

# Dating by the Book – as series for parents

## Week 3

Welcome (this is being recorded so...)

Books for sale – 10\$ each

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 – Being and becoming ready to date by the Book

This week – finding the right one in a wrong world

- As citizens of heaven living on earth for a short time...
- After you / they have determined that they are ready to date by the Book – what then?
- When we don't do this...
  - o Looking can become the obsession, instead of God
  - o They can start, "looking for love in all the wrong places..."
  - o Many times the return to "dating" without Godly wisdom

Are they the "right one" to date?

- They must be a follower of Christ - 2 Corinthians 6:14-16 and 7:1
  - o 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16a What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.
  
  - o 16b As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."
  
  - o 1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.
  
- How do we know if they are a follower of Christ...
  - o Romans 10:9 - That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
  
  - o Galatians 5:16-25 - Shows fruits of the spirit vs. fruits of the flesh
  
  - o Matthew 22:37, 1 John 4:8 - Shows evidence of love for God and others
  
  - o Hebrews 10:25, 13:17 - They belong to a local church
  
  - o Remember - the decision on who to marry isn't about the least someone should be...

- Questions to ask our daughters about the "right one":
  - o Will he love, encourage and lead you as God would have him? Ephesians 5:25-33
  - o Can you envision yourself submitting to his Biblical leadership as an equal helpmate? Genesis 2:20-24, Ephesians 5:22-24
  - o Do you believe he will care well for your future children? Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6
    - Sacrificially, spiritually, financially, relationally, etc.
  - o Is he growing in biblical manhood? 1 Timothy 3:1-9
  
- Questions to ask our sons:
  - o Would you die and live for this woman? Ephesians 5:25-27
  - o Would you trust her as an equal and Biblically helpmate? Genesis 2:20-24, Ephesians 5:22-24
  - o Is she growing in maturity as a Godly woman? Titus 2:3-5, 1 Peter 3:1-6
  - o Is she growing towards being a wife of noble character? Prov 31:10-31
  - o What if our kids aren't there yet?
  
- The physical attraction thing
  - o Define physical attraction
  - o Culture generally define what is attractive
    - Example: skinny vs. full-figured, trends of clothing

- Should it be a consideration? Yes
  - Beautiful / Handsome people in the Bible: Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Bathsheba, Tamar, Esther, Joseph, Saul, David, Daniel
  - It is good to appreciate what God has made physically beautiful
  
- Don't encourage them to date someone who isn't attractive to them but make sure they are attracted to more than looks!
  
- Should it be a primary consideration? No - Why?
  - It doesn't last! Proverbs 31:30
  - Being influenced by it primarily can easily lead to sin
    - Joseph and Potifar's wife (Genesis 39:6-7)
    - David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)
    - Amnon and Tamar (2 Samuel 13)
    - The adulterous and the fool (Proverbs)
  
- So, how with all of this – how do they actually find them?
  - God will bring them verses looking for them
  
  - Looking for them at their local church
    - Not a "meat market" but a safe place\
    - Some examples
  
  - Through friends who date "by the Book"
    - Friends who have friends...
  
  - Starbucks / College / Gym / work
    - Remember – they should be looking for another missionary in a foreign land!

- Other like-minded churches?
- Internet?
- What if they are ready but no one is available?
- What if they are ready but the person they are interested in is not?
- Special considerations
  - How much do your kids want you involved in the process of finding "the one"?
    - Being involved in other ways is not an option for them!
  - Teach them to not look for the perfect, but the perfecting
  - Remind them that they are looking for a person, not an idea
  - Remember, this often takes time – so teach them to trust God and be patient

Next week – last week – The role of parents in dating by the Book: Preparation, Protection, and Proposals

This class will be over – but the fellowship should continue...and is necessary!

Q and A