

## INTRODUCTION

It's true. The Bible does not address itself to what we know today as modern dating. Does this mean that we do not have the guidance from Scripture to handle this foundational issue and, therefore, must look to culture for our direction? Is the Bible incomplete in its revelation regarding this most vital decision in a Christian's life?

## SHOULD WE TRUST CULTURE? LOOK AT THE MESS WE ARE IN!

"In the summer of 1990 a special commission of prominent political, medical, education, and business leaders issued a report, titled Code Blue, on the health of America's teenagers. They wrote that 'never before has one generation of American teenagers been less healthy, less cared for, or less prepared for life than their parents were at the same age.' According to the Commission, the explanation for teenagers' deteriorating condition lies with their behavior...." -William Bennett's The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators, 1993.

In 1960, 70% of marriages were first marriages.  
In 1990, \_\_\_\_\_ of marriages were first marriages.  
-Bennett's Index

In 1945, 80% of children grew up in two-married-parents families.  
In 1980, \_\_\_\_\_ of children grew up in two-married-parents families.  
-Barbara Whitehead, Atlantic Monthly, April 1993, "Dan Quayle Was Right."

One in \_\_\_\_\_ young people lose their virginity before the age of 13.  
-U.S. News and World Report, June 10, 1991, "Goings-on behind bedroom doors."

"Children feel they should behave like the adults they see, use their language, wear their clothing, do the things they do." Parents didn't used to swear in front of their children; now children swear. The veil between adulthood and childhood grows ever more transparent. "We think it's adorable to see a 9-year-old girl in a strapless dress and makeup, then we wonder why we have a pregnant 13-year-old."  
-Marcia Summers, Ball State University professor, quoted in The Milwaukee Journal, July 31, 1994, "Are Children Growing Up Too Fast?"

AGE	Fornication
15	33%
16 male	58

## Notes

16 female	32
17 male	67
17 female	51
18 male	79
18 female	70

-Advocates for Youth, social agency, Jan. 1994 report

In 1955, 12% of teenage girls were sexually active.

In 1988, \_\_\_\_\_ of teenage girls were sexually active.

-Dept. of Health and Human Services

"Thirty years ago girls were sexually active at half the rate of boys. Today, . . . rates for \_\_\_\_\_ young women lag only a few percentage points behind those of young men."

-Focus on the Family, "Are You Ready for Your Teens to Date?", May 1994.

In 1955, there were 5 known venereal diseases.

In 1988, there were \_\_\_\_\_ known venereal diseases.

-Dept. of Health and Human Services

In 1972, 1 in 20 teenage girls had a pregnancy.

In 1990, 1 in 10 teenage girls had a pregnancy.

-Bennett's Index

Every day nearly \_\_\_\_\_ teenagers get pregnant.

-Federal Bureau of Statistics

In 1955, 7% of births to teenagers were out of wedlock.

In 1988, \_\_\_\_\_ of births to teenagers were out of wedlock.

-Dept. of Health and Human Services

In 1960, 5% of all births were illegitimate.

In 1990, \_\_\_\_\_ of all births were illegitimate, a 400% increase.

-Bennett's Index

"The United States has the highest adolescent pregnancy, abortion, and birth rate in the \_\_\_\_\_ developed world, with 43% of all adolescent females estimated to experience at least one \_\_\_\_\_ pregnancy before they reach age 20."

-Advocates for Youth, social agency, Jan. 1994 report

In 1988, \_\_\_\_\_ of evangelical teenagers had lost their virginity by age 18.

-Josh McDowell survey

Josh McDowell, 1990 survey:

Age girl began dating	Percent that fell into fornication
12	91
13	56

## Notes

14

53

15

41

16

20

In 1970, there were 523,000 unmarried households.

In 1993 there were \_\_\_\_\_ unmarried households.

-Census Bureau

In 1960, there were 393,000 divorces.

In 1993, there were \_\_\_\_\_ divorces, a tripling in number.

-Dept. of Health and Human Services

Every day there are \_\_\_\_\_ divorces in America.

In 1900, there was one divorce for every \_\_\_\_\_ marriages.

In 1980, there was one divorce for every \_\_\_\_\_ marriages.

-Carl Degler, *At Odds: Women and the Family in America from the Revolution to the Present*, 1980.

"Seeking to test the Freudian notion that civilization is a byproduct of repressed sexuality, the scholar J. D. Unwin studied 86 different societies. His findings startled many scholars--above all, Unwin himself--because all 86 demonstrated a direct tie between monogamy and "expansive energy" of civilization.

"Unwin had no Christian convictions and applied no moral judgment: 'I offer no opinion about rightness or wrongness.' Nevertheless he had to conclude, 'In human records there is no instance of a society retaining its energy after a complete new generation has inherited a tradition which does not insist on pre-nuptial and post-nuptial continence.'

"For Roman, Greek, Sumerian, Moorish, Babylonian, and Anglo-Saxon civilizations, Unwin had several hundred years of history to draw on. He found with no exceptions that those societies flourished during eras that valued sexual fidelity. Inevitably, sexual mores would loosen and the societies would subsequently decline, only to rise again when they returned to more rigid sexual standards." --Philip Yancey, *Christianity Today*, Dec. 12, 1994, "The Lost Sex Study."

How far away is our society from total collapse, when its ethic is as described by Barbara Ehrenreich in a recent *Time* essay, "...Sex--preferably among affectionate and consenting adults--belongs squarely in the realm of play"?

Just how inept is the religion of America at influencing our culture? George Gallup, Jr. told a group of Southern Baptists, "There is no doubt that religion is growing, but we find little difference in behavior" between those who go to church and those who don't. -*Moody Monthly*, July/August 1984.

Has the final "new generation" of Americans that Unwin mentioned already been born?

## SHOULD WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

The Bible is completely sufficient in revealing the principles and pattern for the determining and selection of God's will in a life's mate.

II Tim. 3:16-17

Ps. 19:7a

## 1. HOW THE MESS CAME TO BE

This examination of the history of our culture is not for the purpose of proving our thesis concerning a biblical pattern for courtship. The reliance on human practices themselves to prove the moral rightness or wrongness of those same practices is a tenet of humanistic social science, not of the Bible. Rather, this broad overview is to show that:

- the Christians who largely defined and influenced our culture once held to similar biblical beliefs and practices concerning courtship; the ideas are not unique;
- the courtship traditions of the first three centuries of our culture in many ways held to biblical standards;
- the influences from which modern dating developed were clearly unbiblical and ungodly, even anti-Christian;
- modern dating had wrong principles and patterns from its very beginning.

