

Dating by the Book – as series for parents

Week 2

Welcome (this is being recorded so...)

Why we are doing this...

- Role of the pastor – Ephesians 4:11-13
- Role of the parent – Deut 6:4-9

Why this topic can be so confusing for Christians – God did not choose to directly address it in the Word

Last week

- Modern day dating
 - o Mostly creates a one-flesh relationship outside of marriage.
 - o Why people date.
- Parental dating policy
 - o Usually not present
 - o Not usually based on Biblical wisdom but human traditions.
- Dating in the Bible
 - o Not needed – only single and married.
- Recovering a working definition of dating
 - o “Dating is a God-focused, mutually edifying relationship that has as it’s intentional goal the glorification of God through Biblical marriage.”

Tonight: Being and becoming ready to date by the Book

- What happens when our kids date without being ready?
- How do they get ready if they are not?

"Dating..." – are they ready

- Getting yourself ready (as parents) – do you truly own this definition?
 - o If not, what is your definition – exactly?

- Identify what is influencing your definitions
 - o The past, your opinions, your feelings on them dating.

- Figure out where they stand on dating
 - o Physically – have they hit puberty?
 - o Emotionally – are they crushing yet and if so, how?
 - o Experience – what is their experience with dating?

"Dating..." – getting them ready

- Create and pray through a plan based on your kids age, maturity, sexuality, etc.
 - o How do you define dating?
 - o When can they date?
 - o How will or will they not date?
 - o Who will or will they not date?
 - o What will they do or not do when they date?

- Once you own a definition, DISCUSS it with your kids.
 - o The older they are, the more discussion needs to take place.
 - o IF they are already dating, expect it to be emotional.

"Is a God-focused..." – are they ready?

- Being God focused vs. Me focused
 - o Matthew 22:37 – the Great Commandment I
 - o What are we role-modeling as parents on this?
 - o What do the priorities we have set reveal about this?

- Age appropriate God-focus needs to be considered

- Is there desire to date about God? (worship)
 - o Or about getting a one-flesh need met

"is a God-focused..." – getting them ready

- Starts with our own movement towards being God-focused
 - o Identify where you are not God-focused – Repent and be free!
- Ask them what their priorities are in general
- Ask them why they want to date – and listen!
 - o What needs to they desire to meet?
- Teach them why dating (and everything) is about God
 - o And why this is an amazing thing!
- Remember, this might take time – so be wise!

"...mutually edifying relationship..." – are they ready

- Mutually edifying vs. meeting selfish needs
 - o Even if we are selfishly meeting each others needs...
- Are they ready to be spiritually, physically and emotionally edifying?
- Do they want to do the things that edify when they date?
 - o If not, what does that reveal about their readiness?
- Are they willing to not do the things that don't edify?
 - o Are they ready to set and honor boundaries that encourage this?

- If they have already dated – what does how they did it say about their readiness?

“...mutually edifying relationship...” – Getting them ready

- Study what it means to edify Biblically
 - o Romans 14:19
 - o Matthew 22:39 – Great Commandment II
- Consider with them their influence on others...
 - o Is it Godly, worldly, etc.
- Consider with them others influences on them...
- Learn with them how to edify people in general and start!

“...that has as its intentional goal the glorification of God...” – are they ready

- What are the goals that we have set for them as parents
- Are they intentional?
- Is there anything else in their life that has as its intentional goal the glorification of God?
 - o School? Work? Hobbies? Relationships?
- Do they desire to date to glorify God?
 - o Why people date (my experience)

"...that has as its intentional goal the glorification of God..." – getting them ready

- If you are they are not serving – start now – 1 Corinthians 12

- Discuss how much harder it can be to glorify God in dating then in some other things.

- Work on getting the rest of your and their life in line with glorifying God – one thing at a time.
 - o School, work, relationships

"...through Biblical marriage." – Are they ready?

- Do they understand the Biblical purpose of marriage?

- Are they ready to get married?
 - o Remember the purpose of dating...

- Why is this one so hard for us?
 - o We think modern day dating is "not so bad"
 - o We don't know how to deal with their hormones
 - o It sounds too strict

- A humble warning
 - o Song of Solomon – DO not arouse or awaken love until it so desires
 - o Proverbs 6:27 – Can a man take a fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?

"...through Biblical marriage." Getting them ready

- Teach them everything about Biblical marriage
 - o Genesis 2:24
 - o Ephesians 5:22-27

- Colossians 3:18-21
- 1 Peter 3:1-7

- Teach them the specific roles of husband and wife

- Role-model Biblical marriage as you can

- Teach them everything about the bride of Christ!
 - Ephesians 5:22-27, Revelation 19:9

Other stuff

- Economic considerations of one-flesh

- By this definition are the following people ready to date?
 - A Jr High student
 - A High School Student
 - A College student
 - A post-college student

- The GIFT of singleness – is this truly a gift?
 - Corinthians 7:17, 27, 32-34, 35
 - If so, then why the hormones, desire for companionship, etc?

- The necessity of parental unity on this
 - If not, seek wise counsel together!

Q and A