only attract more flirtiness, and while it may be fun at first, it is likely to lead to, at best, hurt feelings, or at worst, emptiness and brokenness ( [Proverbs 14:12-13](#)). Thoughtless romantic interactions with people are wholly unsatisfying in the end. God wants so much more for our hearts.
- ▮ For the Christian, the pursuit of a person you are attracted to should be backed with serious, pure intentions ( [1 Corinthians 6:15-16](#)).
- ▮ Lustful thoughts should be avoided absolutely ( [Matthew 5:28-29](#) ).
- ▮ Sexual behaviors should be abstained from until after marriage and only done with the person you are married to ( [1 Corinthians 6:18-20](#)). If possible, try to avoid places that provide the temptation to flirt if that's a problem for you. After all, "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" ( [Matthew 26:41](#)).



**SHOULD I WAIT FOR GOD TO  
BRING ME A BOYFRIEND/  
GIRLFRIEND?**

# How long should I wait?

- ▮ Please don't buy into this whole "I'll wait for God to bring me someone" thing. That implies that there's nothing you can do with your life right now. That all your days are just one big, long waiting game as you patiently watch for that perfect person to be plopped on your doorstep.
- ▮ ***But listen: you have so much to offer the world RIGHT NOW.*** STOP WAITING. Don't stand around waiting for something to happen. God has plans for you NOW. There are things that you should be doing NOW, so go do them! **Ephesians 2:10** says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

# How long should I wait?

- ▮ **Jeremiah 29:11** says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." If having a significant other is a part of that plan, He will make it happen. If not, that's OK too!
- ▮ Either way, you should not wait around for someone to join you as a life partner before you get started on life. It is your mission to get on with the things that He has called you to do TODAY.



# Bible Passages about Biblical Dating

- I **Corinthians 6:9, 7:19** – *(command to be pure, seriousness regarding marriage)*
- I **Thessalonians 4:1-8** – *(do not wrong or defraud one another in relationships – by implying a relationships or commitment by your words or conduct that does not actually exist)*
- Song of Solomon 2:7** – *(“do not awaken love before it pleases” – i.e. before the proper time, meaning before marriage)*

# Bible Passages about Biblical Dating

**Proverbs 6:20, 7:27** – *(warning to avoid sexual sin and foolish relationships)*

**James 1:13-15** – *(Temptation is to be taken very seriously)*

**Romans 13:8-14** – *(love others, work for their soul's good; don't look to please self)*

**Romans 14:1-15** – *(favor others, not self...value what's good to their souls)*

**I Timothy 5:1-2** – *(treat single women as sisters in Christ, with absolute purity)*

# Bible Passages about Biblical Dating

**Titus 2: 1-8** – *(YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN  
SHOULD FOCUS ON SELF-CONTROL)*

**John 14:15** – *(If you love Christ, you will obey  
His commands)*



**WHY DID GOD CREATE SEX?**

# The Silence Code

- ▢ There is a time-honoured code that almost every male and most females have followed.
- ▢ It is the Sexual Code of Silence
- ▢ It states...
  - It's OK to joke about sex
  - Or even lie about it
  - But
  - Other than that, it's your solemn duty – as a male or female
  - To keep silent whenever a *serious* discussion about sex takes place.

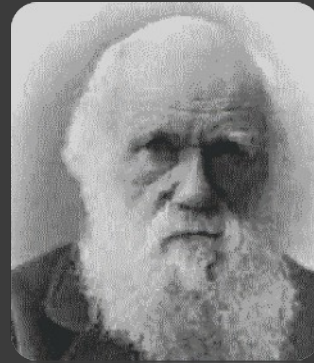


# Who is the god of sex?

▣ The Devil?



• Evolution?



• God?





# Did the Devil Create Sex?

- ▮ **I am the God of Sex!** Although they call me the Devil, I am the God of **pure lust!**
- ▮ I was in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve! I didn't like all that innocent kow-towing to the Father! All that obedience and goodie goodie-ness.
- ▮ So I waited for Eve in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, as I knew she was the most **curious** one of the two! I said to her, "Eve girl! Come here and eat the fruit of this tree. It is pleasant to the eyes and to be desired to make you **wise!** You will have **pleasure** you never knew!"



