

Dating - Part 2: HOW should we date?

Goals: To get students - whether they're already dating or not - to think about the kind of dating relationship they want to have, especially as it relates to physical affection and sexual purity, guided by Biblical principles.

Openers:

- Who or what have been the biggest influences on your personal opinions about what dating should or shouldn't look like?
- For those of you who have dated before, what's one thing you wish you'd known before you started dating?

Scripture:

1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NIV) *Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (NIV) *It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.*

Hebrews 13:4 (NIV) *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.*

Digging Deeper:

Observations

- From the text, describe how Paul wants Timothy to treat women.
- Do you think the 1 Thessalonians text applies to marriage, or to more than just marriage? Why/why not? Use the text to backup your thoughts.

Interpretations

- Paul says Timothy is to treat "younger women as sisters, with absolute purity." What does he mean by that?
- When you see the term "sexual immorality" what do you think it means?
- What do you think the writer of Hebrews means by "let the marriage bed be undefiled"?

Applications

- Without getting too weird, if we saw the guy/gal we're dating (or hope to date) as a brother or sister in Christ, what impact would that have on our relationship with them?

Core Help

- What do you think it means for us today for men to treat women “with absolute purity”? And what about the other way around - how should women treat men “with absolute purity”?
- What’s it look like in a dating relationship for both people to “avoid sexual immorality”?
- What do you think are the benefits of a “sexually pure” dating relationship?

Close by pairing up and sharing 1 thing from this study that is “buzzing” in your mind right now - a question it raises, something you’re confused by, something that excites you, something you want to act on, etc.