

WISE PRINCIPLES FOR DATING

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.” – Genesis 2:24

You were not created chiefly for marriage, family or sex. You were created to know and worship God.

John 17:3 - “Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

It’s honorable to be single. It’s honorable to pursue marriage.

Hebrews 13:4 - Give honor to marriage...”

1 Corinthians 7:8 – “Now to the unmarried I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do...”

The purpose of dating is finding a spouse.

“Dating is an intentional process of 2 people developing a friendship to evaluate the possibility of a married life together.”

Consider WHY you want to date.

Five BAD reasons to date:

1. *status or social expectation*
2. *boredom or loneliness*
3. *insecurity or fear*
4. *sex or making out*
5. *because they asked*

Consider WHO you want to date. They must have character and chemistry.

Only date and marry a Christian of similar maturity.

2 Corinthians 6:14 – “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.”

It’s OK to go on a date. A date is not dating.

After a few dates, define the relationship or move on.

Build a friendship, not a romance. You want a friend and partner not a “soul mate”.

Be serious about marriage, but not too serious too soon.

Involve community and mentors every step of the way.

Men, generally, should take the initiative and assume the risk.

Avoid sexual immorality at all costs.

1 Corinthians 6:18 – “Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does.”

Guard against codependency. Avoid fast moving relationships and instant intimacy.

Pray and seek God. But don’t “over-spiritualize”.

It’s OK to break up. If it’s not a healthy and Christ-honoring relationship, break up.

Have fun. Grow up. Don't stress out.