

## **DATING FOR TEENS – PART 1**

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### **THE BIG IDEAS:**

- *FRIENDSHIP comes before dating.*
- *The purpose of dating is ultimately MARRIAGE.*
- *The goal of marriage is ONENESS and FAMILY.*

### **BEGINNING WITH BASICS**

Four ways to have a relationship (three legit):

1. Prearranged marriage – parents select a spouse
2. Courtship – parents and child work together in selecting a spouse
3. Non-Christian dating – anything that falls outside of biblical guidelines
4. Christian dating – child selects a spouse independent of parents (reserved for adults)

Questions to ask before dating...

- How is your relationship with Jesus?
- Do you believe any cultural lies?
- Do you accept that marriage is not just for happiness but also for holiness?

Dating is NOT experimentation or “testing the field”. Dating is for the serious and controlled selection of a spouse. You should already know that someone is marriage material before dating them.

God said in Genesis 2 that “It is not good for the man to be alone...For this reason a man shall leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife.” Thus, marriage is a union created by God and should be pursued by most people.

However, in Genesis 3, sin and the curse enters, and marriage struggle ensues. Relational companionship is no longer easy but rather hard work. Always remember that...

\*\*\* A sinner plus a sinner does not equal less sin. \*\*\*

### **What constitutes marriage in God’s eyes vs. the government?**

God                      Marriage is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman to love, honor, serve, and share life together.

Government          Marriage is a legal state where two individuals are dependant on one another.



*Jeremy Edgar*

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## **PRACTICAL ADVICE & TIPS FOR DATES**

For guys

- Buy flowers, open the car door, dress nicely...be a gentleman!
- Always pay for the date
- Give compliments
- Ask her lots of questions
- Listen closely to what she is saying
- Meet her parents
- Take mental notes of her likes, dislikes (you want to impress her next time)
- Don't talk about things she's not interested in
- Always ask her out yourself (no sending friends to do it)
- Pray for your meal

For gals

- Be slow to get emotionally involved
- Dress appropriately
- Be yourself
- Say thank-you for his gestures
- Eat how you would normally eat

For everyone

- Meet in public places
- Double dates are a good idea
- Do something where you can talk (ex. not at the movies)
- Communicate with your parents
- Turn OFF your cell phone! (unless parents say otherwise)
- Have a sense of humor
- If you run into a friend, introduce your date to them but don't let the conversation linger
- Be presentable (shower, shave, smell nice)
- Take it slow

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## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. Do I have a proper view of dating as pursuing a marriage relationship?
2. What does courtship look like in my family context?
3. Am I at a place in my personal life where marriage is a legitimate option in the near future? How should this affect my actions towards dating?