### ◇ Elements of the Puritan/Pilgrim pattern

- Priority of spiritual maturity
- Parental control
- Marriage intentions only
- Protection from all physical involvement
- Continuing respect for Biblical model

### ◇ New England law: Parents were given "the care and power . . . for disposing of their Children in Marriage"

### ◇ Through the 1700's

- Control: \_\_\_\_\_ control
- "The restraints of the seventeenth century . . . were enforced by community

and familial authorities." Rothman, 54. Those "restraints" continued well through the eighteenth century, as well, and even into the nineteenth.

- Intentions: Serious \_\_\_\_\_ intentions
- Timing: When fully \_\_\_\_\_ for marriage

"Before a man could marry, he had to possess the means to support a wife and children. . . . A man could marry only when his father was willing to divide the family's lands and to forego the son's labor on the farm." Rothman, 27.

- Environment: In the \_\_\_\_\_ or community/family settings (ex.-church)
- Physical standard: \_\_\_\_\_ before marriage; fornication was a great reproach.

Notice (as in statement below) that marriage was described physically as giving one's hand. It seems even the holding of the hand was reserved for marriage.

"Of the men and women who kept journals and wrote letters, most left no record" of physical relationships. Rothman, 45.

- Key qualification: Practical examination of \_\_\_\_\_

"According to advice books, the selection of a wife required as much discipline, frugality, and study as the choice of a career. . . ." Rothman, 31

"Men and women remained wary of passion. . . . An equally dangerous counterfeit was romance. . . . Both men and women used romantic to describe feelings that were childish, uncontrolled, and unreliable . . . . In serious courtships, romance was suspect . . . . Romantic connoted a lack not merely of seriousness but of maturity." Rothman, 38-40.

In divorce cases in Massachusetts "between 1736 and 1765, none of the fifty-eight petitioners 'named loss of conjugal affection among their grievances.' By contrast, more than 10 percent of the suits brought over the next twenty years included such complaints . . . ." Rothman, 31.

- Secondary qualification: \_\_\_\_\_

"The veto power that children had exercised in the seventeenth century was based on the Puritan belief in the importance of affection in marriage . . . . In 1792, a Massachusetts mother told her daughter she should not wish any friend of hers to give their hand where they could not give their heart. In her words, we hear an echo of the Puritan insistence on children choosing mates whom they could love . . . ." Rothman, 30-31.

"When a man declared himself, a woman was to treat him with utmost candor and kindness; until his avowal, she must exercise restraint. . . . A woman would wait to be sure that her feelings were reciprocal before admitting them even to herself . . . . It was a rare woman who was willing to expose herself to rejection by a lover. . . . A woman had to protect herself not only against disappointment but also indiscretion . . . ." Rothman, 34.

◇ Through the 1800's

- Important considerations:

Δ The \_\_\_\_\_ Movement in philosophy

Reformation	God's propositional Word = truth
Age of Enlightenment (1700's)	Logic = truth ' behavior
Romantic Movement (1800's)	Feelings = truth ' behavior (logic & rules excluded)
Biblical pattern	Belief/faith = truth ' behavior ' emotions Is not this our pattern for marrying?

Δ \_\_\_\_\_

"I must . . . shun vain conversation and books which are ushered into the world under the titles of novels,' one . . . bride resolved in 1802. She complained, 'They cheat us of tears for fictitious sorrow.' For Margaret Bayard, the 'extravagant and false views of life' she had held as a teenager were the unfortunate result of the novels she read. . . . When she met a young man to whom she was attracted, her 'strong inclination, cooperating with a tender heart, gave birth to a sentiment, which occupied every thought & every hour.' A few years later she recalled: 'In all the novels I read, his idea accompanied me & I did little else from morning to night but read novels.'" Rothman, 40.

"Much of the fiction published in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries had an implicit message for women: it taught them to act on their feelings." Rothman, 41.

- Control: Parental control continued but \_\_\_\_\_ towards mere approval as romantic love became the key qualification
- Intentions: Directed towards marriage
- Timing: Mostly when ready to look towards marriage
- Environment: Mostly in the home, but seeking more privacy as romanticism became the guide

- Physical standard: Very little physical contact; perhaps kissing in engagement period.

". . . There may be little evidence of sexual activity before marriage in many Victorian courtships . . . ." Lystra, 57.

In the nineteenth century, "what happened might be called the 'invention of petting.'" Rothman, 54. However, this was not publicly accepted.

The 1904 Northwestern College Dean of Women said, "I have heard . . . that some young women allow men to touch them, to hold their hands! . . . My dear girls, never indulge such frivolous actions." Bailey, 79.

A 1907 Ladies Home Journal advisor said "it was beginning to seem . . . that young men and women between 15 and 20 'expected' hand holding and kissing. The advisor believed a couple should 'by no means' hold hands until betrothed." Bailey, 79.

The 1915 Dean of Women at the University of Wisconsin "lamented the 'tidal wave of irresponsible joyousness' that had come to the college campuses in the 1890's with the influx of youth who believed 'college life' was 'more fun for your money.' She warned that the problem of 'inexperienced, unrestrained young men and women thrown together socially without adequate guidance' was critical, and something must be done to control students." Bailey, 79.

- Key qualification: \_\_\_\_\_ attraction

"By 1830, romantic love was fast becoming the necessary condition for marriage in the American middle class." Lystra, 28.

"While romantic love was unstable in the sense of its duration or staying power, it had compelling effects on individual lives." Lystra, 55.

"A drastic change in world view occurred that made individual perception a law unto itself in mate selection. Love became defined as the sharing of an essential self which was autonomous, private, and beyond the social conventions of everyday roles. Consequently, parental estimations of the prospective mate's ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of a spouse were largely irrelevant to couples who saw marriage as, initially, the union of romantic selves." Lystra, 158.

#### ◇ The Early 1900's

- Important considerations:

△ Emergence of \_\_\_\_\_ culture

## Notes

In 1900, 7% of 14 to 17 year olds were in high school; in 1960, 90% were in high school. Beth Bailey, 7.

"Dating provided a way to manage the social demands of the peer society." Rothman, 290.

Δ \_\_\_\_\_ and luxury

Δ \_\_\_\_\_

"Of the thirty girls charged with 'sex crimes' in Middletown in 1924, nineteen committed the offense in an automobile." Rothman, 294.

Δ \_\_\_\_\_

"Go to a motion picture and let yourself go."--a Saturday Evening Post advertisement.

"The 'constant public watching of love-making on the screen' had noticeable effect." Rothman, 293.

Δ \_\_\_\_\_ dancing

"The new dances 'fostered an unheard of closeness between partners . . .'" Rothman, 292.

