

Setting the Stage for Intimacy

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Intro:

Last week we discussed the positive and negative sides to dating. Together as a group we came to the conclusion that the down side of dating outweighed the good points. The way our culture does dating is flawed. **It sets us up for heartache, and also opens the door to temptation.** Worldly dating creates an atmosphere that paves the way for slipping down into sin.

Last week the question came up...

"Does dating (as we know it) honor our future spouse?"

You surprised me with your strong answer. You all said, "NO" at once with conviction. I feel like I learned something from you all last week...

Tonight I want us to take that statement and run with it...

****Dating does not honor our future spouse.****

One of my primary goals as a youth pastor is to see to it that you lay a good foundation for your future. I want you to have an awesome life, to serve God, and to be all that God has called you to be. I also want you to have an AWESOME marriage some day. The decisions we make NOW affect tomorrow.

Explain: Sowing and reaping...

The reason I am SO set against dating... is not only because it hurts you now, and may lead you into sin, but also because **it lays a bad foundation for your future marriage.**

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.**

****True Love Waits****

Ask: -If you're not old enough to get married... why date???

One of 2 things (usually) happen when we date to young:

1. Break Up (rose illustration)

2. Physical Attraction → Sexual Sin

-Having sex is not the only "sexual sin." And purity does NOT mean not having sex. Purity is much more than that. To be "pure" means to be...

Untainted - perfect, untouched, unaffected by outside sources...

Pure 1 a (1) : unmixed with any other matter <pure gold> (2) : free from dust, dirt, or taint <pure springwater> (3) : **SPOTLESS, STAINLESS** www.m-w.com/dictionary

-When we kiss someone, it creates a special bond... kissing is designed to pull two people together, and it should be saved for the person you're going to spend your life with...

-When you let your guard down physically, it is hard to bring it back up... In other words, once you've kissed a date... it's hard not to kiss again... Physical attraction progresses...

-Physical contact with a member of the opposite sex is like a HUGE TRAIN... Once it's rolling... It's hard to get it to stop... and REALLY hard to go backwards...

Don't start the train rolling too soon...

Song 2:7b NIV

Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

Remember... ****True Love Waits****

-Physical Intimacy is a beautiful thing that God designed for ONE man and ONE woman to enjoy in marriage.

-Too many people today, miss out on the joy of marriage, because they do things out of place... They have sex, then they move in together, then... maybe someday they get married... And they have marriage problems from day one.

-God's plan for physical intimacy requires COMMITMENT. A man and woman are designed to pledge their lives to each other. They promise to stick to it, no matter what... and they keep their promise. **ONLY in a marriage relationship can a couple enjoy the very best PHYSICAL INTIMACY.**

-True love respects God, our future spouse, and our-selves enough to wait...

ASK: Do you want to have an AWESOME marriage some day??

-Since we desire a great relationship some day with our husband or wife, we've got to make the right choices now to "set the stage" for intimacy. Our relationship will be built upon either a good foundation, or a shaky foundation, dependent upon what we do now.

-It is important that we wait for God's timing to pursue a romantic relationship. It's also important that when that time comes, that we take steps to continue laying a good foundation

for our marriage, by having a courtship that is God centered.
We're going to talk more about courtship in coming weeks...

End w/ Holy Spirit anointing time... We can't live a pure life without the Holy Spirit's help. We're going to get a worship song jammin' and I want every student here that wants to live a pure life, to step up here... and we're going to lay hands and pray.