

Biblical Guidelines for Dating

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ **Intro: tone = positive (assume doing)**

- **dating is important part of life**, preparation for marriage – **pic: Heath and Renee**
- **need to understand Bible principles:** parents, young people
 - **society:** sexual movies, TV, music
 - **society:** average teen starts drinking at age 14 (Fox News, Channel 13 Tampa, 11-4-07)
 - **society:** schools handing out birth control to students at 14, without parental consent
 - **society:** some doctors want to give abortions to minors without parental consent
- **title:** Biblical Guidelines for Dating
 - **note:** suggestions from young people incorporated into lesson

➤ **obey God and parents**

- **Mk. 12:30 love God heart, soul, mind, strength – obey**
 - **love God more** than boyfriend / girlfriend
 - **heart must be committed to God 1st**, willing to walk away from the love of your life if necessary
 - **only date people who are morally committed to God**
 - **esp. when older** must immediately deal with issues of sex and divorce

➤ - **Col. 3:20 obey in everything, well pleasing – dating by disobeying parents not pleasing to God**

- **applies** to every aspect of life, including dating – **who date, where go, what to do, how to act**
- **know** your parents rules about dating, obey them

➤ **Parents: take charge**

- **Eph. 6:4 bring up in training and admonition of Lord – set and enforce rules – dating**
 - **illus. Allan:** I am in control until the day my daughter says “I do”
 - **parent setting rules takes pressure off** kids, by someone else setting guidelines

- **examples of rules:** – can change by age

- **boy ask girl’s parents:**

- **test:** whether my daughter and the boy can respect me and my rules
- **puts me in control**, allows me to set the guidelines, lets boy know he’s relationship is with me as well as my daughter
- **talk with both** (on going conversation) to make sure they understand what I expect, what God expects
- **rules include:** personal contact (including sex), kissing (making out), hugging, places go, chaperones
 - if not old enough to talk about these, not old enough to date

- **if I had a boy:**

- **he would have to ask me** if he could date a particular girl
- **1st date would have to be at my house**, so I could talk to them

- **dependant child living away from home:** (college)

- **I wouldn’t change the rules**, although logistically more difficult to work out, use phone more

- **Predetermine what you want in a boyfriend / girlfriend**
 - **Josh. 24:14-15** Joshua called upon the people to decide in advance whom they would serve
 - **decide in advance whether you will have a godly or ungodly boyfriend or girlfriend**

- **- 1 Cor. 15:33 evil boyfriend or girlfriend corrupts good morals**
 - **decide in advance not to have evil companions** – boyfriend or girlfriend
 - **boyfriend / girlfriend has great influence upon** – help you get to heaven, or hinder you
 - **boyfriend or girlfriend is possible future spouse**, hard to fall out of love once in love
 - **may decided to only date Christians** – want Christian spouse
 - **suggestions how to:**
 - **make a list** about the qualities you are looking for in a boyfriend / girlfriend (Paul Thomas)
 - help guide, **not just overtaken by infatuation**
 - **pray** about finding a boyfriend / girlfriend, then about the relationship after find one (Paul Thomas)

- **Make it a spiritual relationship**
 - **2 Cor. 6:14, 16, 17** best human relationship is a spiritual one, where both are united spiritually
 - **illus.: friends, spouse, co-workers**

- **- suggestions for spiritual dating relationship:**
 - **go to church together** – worship together – not like it when dating, won't like it when married

- **- Bible study** – component of the best dating relationships
 - **when want to improve the relationship**, have Bible study together
 - **when things not going well**, get back to Bible study
 - **benefit:** focus on spiritual rather than physical, know each other's spirits better before marriage

- **- discuss what both want out of the relationship**
 - **statement from college male student / FC camp counselor:** "It's **good to talk** to the girl and make sure we're both on the same page. Find out what she feels is appropriate and find out what is or is not expected... Sometimes a misunderstanding can cause some serious issues down the line and may end what would have otherwise been a decent relationship..." (Fudge)

- **- be consistent in the relationship – 100% spiritual / 100% of the time**
 - **statement from college male student / FC camp counselor:** "If one has the focus on God and the other is just trying to hook up, there's a real incongruence issue... If the "godly" one slips up here and there, the other just gets confused and assumes that the "slip up" is normal and accepted, when really it's not. If **things are discussed ahead of time**, then there is **less a chance of that happening.**" (Fudge)

- **- discuss moral standards – set boundaries**
 - **worldly sense: girls have all the control** – girls, take control of setting moral standards
 - **statement from college male student / FC camp counselor:** "If you **don't start going down the wrong path**, you won't ever get down the road far enough to do something wrong. So, **shine a little light on the path** the two of you want to take together. Let things be known. **If they respect you, they'll respect your boundaries...** and **if they don't, get out quick!** As long as two people are walking down the same road, getting to know one another in a godly way, then dating can be a great thing." (Fudge)
 - **some issues to make clear:** dancing (prom, home coming), sexual activity, making out, improper conduct

in public and private - will turn off immoral people (darkness)