Δ Humanistic \_\_\_\_\_ science studies

In the absence of strong spiritual leadership and principled belief, these "experts" and psychologists became the shapers of society.

- Pattern: \_\_\_\_\_ dating

"A new system, created and regulated by young people themselves, 'elaborated two basic rituals of social interaction--dating and petting.'" Rothman, 289.

"In the twenties and early thirties . . . the social pattern was one of multiple or polygamous dating . . . They dated each other for the fun of it . . ."  
George Cole, president of Amherst College, in Rothman, 301.

"There are . . . many problems with a system that . . . fosters the belief that a man can come to understand women by dating fifty-six different girls in nine months, that prepares youth for a lifetime of monogamous marriage by stressing an ideal of promiscuous popularity." Bailey, 55.

- Control: Parental control continuing but \_\_\_\_\_ and peer control rising



"What they did was develop a systematic, peer-controlled approach to the social and sexual relationships of late adolescence and early adulthood." Rothman, 289.

- Intentions: Personal \_\_\_\_\_ and fun

". . . to have as much privacy and at the same time as much excitement as possible." Robert Angell in Rothman, 292.

"Courtship today allows for a great deal of pure thrill-seeking." Willard Waller in Rothman, 290.

- Timing: When \_\_\_\_\_ is sensed, when wanting to have fun, when pressed by the peer group; as soon as early teen years

- Environment: \_\_\_\_\_ of the home

"One of the chief characteristics--and attractions--of a date was that it took place away from home." Rothman, 291.

- Physical standard: \_\_\_\_\_ involvement made physical OK

". . . Assault on 'the moral code of the country.'" Rothman, 288.

"Petting' is the rule rather than the exception in all classes of society." Rothman, 295.

"Dating was the context within which most youthful petting took place. . . ." Rothman, 300.

"The first surveys of sexual behavior found that women born after 1900 were almost twice as likely as those born before 1900 to forego the sweetness of waiting." Rothman, 242.

"Virginity had ceased to be an absolute requirement in a bride . . ." Rothman, 296.

- Key qualification: Personal and \_\_\_\_\_ attraction

#### ◇ The Middle and Latter 1900's

- Pattern: Going \_\_\_\_\_

"By the 1950's, Americans began to acquire dating and petting experience as young teenagers. . . Except for school, dating was the most time-consuming activity . . . beginning in junior high or even elementary school. . . By the time middle-class children entered junior high school, they were full partici-

pants in the first stages of dating ritual." Rothman, 302.

"By the early 1950's, going steady had acquired a totally different meaning. It was no longer the way a marriageable couple signaled their deepening intentions. Instead, going steady was something 12 yr. olds could do, 15 yr. olds did. Few steady couples expected to marry each other . . . but, for the duration, they acted as if they were married. Going steady had become a sort of play-marriage, a mimicry of the actual marriage of their slightly older peers." Bailey, 49.

- Control: Becoming \_\_\_\_\_ controlled by individual youths themselves
- Intentions: Personal \_\_\_\_\_ and fun
- Timing: As early as older \_\_\_\_\_ grades
- Environment: \_\_\_\_\_ of home
- Physical standard: Emotional involvement made \_\_\_\_\_ OK

"Sexual behavior was 'made respectable by going steady.'" Rothman, 304.

"Ira Reiss speculated in 1966, 'We may well witness soon an increase in many forms of sexual behavior . . . . The stage is set for another upward cycle of increasing sexual behavior and sexual acceptance.' Reiss was soon proved right." The percentage of 17 year olds who had lost their virginity doubled between the 1950's and 1970's. Rothman, 307.

"[Fornication] is a conventionally assumed part of long-term relationships (even among teenagers . . .) and a clear possibility on first dates." Bailey, 142.

"The usual sequence was to 'slide from dating into shacking up into marriage.'" Rothman, 310.

"We are seeing a return to traditional values and practices--people want to know the background of the next person they sleep with." Newsweek, June 2, 1986, "The New Mating Games."

- Key qualification: Personal, emotional attraction; \_\_\_\_\_ desire

The new ethic of individual freedom that evolved rejected . . . the confinement of stereotypical gender and family roles. Instead, it celebrated the natural individual, unspoiled and unfettered by the constraints of society . . . It was, in fact, a revival of the Rousseauian and romantic image of man as naturally good and creative, pitted in battle against a hostile and oppressive society . . . a conception of self as grounded in impulse rather than in the

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social roles that make up . . . order. Sex, instead of being seen as a potentially disruptive force that needed to be controlled, . . . became a natural instinct, essentially good if it was not repressed and perverted by societal or religious taboos. As such it could be allowed full expression in (almost) all its natural manifestations. . . . The new ideology gave . . . equal legitimacy to sex inside and outside of marriage. It thus paved the way for an unprecedented rise in premarital sexual activity . . . ." Schonrock, 5-6.

### **Historical Comparison of American Courtship and Modern Dating**

<i>Time Period</i>	<b>1700s</b>	<b>1800s</b>	<b>Early 1900s</b>	<b>Middle &amp; Later 1900s</b>
<b>INFLUENCES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Puritan beliefs</li> <li>• Bible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Romantic movement</li> <li>• Novels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humanism</li> <li>• Youth Culture</li> <li>• Materialism</li> <li>• Automobiles</li> <li>• Movies</li> <li>• Dancing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing moral decline</li> <li>• World War II</li> <li>• Rebellion of the 1960s</li> </ul>
<b>PATTERN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courtship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courtship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promiscuous dating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Going steady</li> </ul>
<b>CONTROL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental declining</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual and peer rising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual and peer</li> </ul>
<b>INTENTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pleasure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pleasure</li> </ul>
<b>TIMING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When prepared for marriage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When prepared for marriage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When attracted; latter teen years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When attracted or desired; early and pre-teen years</li> </ul>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home, but more privacy sought</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside of home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside of home</li> </ul>
<b>PHYSICAL STANDARD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No or very little touching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very little touching, but petting becoming okay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical involvement okay</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anything okay</li> </ul>
<b>KEY QUALIFICATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Character; secondary affection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Romantic attraction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Romantic attraction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Romantic attraction; lustful desire</li> </ul>

## 2. WHAT IT IS WE'RE AFTER--MARRIAGE

◇ **Definition:** A man leaving his father and mother and cleaving to his wife and the two becoming one flesh

◇ **Principle #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Gen. 2:18
- Gen. 2:23-25
- Eph. 5:31

◇ **Principle #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Mal. 2:14 (Prov. 2:17)
- Marriage is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - △ The covenantal promise is what \_\_\_\_\_ a marriage.
  - △ The covenantal promise is a vow before \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - △ The marriage covenant is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The idea of a vow is mocked with the following "promises" heard today:
  - △ "As long as our \_\_\_\_\_ shall last"
  - △ "As long as we can \_\_\_\_\_ together"

◇ **Principle #3:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Mal. 2:15

- Marriage is for the producing of a \_\_\_\_\_ seed.