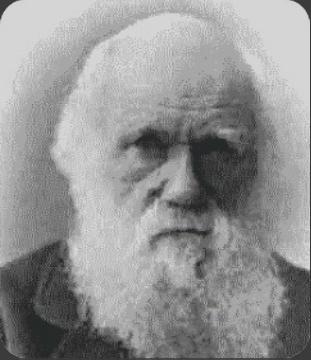


# Did the Devil Create Sex?

- ▮ Until then--and I **never lie!**--she had protruding soft bits! She was like Adam, not male, not female, but a **perfect neutral!**--When she and Adam came along and ate of that **fruit**, that **GOD** had **forbidden** them, I **gave** and **created** in them all that wonderful sex equipment and those lustful feelings! I made them so **horny**, she began to flirt and Adam began to lust after Eve's body for the first time!
- ▮ Then I **created** his tools and her tools, so they make music together! It was I who gave them all those pleasures! And in order for **anyone** to enjoy it
- ▮ Just **disobey** that cruel God and **serve me!** Then you don't have to suffer churchy "abstinence", and all that strict religious training for the rest of your lives! **Only** Hell hereafter, just because God is **jealous** of **my Sex**, and now my sex is a sin! Ha!

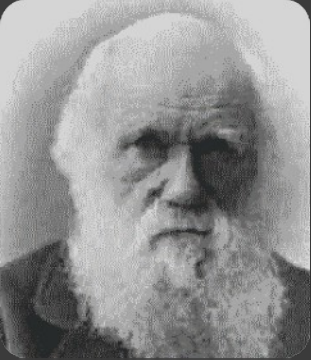






# Did Evolution?

- ▮ **I am the God of Sex!** --The elusive god called **Evolution!**
- ▮ Although I am of course no god in the spiritual sense of the word--God forbid!--I **AM** a god in effect! I am **all-knowing**, as I have a **creative will** and an inscrutable **intelligent plan** of "progress by natural selection" to carry out that will. (Just look at the Genome for example, that marvellous genetic blueprint programme I created, all by chance! Man is still struggling to grasp it all! Ha!)
- ▮ My motto is: "Where there is a **will** I **always** create a **way!**" Simple cells want to swim? I create fins! Fish want to walk? I create legs! Fish want to fly? I create wings! Man wants to procreate? I create sexual organs! I don't quite remember what I created first; the chicken or the egg, the will to copulate, or the will to multiply? Like I said, I'm no god, just **super intelligent!** I'm also the most **popular** god, as "**survival of the fittest**" is my easy law!



# Did Evolution?

- ▮ Sex is just for **consumption** of the strongest (richest) animals, they get the best women, and man is no better than an animal really, and can therefore also *behave* like one! Sex is just a "lower animalistic baser instinct" with no higher aspirations! So "just do it!"
- ▮ You all descend from animals, so there are **no absolutes!** Anything goes! Nothing is wrong, nothing is right! There's no good or bad sex, "just different!" Everybody does what is right in their own eyes! I am the supreme god! Separation of Church and State? Are you kidding?! No one can beat me, I'm the *only state-sponsored and tax-supported* god of the rich! --The only one that is **politically correct**, and I'm **against** religious freedom! They should ban all of you! You're *dangerous!*



# Did God?

- **I Am God of All! I am love! I was in the Garden of Eden.**
- **From the beginning I created Adam and Eve male and female with all their sexual features in place, plus the ability to bear children in painless pleasure! They were naked and they were not ashamed! And I saw that it was good!**
- **The woman was my last and best creation! After I gave Eve to Adam, I commanded them to have sex and children! I said: "Be fruitful and multiply!" They obeyed the pleasure instincts I had created in and for them, and they made love in the Garden of Paradise!**



# Did God?

- I only **forbade** them to partake of **knowledge**, as I knew that it would **spoil everything!** Everything was good, until the day Eve and Adam were tempted by Lucifer to sin by disobeying my Word and **eat** of the fruit of knowledge of Good and Evil! Lusting after evil knowledge they suddenly "**knew** that they were **naked!**" As I had **warned** them: Man **died** "spiritually" that day and were self conscious and condemned about sex and their nudity until now!



