

Dating or Waiting

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Illustration: Tonight we are continuing our discussion on Living Pure. The next couple weeks we'll be discussing the subjects of dating, courtship, and sex. We'll talk about physical purity, as well as spiritual, and emotional purity.

But before we go on, I want to find out what you all think about dating. Let's talk about the way people "do dating" in our culture. I'm going to ask two general questions about dating and I want your feedback... so talk to me. (use whiteboard)

1. What are the good things about dating (the positive points)?

Possible answers:

- gives you something to do (it's fun)
- maybe I'll meet my spouse
- people accept me if I date
- I don't feel as lonely

2. What are the dangers and consequences of dating (the way our culture does it)???

Possible answers:

- it puts me in tempting situations
- it leads to break ups
- it could lead to physical impurity, maybe even sex before marriage
- sex could lead to teen pregnancy, or STD's
- usually dating starts when you don't really know the person, and from there you get emotionally attached, and then it's hard to see who they really are... (dating actually makes it harder to get to know someone for real)
- I could be kissing someone else's future wife/husband!!!
- I get emotionally attached, and it hurts when we break up
- dating doesn't have boundaries that help protect my purity

Thesis: So from what you've told me, dating has a few positives, (it's fun, people accept me, don't feel as lonely, _____) but there are a LOT of negative sides to dating.

One of the biggest problems I see with dating is that **dating sets us up for broken hearts.**

Show video clip– “Heartbreak” (from Shockwave #1)

Discuss video...

Do you think that she planned on having sex with those people? No. It started with dating them, and she let her guard down a little at a time, until she went all the way. Falling into sin doesn't usually happen all at once. People gradually fall away when they let their guard down.

Proverbs 4:23 NIV

Above all else, **guard your heart**,
for it is the wellspring of life.

God wants us to know that our **emotions are VERY important**. The Bible makes it clear that we should guard our heart (emotions).

Illustration: When I think of a guard, I think of a medieval warrior with shining armor, a giant bow and arrows, and a trumpet... he stands on the wall of his castle, and his people are sound asleep inside the castle, only the guard stays awake to keep watch. There is **ALWAYS** a guard posted... the castle is never left unwatched. If the guard sees an enemy threat approaching, he destroys the enemy, if he can defeat them alone, or he sounds his trumpet and wakes the rest of the troops to help defend the people inside. A guard is posted 24/7... never is the castle left unguarded.

That is how we should guard our hearts. 24/7 we need to carefully keep an eye out that no danger would be allowed near enough to strike our hearts.

Dating doesn't help us to Guard our Hearts:

Unfortunately the way people “do dating” is the opposite of guarding our hearts. Most teenagers (and adults too) are far to

quick to go out with somebody, just because they look good, or they say the right things. Too often teens don't even really know who someone is when they start dating.

When we jump into a dating relationship, we begin to get feelings for the other person. It's normal to "like" a member of the opposite sex when you spend time with them. Unfortunately when you start to "like" them sometimes you become blind to who they really are. Have you ever heard the saying, "They see them through rose colored glasses." It means that when you have feelings for someone, sometimes you don't see the bad qualities you only see the good stuff. The danger is that you can go out with someone for quite a while and create all kinds of emotional, and maybe physical attachments, and then after all that you realize "Hey this person really isn't who I thought they were!" Suddenly you wake up and realize the truth, and then you break up... and that causes heartache (because usually when you go out with someone you are attracted to them, and you do like them, and least some things about them). **One of the dangers of dating, is that it throws you into an emotional attraction with a stranger.**

Song 2:7 NIV

Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you
by the gazelles and by the does of the field:
**Do not arouse or awaken love
until it so desires.**

“The meaning of the refrain is that love cannot be forced but must be patiently waited for. In other words the beloved reminded all those desiring a relationship like the one she and Solomon enjoyed to wait patiently for God to bring it into their lives.”

–Bible Knowledge Commentary

Christian teens hear me!!! **It is SO important that you make a conscious choice to WAIT for God's timing.**

The world is pushing you to date, to have sex, to do whatever feels good, but that ends in pain and consequences.

God wants what is best for you!!! He made you and He knows everything about you. God knows your emotional needs. He knows you want to experience love, and it's OK. He put that desire there, but it's all about waiting on God's best.

Imagine how you'll feel if someday God brings the person you are supposed to marry to you. They are more amazing than you even thought was possible. They love God, are good looking, and have the greatest personality. Finally you know this is the "ONE." You want to marry them, but you're not sure if you can... You didn't wait for them... You want to give them your first kiss, but you can't... you've already kissed a bunch of other people. You want to marry them and give them your virginity, but you can't... you already gave it away to that one guy/girl you went out with in High School. And what about your heart (you know your emotions, your love)... you want so badly to give that person all of your love, but your emotions have gone through such a roller coaster. You want to tell them you love them but the word doesn't even mean as much to you now, as it once did. When you get married, your spouse tells you he/she loves you, but you aren't sure if you even believe it. You've heard that so many times, from different people, and all of them failed you. **Imagine how the choices you are making right now will affect your marriage a few years from now.**

God wants what is best for you. I want what is best for you. I hope that you want God's best for you!!! Guard your heart, wait on Him, and don't let the enemy steal your purity.

Some of you may be asking... well if we can't date, how will we ever meet the person we're supposed to marry? We'll talk about that next week. Don't miss it as we get into the subject of courtship - dating God's way.

Prayer:

Tonight I want to challenge you to make a covenant with God. Do you want to take a stand for purity in your life, and wait for God's timing, and the person that He has for you??? Good!!! Just write on this paper in your own words that you will wait for God's best, and you will guard your heart. Then sign and date it... and drop it in the basket...