◇ Principle #4: \_\_\_\_\_

- Eph. 5:31-32
- Marriage is designed by God to form a \_\_\_\_\_ picture of Christ's relationship to the church.

### 3. OUR DANGEROUS WAY OF GETTING THERE: DATING PRINCIPLES

◇ **Definition:** The \_\_\_\_\_ developing by a man and woman of a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship for \_\_\_\_\_ emotional satisfaction through the means of thoughts, looks, notes, talks, or events

Further descriptions:

- "Dating differs from previous courtship practices in the following ways: '(1) The introduction of the man to the woman by a member of the family is not considered necessary. (2) There is no chaperon. (3) There is no commitment on the part of the male or female to continue the relationship beyond the date itself. (4) The date is planned by the adolescents themselves, and not by their elders. (5) Physical intimacies such as hand-holding, petting, kissing, and sexuality are expected rather than forbidden.'" Lloyd Saxton, quoted in West, 10.
- "'Going steady'. . . is something new in dating practice. In former generations a courting pair might be 'keeping steady company,' but this usually meant that they were serious enough about each other to be planning marriage. Going steady nowadays frequently implies no such commitment to the future." Duvall, 214.
- "Dating is a relationship expressing freedom, lack of commitment or public obligation for any sort of future action." Samuel Lowrie, 1951, sociologist, in Rothman, 300.
- "Dating is a proving ground for love. Loves arrive and are given a whirl on the dating merry-go-round that is common during the teen and young adult years. Most of these loves will last only a short while. Each new special

friend, each new relationship, each new feeling, helps the person gain experience in the wonders of human interaction and insight into himself. As loves come and go, the emotional repertoire of the individual is developed to the point where he or she is increasingly capable of loving widely and deeply in the many ways that are important for fulfillment." Duvall, 181.

◇ Principle #1: \_\_\_\_\_

- The courting history described above clearly reveals that the pleasure of
- \_\_\_\_\_ intimacy has been the driving motive to join the dating system.
- "Love that hinges solely on sensual attraction reflects only self-gratification. . . . People have invented a whole lexicon of false terminology to express distortions of life-truths. For example, people say they 'love' fish. What do they do with the fish they love? First, they snuff out its life. Then they cut it up, bake it, broil it, fry it, chew it, and swallow it. Do they really love fish? Most certainly not! They love themselves and seek self-gratification. The poor fish serves only to achieve this end. The term love often has the same connotation when used to refer to the opposite sex. In such cases, it means, 'I love him or her for the pleasure and self-gratification he or she is able to give me.'" Lebovits, 13.
- That pleasure is the main reason for joining the dating game is revealed by the main reasons why couples break up:
  - △ The relationship gets \_\_\_\_\_ or too hard to maintain
  - △ Someone \_\_\_\_\_ comes along
  - △ A partner no longer meets his/her \_\_\_\_\_
  - △ \_\_\_\_\_ or misunderstandings
  - △ Romantic feelings and excitement have \_\_\_\_\_

How many of these reasons are heard daily in divorce courts across our nation?

◇ Principle #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Choice

- This principle grows out of a basic humanistic assumption that a young person's heart is basically good and he/she will make the right choice, even if mature individuals don't see it their way.

- The boy or girl goes after the person they find most \_\_\_\_\_ attractive or available at the point when they feel the impulse for romantic involvement.
- There is little or no \_\_\_\_\_ control or \_\_\_\_\_.
- The modern dating system is a parent \_\_\_\_\_ his responsibility.

◇ **Principle #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationships**

- The clear dating principle is that \_\_\_\_\_ relationships, and many of them, are desirable and good.
- Note some recent quotes from evangelical literature:

"It is obvious and natural that a teen can have only one boyfriend or girlfriend at a time. And they may choose to date that person steadily."

"The purpose of dating in high school is to get to know as many girls and boys as possible."

- Might not it be that this repeated breaking up is more preparation for handling the impulses towards and the pains of divorce rather than the commitment of marriage?

◇ **Principle #4: \_\_\_\_\_ aloneness and intimacies**

- Promoting \_\_\_\_\_ and sexual involvement is at the core of the dating system. The history and statistics reveal the sad truth.
- The drives and desires of the \_\_\_\_\_ control the young persons.
- Even the sincere Christian young person involved in the dating game has naively set himself up for great temptation.

## 4. OUR DANGEROUS WAY OF GETTING THERE: DATING PROBLEMS

In a 1961 Readers Digest condensation of a recent Life article, sociologist James Bossard noted that "the trouble with American marriage is American courtship." He sometimes felt that American parents permit and even encourage their children to

select their mates in just about the worst of all possible ways.

◇ Sin Problems

- \_\_\_\_\_

△ Mental--Prov. 6:25; Mat. 5:27-30

△ Emotional

God made man male and female. In other words, our sexuality is at the core of our humanness. It is a vital way we reflect the image of God and bring glory to Him. It is very clear that our sexual nature is not just physical but a part of our very souls; it is deeply tied to our emotions. There is a need, desire, joy inside a man or woman to love and be loved, to own and be owned, to care for and be cared for, to understand and be understood, to know and be known, and these needs can only be deeply, satisfyingly fulfilled by a member of the opposite sex. This is the soul and heart of a man that was made to be united with the soul and heart of a woman. When we speak of emotional purity, we are speaking of this created aspect of each man and woman, and the need to preserve one's heart and soul and mind for one person, one's life-long marriage partner.

The Romantic philosophers recognized this aspect of human personality; in fact, they gloried in it. They "proposed that one might have, and appropriately cultivate, emotional love-feelings for one who was not their spouse. This might take place both before and after one was married. Those who continued to hold to the sanctity of the physical relationship within marriage portrayed the emotion-only love affairs as noble, extolling secret romances in which the parties fanned the flame of their passion without giving release to physical affections."

Is it not absurd to imagine a marriage counseling situation in which a husband doesn't understand why his wife is so upset that he is in love with another woman when he has not even physically touched her?

"Virginity is inward as well as outward. Prov. 6:25 Virginity is not simply physical. Virginity is heart purity. Virginity also does not consist in denying yourself what you really would like to do outside of marriage; virginity is an inheritance that is brought into a marriage. " West, 7-8.

△ Physical

What does physical \_\_\_\_\_, beginning with hand-holding, communicate in a dating relationship?