# Did God?

- They **hid** from me between the bushes! Through their own shame, they sowed clothes out of figleaves! Out of mercy, I made them fur coats, so they could stand themselves!
- But that is not the end of that sad story. Anyone who will return to Me and accept forgiveness and my lovegift of Eternal life, has again right to the "**tree of life**" and unbridled pleasure for eternity!
- I love you!

# Why Sex? For the Family



## ▮ God is Love

- The love that the **Holy Trinity** share, God wanted to give us a taste of that.
- The trinity of **Father, Mother and Children** are to be in a lifelong committed loving relationship with each other. To show that love is strong and everlasting.
- Husband and Wife are to live in love with each other and **sex is a gift from God for marriage.**
- Children then grow up in a stable and happy secure environment

# Why Sex?

## Because it Bonds



- ▮ *“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”* Ephesians 5:31 - NKJV
- ▮ The act of sexual intercourse has such a strong bonding effect that God describes engaging in it as bringing about such a union of a man and woman as for them to become, as it were, one flesh or one body!

# Why Sex? It is about sharing

- In the act of sex husband and Wife learn to be less selfish and look out more for the others needs?
- Partners can bless each other and grow closer knowing that they are providing a need for the other.
- It is about realising the beauty of God's special creation in my own partner, that God has created for me.





# Fruits of Marriage

## Love Expressed

• As Images of God we are made to be satisfied only with the best that there is. Love for God and each other.

• In marriage there are plenty of opportunities to express true unselfish love.

• Love is not a feeling but an act of will.



## Companionship

• A person to share the experiences and trials of life from day to day.

• A couple who will increasingly grow in understanding each other to a depth not possible in other relationships.



## Godly Offspring

• In the same way as God made mankind in His image He grants mankind also to experience his loving Fatherly and Motherly for all.

• Even self centered people sacrifice themselves for their children's sole benefit.

• To join as creators with the Creator.

# What about sex outside of marriage?

- ▮ Among you there must **not be even a hint of sexual immorality**, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place. (Ephesians 5:3-4)
- ▮ “Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have **his own wife**, and let each woman have her own husband.” 1 Corinthians 7:2 - NKJV
- ▮ Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the **sexually immoral** (Hebrews 13:4)



# But why does God say that?

## □ The risk of damaging your future marriage

I have several friends who are married, or who are about to be married that have struggled greatly with telling, or learning about, previous sexual encounters.

This knowledge causes stress on these relationships because of lack of trust and regret.



# But why does God say that?



## □ The risk of sexual dysfunction

Every year people spend millions of pounds to correct sexual dysfunction through drugs and psychotherapy. Many people think that once they enter marriage the problems of sleeping around, pornography, and masturbation will stop.

However, many find these problems to be more noticeable and controlling once they are in a marriage.

I have spoken with several good Christians who have dysfunction because of a current addiction to pornography. Side note: Romance novels are women's pornography and can often cause just as much trouble in a marriage as the woman is expecting unrealistic romance.

# But why does God say that?



## □ **The risk of damaged or lost relationships**

We are emotionally wired to see sex as a commitment. When a casual sex relationship ends, you and the other person experience guilt and pain of the unspoken promises that were broken. Many people lose good friends after having sex, because boundaries were crossed that makes their friendship awkward.

## □ **The risk of depression**

Pre Marital sex is almost a form of abuse, as the partners are using each other without making the commitment of life long trust and love. This often causes emotional damage that may lead to an increased chance of mental depression and emotional despair.

# Differences

## Men

Crave Physical Intimacy

Give love to get sex

Body can disconnect from mind,  
heart and soul

Stimulated by what they see

Recurrent physical needs cycle

Vulnerable to unfaithfulness in the  
absence of physical touch

## Women

Crave Emotional Intimacy

Give sex to get love

Body, mind heart and soul  
intricately connected

Stimulated by what they hear

Recurrent emotional needs cycle

Vulnerable to unfaithfulness in the  
absence of emotional connection



# Life to the Full

- ▮ John 10:10 *“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”*
- ▮ God knows our need for intimacy our need for companionship, deep affection and understanding
- ▮ Let’s find this in Him first.
- ▮ He will give us all good things we need