

The Life of Dating

Text- Psalm 37:3-5, 6, 23, 37,

What?- Dating is the way that two people of the opposite gender get to know each other to determine if they could be married.

Why? - The purpose of dating is to find someone to marry. Not to have fun or have the satisfaction of "having someone."

Who?-You are ready to date when you are totally surrendered to God, and caring most important about the Lord and what He has for your life. We must be completely satisfied in Him alone and what He has for us.

When? - All in God's time!! Dating is not just a thing that you do whenever you feel the urge or when someone takes an interest or even seems to have an interest! It is when God has allowed a mutual interest to form and after much prayer on both parts along with parental permission you begin to seek more time with the person and get to know them.

Wait –It is very important that we not rush things with God and our relationships. Isaiah 40:31- They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles..." Psalm 27:14- "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." God will bring His best for you at the right time. When we rush God, we are saying that we know best and that God's will does not really matter. He has clearly commanded us to wait on Him. Do you want God's best for your life? He says that He will not withhold any good thing from the one that walks uprightly. Waiting is hard work, but the reward will be well worth the wait. It is important to do what God wants you to do. Don't go with your feelings or emotions. These can be wrongly influenced and cause us to make wrong decisions. Be content where you are and trust that the Lord knows best and knows right where you need to be.

Walk- There are a number of things that we can do while we are in this waiting process. Try to become the best young lady that you can be for God. He is the one that should get all your attention and praise. Be in God's word every day and in prayer to God. Do studies on godly men and women in the Bible and see how you line up. Find areas in your life that need changing and make a plan to work on it. Keep a journal of how God works in your life and how He answers prayer. Get to know God on a personal level. Your walk with God should be so close that the guy that finally does come along will have to be close to God to get close to you. Do a study on the attributes of God.

Watch-When the time comes that you are interested in a man and it is clear that it could go somewhere beyond friendship, then there are a number of things to start looking at in this man's life. List some things.... While you are praying about a relationship, keep your parents informed and find out what they expect of you to avoid future misunderstandings. Communication is the key in making any relationship run smoothly. Once you start dating, be sure that it is not your first priority. God is your first priority then come your other responsibilities. A good guy is going to help you make sure that these priorities are kept in check and will not fight for 1st place. Dating does not mean that other friends go out the window. The friends that you make at college will be going out into the world as you are going to need their help and encouragement later in life. Dating also means that you must be able to keep up with

your responsibilities and the ministries that you are involved in. God's work does not get sacrificed for people.

Watch how the guy- treats others along with his family, how does he respond under pressure, what does he look at when he talks to girls, how does he do in classes and with responsibilities, what is he known for, does he walk with God, is he teachable, is he growing, is he proud, what does he think of himself, is he confident, is he a goof-ball, can he be serious, does he have the respect of faculty and students, what do his friends say about him, is he faithful and active in his church, does he pray, will he pray with you, what does he talk about, who does he want to please, what is his music like, does he get along with people, does he push on time limits that you have set, does he respect your parents as well as his own, does he mind when you spend time with people other than him like friends or family, how does he treat you and other girls, how does he treat children, is he considerate of your time and duties, what is his demerit record like, what does he get demerits for, does he communicate with his parents much, what is his background like, does he try to learn from past failures, is he on time, does he have a temper, if so what is he doing about it, is he popular with the cool crowd, if so is this a good thing, is he always seeking female attention, are you willing to follow him as a leader, does he lead by his example in a positive way,

If you are in a relationship right now, ask yourself these questions: Are your parents in favor? Are there things that they would like to see different? Are you getting to know the important things about your guy? Are your actions and conversations pleasing to God? What is your subject of conversation? Do either of you manipulate the other, do you really know why you like each other, can you serve together, pray together, talk about God together, and hold each other accountable? Do you take turns listening? Are you considerate of each other? Are you still close to the Lord even though you are dating or has your relationship with God suffered? Are you keeping your emotions in check? How do you deal with conflict? Are you honest with each other?

Tidbits- while you are waiting, come up with a list of things that you are looking for in a guy, when you are getting started be sure to take things slow- you can spend little time together but get carried away in your emotions or thoughts and conversations, be careful, guard your time, set time that is at a semi-difficult place then stick to it- you will learn to be disciplined with your time, it helps so that if you do slip it is not as bad, when you start breaking what you have set- this is a sure sign that you are getting very emotionally attached- your judgment goes out the window and you start justifying your time etc. Don't be exclusive of others. Be considerate of the needs of others.

It is important whatever state you are in to be pure not only in your actions and physical life but also in your emotional life. PRAY! PRAY! PRAY! PRAY! PRAY! PRAY! Whatsoever state you are BE CONTENT. TRUST the LORD!!! Prov. 3:5-6. When you walk with the Lord His desires become your desires and then God will give you the desires of your heart. Just commit your way to Him.