- Commitment to the other
- Desire for the other
- Togetherness
- Romantic feelings
- Enjoyed specifically because one is aware of the sexual nature of and attraction to the other of opposite gender
- Stimulation, pleasure
- Pure sexual, physical desire for the other
- There is a natural progression as more stimulation is discovered and sought, and the beginning forms are no longer satisfying.

Are not all of these to be reserved for the relationship the Bible calls marriage?

- I Cor. 6:16
- I Thes 4:3-6
- I Tim. 5:2b
- Lev. 18:6,9
- I Cor 6:18
- I Cor 7:1

Observation and experience so clearly indicates that of all people IT IS A DATING COUPLE THAT OUGHT TO AVOID ALL PHYSICAL TOUCHING; A MOMENT'S TOUCHING CAN BE THE STRIKING OF A MATCH, BOTH PARTIES ARE SO SEXUALLY/EMOTIONALLY CHARGED. One man's testimony is this: "I discovered on more than one occasion that even if I was totally pure in my motives for engaging in physical-emotional intimacy with a woman and even if we had shown no romantic interest in one another before this contact, if the intimacy was deep enough or the emotional messages strong enough, I subsequently had to make explicit denials that I had any further romantic, sexual intentions toward her." Another writer stated, "When we begin to develop intimacy with someone, there's going to be a natural tendency toward a sexual expression . . . . Any time you become emotionally involved with a person, you're moving into the arena of sexual temptation. You're touching one of the springs from which our sexuality comes to the surface." Holzman, 128.

- Mat. 5:27-28
- Mat. 5:30
- We have played with \_\_\_\_\_ views of human sexuality.
- In a male/female romantic relationship, is not the \_\_\_\_\_ body

subject to sexual stimulation?

- Is it not unthinkable for a married man to walk around holding the hand of a woman who is not his wife? Yet dating couples do this all the time, holding the hand of someone who is not their mate and probably will be someone else's!

Δ Fornication--Col. 3:5; Heb. 13:4

- \_\_\_\_\_--I Thes. 4:3-8

Δ Emotional

Δ Physical

- Breaking of the \_\_\_\_\_--Ex. 20

Δ Thou shalt have no other gods before me (idolatry).

Δ Honor thy father and thy mother (rebellion).

Δ Thou shalt not steal.

Δ Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Δ Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.

- Searing of the \_\_\_\_\_ through continual yielding to sinful temptation--I Tim. 1:19

- Developing of \_\_\_\_\_ woman and \_\_\_\_\_ man--Prov. 2:10-22

- Other \_\_\_\_\_ sins

Δ Jealousy

Δ Bitterness

Δ Anger

#### ◇ Developmental Problems

- Loss of social development in \_\_\_\_\_ relationships

- Loss of \_\_\_\_\_ development

Δ Instability and insecurity

Δ Feelings of rejection either from breaking up or lack of boyfriend/girlfriend

Δ Broken hearts and deep hurts/scars that will last a lifetime

Δ Tender, initial, or deep loves that linger for years after being broken off; may even last a lifetime, a wishful tie to someone in the past; there are

- emotional bonds that remain long after you are married to someone else
- △ A callousness develops after the first painful breaking up that protects from future pain and makes future breaking up more easy to handle
  - △ It creates mini-marriage, mini-divorce, maximum pain
  - △ Feelings of betrayal
  - △ Loss of ability to trust others, have confidence in others
  - △ Confusion
  - △ Suicidal thoughts
  - △ Guilt
- Why is breaking up so painful and difficult? Because the boyfriend/girlfriend relationship is just like marriage:
    - △ Both involve ownership
    - △ Both are mutual relationships
    - △ Both are exclusive relationships
    - △ Both include physical-sexual intimacy
    - △ Participants in both relationships sense they have some kind of obligation to keep going together. It is considered inappropriate and dishonorable to terminate one of these relationships. Staying together is certainly perceived as honorable, while breaking up is not.
    - △ Both relationships require some sort of spoken end. They don't just die away. Marriage requires a legal decree; a dating relationship also must have something said, or else it isn't known whether the relationship is terminated or they just had a bad argument.
    - △ Change in both relationships occurs suddenly, noticeably, and, except in extreme circumstances, with the knowledge of both partners. Holzman, 6-8.
  - Loss of \_\_\_\_\_ development
  - Loss of \_\_\_\_\_ development
    - △ Distraction from singlemindedness
    - △ Guilt
    - △ Loss of blessing
    - △ Judgment from God for defrauding
    - △ Backsliding from focus not on God, pulled down by weaker date, in despair over breaking up, etc.
    - △ No time for exertion in spiritual/ministry realms
  - Loss of normal \_\_\_\_\_

Dating relationship is so all-consuming that other normal considerations and factors of growing up have little influence

- None or very little \_\_\_\_\_ involvement
- \_\_\_\_\_ role is obliterated
- Break in relationship with and \_\_\_\_\_ in parents

◇ **Peer Problems**

- \_\_\_\_\_ of other young ladies, not as sisters in Christ
- Tale-bearing and \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ friendships with those of same and opposite sex
- \_\_\_\_\_ among peer and youth groups

◇ **Social Problems**

- \_\_\_\_\_ rape
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ pregnancy
- \_\_\_\_\_

◇ **Marriage Problems**

"Whatever we have been doing these days hasn't been helping the church. Young people keep falling by the wayside, and we say 'It's just Christian dating.' I say that Christian dating is robbing from marriage what God intended to be part of the marriage relationship. . . . [All] we save for marriage today is complete cohabitation, complete sexual privilege, having children." Pastor Reb Bradley, CA

- \_\_\_\_\_ God's design for marriage by cheapening marriage privileges; lack of appreciation for marriage because its privileges (physical, emotional intimacies) were all enjoyed beforehand
- One's \_\_\_\_\_ love and desire, which often is always remembered, does not belong to one's mate
- \_\_\_\_\_ habits of treating those of opposite sex carried into marriage
- Inability to \_\_\_\_\_ mate, jealousy
- \_\_\_\_\_ of past loves, causing unwanted thoughts or a wandering heart; comparison of mate to past dates

- Mate cheated out of the gift of \_\_\_\_\_, both of body and of heart
- False ideas of marriage \_\_\_\_\_
  - Δ "Those who follow today's dating pattern reckon first with personal attraction and probe afterward to find out about intrinsic qualities. Herein lies the source of the pitfalls. Once the ingredient of attraction is involved, there is little chance that a person's judgment concerning the long list of necessary inner assets will not be blurred and prejudiced. . . . Why do many people, even in today's secular world, labor under the misconception that finding a mate is connected solely with the mysterious, transcendental workings of 'destiny' and not with a practical set of criteria? The source of this misconception is the very human tendency to romanticize. . . . The idyllic picture of romance and love, painted by contemporary literature and the media, has also contributed to the present-day misconception. Today's youth are brainwashed. . . . It is foolishly believed that someone who will love with all his heart is everything." Lebovits, 10-12.
  - Δ Self-centered desires
  - Δ Ideas of "romance" based on lust, the sweetness of stolen water and the pleasantness of secret bread (Pro. 9:17)
  - Δ False commitment
  - Δ Loss of innocent childhood vision of what marriage is all about

• \_\_\_\_\_

"Common sense would argue that when people select mates entirely on their own and know each other for a relatively long period of time before marriage, the frequency of divorce should be lower than it was fifty or sixty years ago, when parents had a voice in choosing mates for their children. Precisely the opposite is true." Lebovits, 4.

