

The Bible on Courtship

Australian Views of Dating

What do your peers think of dating?

Why do they date?

What do they expect from a dating relationship?

My Questions

What questions do you want answered tonight?

The Bible on Dating

Umm... not much.

What the Bible does talk about:

2 states, single and married:

single/unmarried:

1 Corinthians 7:8-9, 34

married

1 Corinthians 7:10, 34

Engaged is the stage of two single people committing to marry.

betrothed/engaged

1 Corinthians 7:25, 34

Dating vs Courtship

What is the difference in the intention of dating compared to courtship?

What should be the Christians intention in courting?

What differences will this make in how/when/why and with whom they court?

Initiating Courtship

What would be important things to consider about someone before you court them?

How should you act towards them before you court them?
What would be helpful and unhelpful?

Boundaries when Courting

Flee Sexual Immorality: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Note: Sexual immorality is one of the most discussed topics in the New Testament:

1 Corinthians 5:1-11, 6:18, 10:8, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3, Colossians 3:5,

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 1 Timothy 1:8-10, Revelation 2:14,20-21.

What does it mean to ‘flee sexual immorality’?

How does this affect your relationships?

Treat her in all purity: 1 Timothy 5:1-2

What does Paul mean when he says ‘Treat... younger women like sisters, in all purity’?

How does this affect your relationships?

Setting the boundaries

Where should the boundaries be set?

What steps should be taken to stick to these boundaries?

How can we help our brothers/sisters in this?

FAQ about Courting

What questions do you have about courting?

What general principles would apply to courting?

Discuss any questions you have with reference to the principles above.

It's great being Christians!

What's great about being a Christian?

Why should we court in a godly way?

Some Conclusions

1. Before God we are either single or married.
2. Christians court rather than date. It's purpose is about pursuing marriage.
3. Observe what the person is like before you court them.
4. Respect their decision if they say no.
5. Singles are to be chaste. If it's sexual, don't do it.
6. Put practical steps in place to help maintain purity. For example:
 - Discuss what's appropriate with each other.
 - Don't be alone together.
 - Don't kiss, touch or talk in a sexual manner.
7. Dates should be about getting to know each other to assess suitability in marriage, not just about fun time together.
8. Continually assess the other person's suitability for marriage.
 - Discuss together whether you are heading in the same direction.
 - Don't talk together as if you are engaged or married.
9. Limit emotional investment but talk through the important things.
10. Discuss with family and mature Christians the other person's suitability for marriage.
11. Make an effort to date in groups. When meeting 1-1, do it wisely, above reproach.
12. Maintain other friendships above your courting relationship (of course how this works out may need to change once you are publically committed to marriage).
13. If you realise it's not heading to marriage then break it off.
14. Christian courtship will be difficult and will mean missing out on some things.

Thinking it Through

Everyone:

In what ways do I need to change my thinking about dating?

People currently courting:

What do I need to change about my current relationship?

Married people:

What can I do to support people who are courting or considering courting so that they do it in a godly way?