➤ **Flee lusts** – situations that could lead to sin

- **2 Tim. 2:22a** **flee lusts** (run away from, stay far away, anything stimulating a strong desire to sin)

➤ - **1 Tim. 2:9-10** **godly attire** (male and female)

- **girls like to be looked at / boys like to look** – don't make it harder than it already is

- **godly dress makes** the spiritual attractive / **vulgar dress makes** the sinfully physical

- **dress like you want to be known and appreciated:** inward or outward

➤ - **1 Th. 5:22** **abstain from every form of evil** – don't get close to temptation and sin

- **never put self in a position remotely compromising** – if there accidentally, run, call help

- **illus.:**

- **place alone** where no one else is around

- **a reclining position** that even seems that you are laying down

- **a situation where others are engaged in inappropriate conduct** - make out party, sex, staying over night at a mutual friend's house with the promise of not having sex

- **watching sexual movies or TV, or sexual music** – heightens sexual appetites, puts bad ideas in head

➤ - **suggestions:**

- **take Jesus** on every date, let Him be your chaperone

➤ - **go on date expecting the end of time** – Jesus to come before it's over

➤ - **don't watch sexual movies:** beside wrong in an of it's self, puts ideas in head

- **an average person** sees 9,000 actual or implied sex acts on TV each year – we can't be average

- **study: watching sex on TV** predicts adolescent imitation of sexual behavior (Pediatrics, 2004)

- **1 Cor. 15:33**

➤ - **don't be home alone**

➤ - **do things in groups**

➤ - **don't go to secluded places**

➤ - **don't go places where other people are participating in sinful activities**

➤ - **don't dance** till you're married, then only with your spouse

- **dancing stimulates sexual desires:** (quotes from David Banning's sermon)

- **Dr. Rita Hollingsworth:** "Dancing is an exciting and pleasurable recreation as it affords a partial satisfaction of the sex impulse. Dancing, in fact, is such an erotic stimuli that it even works for boys and girls as young as the age 11."

- **Mick Jagger**, lead singer for the Rolling Stones: "All dancing is a replacement for sex." (Rolling Stone Magazine, 4/19/79)

- **The Little River Band** said in the chorus of their hit song, Lady, said: "Lady, you're there on the dance floor making me want you somehow."

- **Letter to Ann Landers** way back in 1987, long before "Freaking" was popular. A wife wrote complaining about her husband dancing with other women and made this observation: "I trust him, but I just don't think God meant for a man and woman to rub their bodies together in slow dancing with anyone except their own spouses. Am I normal to feel jealous?" (Kilgore Hearld News)

➤ **Avoid every form of fornication**

- **1 Cor. 6:18-20** flee fornication (sexual immorality), bought with price, not your own, glorify God with body
- **illus.: Joseph** when attacked by Potiphar's wife – Joseph ran away, fled fornication

➤ - **definitions:**

- **"Fornication"** denotes "illicit sexual intercourse" (Vine's) and includes adultery, homosexuality, and bestiality.
- - **"Intercourse"** denotes "physical sexual contact between individuals that involves the genitalia of at least one person" (Webster). – **all sexual contact**
- - **illus.: petting** (2nd base, as some use it today in touching any sexual organ of another person), **dancing** where touch of genitalia (slow dance, freaking)
 - rule of one dating couple at school: no touching where bathing suit would be

➤ - **know the truth:** "recent survey suggested that most sexually experienced teens wish they had waited longer to have intercourse" (Pediatrics, 2004)

- **don't be deceived into thinking:** "everyone is doing it" – "everyone wants to do it"

- **illus.: Time Magazine: June 3, 1991**

- "A 1998 study of sexually active college students found that **46.3% of the women and 62.7% of the men** reported having had **unwanted intercourse**. **Peer pressure, coercion, intimidation** — all led students into situations they later regretted."

➤ - **let your moral position be known before agreeing to date – males and females:**

- **if you are old enough to date**, you are old enough to talk about your moral position about sex before dating

➤ **Have fun!**

- **Ja. 1:17** every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, **coming down from the Father** of lights – **God gives us dating - enjoy**

➤ - **when you are in a godly relationship**, you can have fun without worry about the sinful pressures in an ungodly relationship

- **illus.: girl once remarked to another girl**, isn't it nice to date a Christian - you don't have to worry about having sex – no pressure, can just enjoy your boyfriend

- **it's more fun to date in a godly relationship** than in a sinful relationship

➤ - **put God first in dating and you'll have fun – Mk. 12:30 (SR)**

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **be godly in all your behavior**

- **inv.:** if you aren't putting God first. . . .