During the time of the Persian Gulf War, someone queried General Schwartzkopf concerning the military prowess of Saddam Husein. The general responded, "Well, he's neither a strategist, nor is he a tactician. Nor is he a general, nor is he a soldier. Other than that, he is a great military man." "Dating is wonderful, isn't it? It isn't safe for kid's purity, their spiritual growth, their relationship with their parents, their future happiness, their spiritual fellowship, it violates biblical principles, follows no biblical pattern, it is creating all kinds of problems, but other than that, dating is an outstanding thing!" Pastor S.M. Davis, IL.

## 5. A BETTER WAY OF GETTING THERE: COURTSHIP EXAMPLES

◇ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ --Gen. 2:18-22

- God noticed the need for a helpmeet, not Adam (18)
- Adam began doing God's will concerning his life's work (19-20)
- God prepared Eve for Adam while Adam was asleep (21)
- God brought Eve to Adam (22)
- Adam loved her (23)
- The two cleaved together (24)
- The two became one flesh (24)

◇ **Old Testament** \_\_\_\_\_

- Betrothal=to fix upon by agreement or appointment, to meet at a date at an appointed time
- Parental, especially paternal, control
- Consent of children
- Friend of the bridegroom negotiated
- Dowry paid
- Formal ceremonies
- Legal documents
- Called husband and wife
- Man exempt from military service
- If betrothed husband died, the woman was considered a widow
- Broken only on grounds of adultery
- Breaking required legal divorce
- Lasted about 1 year
- For purpose of preparation for wedding

*Gower's New Manners and Customs of Bible Times, 64-65.*

◇ \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ --**Gen. 24**

- Godly man, Isaac (vs. 63-meditating in the field)
- Parental initiation, control (vs. 2-9)
- Prayer, seeking God's will and blessing, supernatural guidance, God's working (vs. 12-14)
- Test of character of Rebekah, practical character examination, man's working (vs. 13-28)
- Sense of God's leading (vs. 26-27)

- Parental confirmation (vs. 51-51, 60)
- Consent of bride (vs. 58)
- Leaving home (vs. 61)
- Tranquil, comforting union (vs. 67)

◇ \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

- II Cor. 11:2            Security and growth of betrothal period
- Eph. 5:32            Purpose of marriage is to reveal truth about Christ and the church
- Eph. 1:4            Father chose bride
- John 3:29            Father sent Friend of the Groom
- Mat. 18:11            Father sent Son
- John 5:19,30        Son obeyed Father's will
- I John 4:19           Groom initiated the love
- I Pet. 1:18-19        Greatest dowry, the blood of Christ
- John 14:6            Christ away preparing a place
- Rev. 19:7            Marriage Supper and celebration
- Rev. 19:8            Bride clothed in white garments
- Rev. 22:5            Eternity together

**A Holy Picture**

HUSBAND AND WIFE	CHRIST AND THE CHURCH
The husband is the head of the wife.	Christ is the head of the church.
The wife submits to the husband.	The church submits to Christ.
The husband loves the wife.	Christ loves the church.
The husband and the wife are united as one.	Christ and the church are united as one.

◇ \_\_\_\_\_ shidduchim

- Shidduchim=The process of dating and courtship for the purpose of marriage

◇ The Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

- Groom enters first
- Bride given away
- Permission to kiss the bride

## 6. A BETTER WAY OF GETTING THERE: COURTSHIP PRINCIPLES

◇ **Definition:** Two fathers \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the introduction of their marriageable children to their families and to each other for the sole purpose of confirming \_\_\_\_\_ concerning their marriage while maintaining all \_\_\_\_\_

◇ **Principle #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

- This is the key motive behind courtship; it is the desire to save oneself completely for the oneness of marriage.
- This principle acknowledges that purity is not the natural state to which the human heart resorts. Purity must be deliberately and carefully guarded. Young people on their own are extremely vulnerable and must be protected and directed by God-ordained authority. The heart of man is cursed; it is deceitful and desperately wicked beyond understanding.
- This purity must be maintained throughout one's entire personality: single-mindedness, singleheartedness, and an untouched body.



◇ Principle #2: \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility

- Parental authority and direction is the God-ordained means for young people to find their life's mates.
- Gen. 2:24
- Ex. 20:12
- Mat. 22:37-40
- Mat. 15:3-6 (4)
- Eph. 6:1-2
- Gal. 4:1-2
- Num. 30:3-8
- I Cor. 7: 36-38 "But if any man thinks that he is acting unbecomingly toward his virgin daughter, if she should be of full age, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry. But he who stands firm in his heart, being under no constraint, but has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin daughter, he will do well. So then both he who gives his own virgin daughter in marriage does well, and he who does not give her in marriage will do better." NASV
- Hudson Taylor and his wife Maria Dyer provide an example. In their courtship, "both . . . were clear in their convictions that the blessings of God rested upon obedience to parents . . ." Hudson Taylor wrote later in life in reference to parental approval for missionary work, "I have never known disobedience to the definite command of a parent, even if that parent were mistaken, that was not followed by retribution. Conquer through the Lord. He can open any door." Hudson Taylor's *Spiritual Secret*, 88.

- One month from the day Adoniram Judson met Nancy Hasseltine, he "formally 'commenced an acquaintanceship' with her, which meant that he formally declared his intentions as a suitor." Upon receiving her rather moderate approval, he immediately wrote her father seeking his approval. *To the Golden Shore*, 82-83.

