

DATING FOR TEENS – PART 2

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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.*

FRIENDSHIP

Friendship plays an important role in a dating relationship for several reasons:

1. Friendship prior to dating will allow you to learn about a person's character (ex. their habits, goals, worldview, how they treat others) and can help you to best select who to pursue for marriage.
2. Relationships are based on more than romance. They include a lot of down-town and friendly fun. Without friendship, there is a significant missing piece to a dating/marriage relationship.

Christian Dating Principles for Both Men and Women

1. Maximize your singleness for God.
2. Do not pursue a relationship until you are ready to marry.
3. Be reasonable – do not set your expectations too high or too low.
4. Never date a non-Christian (2 Cor. 6:14).
5. Only date one person at a time.
6. He initiates; she responds.
7. Look at who God puts in front of you (e.g. Boaz & Ruth).
8. Only invest in a relationship with someone who you are attracted to entirely (e.g. physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, ministry gifts).
9. Only date someone who agrees with you on gender and family.
10. Guard your heart (Prov. 4:23).

Christian Dating Questions for Men

1. Are you overlooking good women (e.g. single moms, shy, divorcees)?
2. Are you honoring God, her, her family, her friends, etc.?
3. Is she modest (1 Tim. 2:9)?
4. Will she follow your leadership?
5. Does she have noble character (Prov. 31)?
6. Can you provide for the lifestyle she expects (1 Tim. 5:8)?
7. Is she like the worst women in Proverbs (e.g. nag, loud, quarreling, unfaithful)?
8. Do you want your daughters to be like her and your sons to marry someone like her?



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Christian Dating Questions for Women

1. Are you willing to help him and join his course of life (Gen. 2:18; 1 Cor. 11:9)?
 2. Is he tough enough to remain strong in tough times (2 Tim. 2:3)?
 3. Will he take responsibility for you and your children (1 Cor. 11:3)?
 4. Is he considerate and gentle with you (1 Peter 3:7)?
 5. Will he be a good father (Ps. 127:3-5; Eph. 6:4)?
 6. Is he a one woman man (1 Tim. 3:2)?
 7. How valuable are you to him?
 8. Do you want your sons to be like him and your daughters to marry someone like him?
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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do I rightly understand the importance of friendship in a relationship?
2. Am I maximizing my singleness for God?
3. Are my answers to the "Christian Dating Questions" above unsatisfactory?