◇ Principle #3: \_\_\_\_\_

- This is the initial pre-requisite for courtship. It follows directly from the belief that God has designed intimate male/female relationships to occur only in the bounds of marriage; and therefore, one must not begin pursuing such a relationship unless fully prepared to handle the responsibilities.
- Young \_\_\_\_\_
  - △ Spiritually
  - △ Maturity
  - △ Direction/cause for his life
  - △ Vocationally
  - △ Financially (no debt, housing)
  - △ Fatherhood
- Young \_\_\_\_\_
  - △ Spiritually
  - △ Maturity
  - △ Being a wife
  - △ Home-making
  - △ Motherhood

◇ Principle #4: \_\_\_\_\_

- Isaiah 64:4
- Ps. 139:16
- Gen. 2:18-22
  - △ God noticed the need for a helpmeet, not Adam (18)
  - △ Adam began fulfilling God's will concerning his life's work (19-20)
  - △ God prepared Eve for Adam while Adam was asleep (21)
  - △ God brought Eve to Adam (22)
- I Cor. 7

- The heart of a young person ought to be characterized by a certain rest in the Lord concerning marrying.

## 7. A BETTER WAY OF GETTING THERE: COURTSHIP PRACTICES

◇ Period #1: \_\_\_\_\_

- GOAL=Develop full godly \_\_\_\_\_ and please the Lord through ministry
- LENGTH=Extends to the point where one's training and preparation for life is done or very near conclusion
- Parental responsibility--Eph. 6:3-4
  - △ \_\_\_\_\_
  - △ Consistent \_\_\_\_\_
  - △ Consistent \_\_\_\_\_ and love
  - △ Develop \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ skills
  - △ GET YOUR CHILD'S \_\_\_\_\_! Prov. 23:26
- Young people mature and gain understanding of marriage and male-female relationships through four vital family relationships:
  - △ Father - Son
  - △ Mother - Son
  - △ Father - Daughter
  - △ Mother - Daughter

◇ Period #2: \_\_\_\_\_

- GOAL=Confirm \_\_\_\_\_ concerning whom to marry while maintaining all purity of heart, mind, and body
- LENGTH=\_\_\_\_\_ according to the situation and God's leading in the hearts of those involved; distance and accessibility are factors; it needs to be

short enough to not produce undue emotional attachment but long enough to gain full confidence in God's will; parents need to be committed to whatever personal sacrifice it takes to get the matter solved as quickly as God permits.

- The father of the young man leads in \_\_\_\_\_; an awareness of God's leading to a potential wife becomes apparent to parents of a young man or the young man himself; upon discussion and parental consensus, the father of the young man or the young man himself approaches the father of the girl.
- (An awareness of God's leading to a potential husband might become apparent to parents of a young lady or to the young lady herself; parents and daughter may discuss the matter, however, they wait for God to lead further and make the parents of the young man or the young man aware of God's leading.)
- The father of a young girl should not allow a courtship to begin unless he sees clearly that a young man and his father have prayed and sought God's will concerning the matter, have examined the character of the girl, and are confident in God's leading to the point of courtship.
- The father of the young lady leads in \_\_\_\_\_; if the father of the girl approves, both families begin to work together to discern God's will; father of the girl plays a key role since he is the one who must give away his daughter.
- Time in which the young man and young lady are together is exclusively in the presence of one of the families; the interaction is not only in specially planned events but also in the realm of normal everyday life; the input of siblings is very important, as well; parental knowledge of the potential mate is more important than the young persons' knowledge of each other.
- The young man and young lady are never \_\_\_\_\_ together, including being alone in a crowd of strangers; this not only for physical protection, but emotional as well.
- The young man and woman do not \_\_\_\_\_ at all.
- Both individuals clearly understand that they are seeking God's will and do not want to defraud one another in any way; the young lady still belongs completely to her father; the young man has no rights towards her; they are still saving themselves for the one who is to be their mate; a great aid to this is that everything that occurs or is spoken is discussed with that young person's parents.
- IMPORTANT KEY=This period ought not to \_\_\_\_\_ without a good measure of peace and confidence in God's leading.

◇ Period #3: \_\_\_\_\_

- GOAL= \_\_\_\_\_ for marriage
- LENGTH= Only as long as it takes to fully \_\_\_\_\_ for the marriage; not too short as to feel rushed and not too long as to be frustrated.
- This period is to be understood in the context of biblical betrothal; unlike our common engagements of today, which are like a more serious trial period, 40% of which are broken, this commitment to marrying is very serious, to be broken only in the rarest of cases; this is a time in which the young people do not have to insecurely focus on maintaining their relationship, but rather they can wholeheartedly prepare for marriage, building up their knowledge and care for one another with all confidence and security.
- The decision to marry is made together by the parents and young people; it is based on confidence in God's will, confidence in the character of the future mate, confidence in the rightness of the situation, and confidence that no biblical principles are being violated (ex.-divorce, rebellion, etc.).
- Upon approval of his own parents, the young man approaches the father of the young lady and asks for his final permission to marry his daughter.
- The time of preparation begins:

△ For the young \_\_\_\_\_

1. Win young lady's heart, develop communication skills and understanding; develop oneness of spirit
2. Further character development, with input and direction from future father-in-law
3. Finish schooling/training
4. Prepare his house (ex.-debt retirement)
5. Prepare for wedding ceremonies and honeymoon (least important)

△ For the young \_\_\_\_\_

1. Prepare to love and help young man, develop communication skills and understanding; develop oneness of spirit
2. Finish schooling/training
3. Prepare to leave home
4. Prepare for new home
5. Prepare for wedding ceremonies (least important)

△ For \_\_\_\_\_

1. Make sure all parent-child problems of the past are solved
2. Insure couple is successful in their communication to and understanding of one another
3. Parents share with the future in-law their awareness of the intricacies of their son or daughter
4. Draw future in-law into family
5. Share marriage/life counsel with couple
6. Develop further association with in-law family
7. Prepare for child to leave home
8. Prepare for wedding ceremonies (least important)

Δ For \_\_\_\_\_

1. Pastoral counseling and accountability
  2. Insure that couple is successful in problem-solving communication
  3. Prepare for wedding ceremonies
- Time together continues to be characterized by much time with families; a young person alone with the in-law parents/family is excellent; the couple is together enough to achieve the purpose of preparation for marriage but not so much as to fall into meeting selfish needs or developing a romantic concept of love; too much time together can be harmful spiritually.
  - More than ever, the couple ought not to be "out" alone; however, time together in private is necessary at this stage and is best achieved in close proximity to the family (ex.-in a room, out on a porch, for a walk on the family's property); this is the most dangerous time for physical defrauding since the couple is growing together emotionally and the urge for expression of physical affection will be growing; family observation will help the couple avoid that which they would later regret.
  - The couple ought to continue to refrain from all touching.
  - REMEMBER=The individuals are not yet each others'; they still belong to their parents, especially the young lady; they must be careful to not defraud each other physically, but they do have the right and responsibility to develop a deeper knowledge of each other, a oneness of spirit; parental involvement, guidance, and awareness is still VERY important, beneficial, and desirable in this stage.

◇ Period #4: \_\_\_\_\_

- GOAL=\_\_\_\_\_ God together through pleasing one another, rearing a godly seed, and ministering in His service.
- LENGTH="Till \_\_\_\_\_ do us part!"

## 8. ANY OTHER WAYS TO GET THERE?

### ◇ \_\_\_\_\_ courtship

- Description: Relationship is \_\_\_\_\_ by young man and then overseen and approved by girl's father as the relationship develops.
- Problems:
  - △ \_\_\_\_\_ attachments begin quickly, often long before families and young people gain a confidence in the Lord's leading the two together.
  - △ Parents, especially the father of the daughter, have real difficulty gaining confidence in the Lord's leading when they are depending upon their child for insight into the potential mate.
  - △ As noted, parental control is inadequate.

### ◇ \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ -in-Christ relationships opening into engagement

- Description: Brothers and sisters in Christ grow along a continuum of friendship to the place where they are best friends, at which point they consider their compatibility as marriage partners and become engaged.
- Problems:
  - △ No parental control is built into the idea. As well, the family is absent. The fact that children are under the authority and responsibility of parents is missing.
  - △ While the idea is a noble effort to rescue young people from the dangers of dating, it tries to force the brother/sister-in-Christ dynamic into a match-making process, something it was biblically never intended to be. The knowledge that at the end of the brother/sister-in-Christ friendship chain is one's marriage partner will often cause the whole process to be spoiled with degrees of selfish desire, impurity, and lack of singlemindedness. There is no effective authoritative guidance to enable the young people to control themselves in their youthful desires and perspectives. For the sake of purity, the marriage selection process must be seen as completely separate from the standard by which all church/Christian relationships are to operate. This is basically an attempt to "Christianize" the dating game.

## A Detailed Contrast of Dating and Courtship

<i>Dating</i>		<i>Courtship</i>
Breaks apart family unit and avoids parental involvement	<b>1</b>	Preserves integrity of the family unit and parental authority
Advice from elders is unsought, bothersome, and often rebelled against	<b>2</b>	Elder leaders outside of the relationship provide authoritative and insightful advice
Many broken engagements reveal a great lack of confidence	<b>3</b>	Provides for confidence in God's will for all involved
Produces great insecurity through experiencing broken hearts and broken promises	<b>4</b>	Provides great security for the young persons involved
Distracts from building character and even destroys character	<b>5</b>	Encourages intense, personal character development in youth
Teaches dependence upon oneself and one's own desires	<b>6</b>	Encourages patience and waiting on the Lord
Begins when first attracted to the opposite gender	<b>7</b>	Begins when prepared for marriage
The ideal is many different relationships	<b>8</b>	The ideal is only one romantic involvement for life
Enjoys the flesh taking control	<b>9</b>	Guards against the flesh taking control
Expects physical-sexual contact	<b>10</b>	Protects against all physical impurity
Produces guilt and God's judgment	<b>11</b>	Keeps conscience clear
Finds pleasure in emotional involvement	<b>12</b>	Protects against emotional impurity
Broken hearts become calloused	<b>13</b>	Protects from heartache
Personal attraction is key	<b>14</b>	Character examination is key and precedes personal, emotional involvement
Clouds the mind with subjective emotionalism	<b>15</b>	Keeps the mind clear
Creates great tensions and conflicts among youth groups	<b>16</b>	Enables pure relating of youths in church and school settings
Based on worldly, humanistic assumptions	<b>17</b>	Based on biblical patterns and philosophy
Reflects the habits of the evil man and strange woman of Proverbs	<b>18</b>	Reflects the biblical picture of Christ's relationship to the church
Makes the privileges and joys of marriage available to the immature, unprepared, and uncommitted	<b>19</b>	Lifts up marriage and God's wondrous plan of making man male and female



## Comparison of Principles

	<b>DATING</b>	<b>COURTSHIP</b>	<b>MARRIAGE</b>
<b>Essence of:</b>	Pleasure	Purity	Perfect Unity
<b>Security of:</b>	Personal Choice	Parental Responsibility	Promise
<b>Future goal of:</b>	Periodic Relationships	Preparedness	Procreation
<b>Attitude of:</b>	Physical aloneness and intimacies	Patience	Picture
<b>Idea from:</b>	World	Bible	God
<b>Authority:</b>	Oneself	Parents	God
<b>Guideline:</b>	Pleasure	Purity	Love
<b>Goal:</b>	Pleasure	Marriage	Service

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# Answer Key

**Page 1**

50%  
50%  
Five

**Page 2**

70%  
50  
3,000  
65%  
28%  
43%

**Page 3**

3.5 Million  
1.2 Million  
3,000  
250  
2

**Page 4**

Parental

**Page 5**

Marriage  
Prepared  
Home  
None  
Character  
Affection

**Page 6**

Romantic  
Novels  
Declined

**Page 7**

Romantic  
Youth

**Page 8**

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Cars  
Movies  
Close  
Social  
Promiscuous  
Individual

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Pleasure  
Attraction  
Out  
Emotional  
Emotional  
Steady

**Page 10**

Completely  
Pleasure  
Elementary  
Outside  
Anything  
Lustful

**Page 12**

Partnership  
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Covenant  
Consummates  
God and Man  
Permanent  
Love  
Last  
Procreation

**Page 13**

Godly  
Picture  
Holy  
Independent  
Temporary Romantic  
Personal

**Page 14**

Pleasure  
Romantic  
Boring  
Better  
Needs  
Quarrels  
Disappeared  
Personal

**Page 15**

Personally  
Authoritative  
Accountability  
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Periodic  
Temporary  
Physical  
Lust  
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Impurity  
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Defrauding  
Law  
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Spiritual  
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Trust  
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Virginity  
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Adam and Eve

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Betrothal  
Isaac & Rebekah

**Page 23**

Christ and the Church  
Jewish  
Ceremony  
Initiating and Controlling  
God's Will  
Purity  
Purity

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Parental

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Preparedness  
Man  
Lady  
Patience

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Childhood  
Character  
Training  
Discipline  
Teaching  
Character/Communication  
Heart  
Courtship  
God's Will  
Varies

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Initiation  
Confirmation  
Alone  
Touch  
Begin

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Engagement  
Prepare  
Prepare  
Man  
Lady  
Parents

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Church  
Marriage  
Serve  
Death

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Conservative  
Initiated  
Emotional  
Brother/Sister