

Christian Dating

Biblical Guidelines

- I. Christian dating is planned fellowship with a member of the opposite sex.
 - A. Dating is to be Christian! Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed? II Cor. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked to gether with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
 - B. Dating helps the search for a prospective spouse. Gen. 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. Prov. 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.
 - C. Dating affects others. Dating affects your family, friends, church, pastor, and you. Don't date someone who would not be approved by your Christian friends, family, loved ones, church, and pastor. Christians can help you! Ask them for advice!
 1. Christian parents have experienced the tribulations and joys of dating. Ask them for advice! Rom. 5:3-4 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope.
 2. Christian parents are wiser than you. Certain wisdom comes only with age. Ask them for advice! Eph. 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
 3. Christian parents are concerned about your future, and will see things that infatuation may blind you from seeing. Ask them for advice! Prov. 4:1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.
 4. Your church and pastor are provided by God to guide you. Ask them for advice! Eph. 4:11-12 And he [Jesus] gave some [churches], apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ [the Lord's Church].
- II. Desirable Christian characteristics for you/your date.
 - A. Congeniality: the ability to get along with others in a happy way. Rom. 12:13 ...given to hospitality.
 - B. Dependability: always be ready to do that which is right. The best ability is dependability! Isaiah 6:8 Also I [Isaiah] heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.
 - C. Thoughtfulness: shows concern and understanding. Prov. 13:15 Good understanding giveth favour.
 - D. Neatness and cleanliness of body and soul: your body releases a quart of perspiration each day and you must work to be neat and clean. Bacteria live in your mouth and on your body: brush your teeth and use deodorant.

- Isaiah 1:16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Psalm 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.
- E. Appearance: modest with consideration for the preferences of other Christians. Don't let gaudy apparel and make-up become an overbearing adornment that characterizes what you are. Remember, others are watching and copying you. I Tim. 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array. Romans 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.
- F. Sportsmanship: play hard but fair with a pleasant approach. Play to win, but pray for power to stand strong in Christ by showing good sportsmanship. Prov. 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
- G. Habits: good home habits will produce good public habits. Be considerate and helpful at home. Treat your family with respect and kindness. It is easier to prevent bad habits than to break them! Proverbs 20:11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.
- H. Compliments: accept and give compliments simply and gracefully. Prov. 10:20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth. Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.
- I. Convictions: know the Bible and stand fast, unwavering in the truth. Use the Bible as your guide for life. II Tim. 1:12-13 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
- J. Your body: treat your body properly and reverently. I Cor. 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- III. Good manners for dating.
 - A. Introductions: introduce your friends to others, give honor to whom honor is due, show that you are happy to meet others, shake hands firmly. Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.
 - B. Conversation: let your words and life speak clearly for Christ. Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your

- affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving to gether for the faith of the gospel.
- C. Driving: obey the laws. I Peter 2:13-15 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of them that do well. 15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- D. Language: do not use any swear/curse words, euphemistic swear/curse words, or use words that sound like curses or swear ing. Matt. 5:34-37 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: 35 Nor by the earth; for it is his foot stool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. 36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. 37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.
- IV. Date truly beautiful people.
 - A. True beauty and value are in holiness (sanctification). Ps. 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
 - B. Without Christ, society will selfishly and viciously gratify itself at the expense of the individual.
 1. Society exerts unrealistic social pressure with unreachable values that consume. Ps 39:11 When thou [Lord] with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah.
 2. Date rape is a constant threat in our society! Women are physically weaker and can be overpowered by men. Pornography and ungodly music teach men to grab what they want. Men who expose themselves to such ungodly influences are dangerous and abusive to women. Tamar was a beautiful and godly young woman who was attacked and raped by her half-brother on a contrived date, II Sam. 13. Women must be careful even with friends and relatives! Men must keep pure thoughts and actions. If any improper advances are ever made, GET HELP from Christian parents, pastor, or other counselors from your church!
 - C. Beauty and value in our culture are improperly based on physical attractiveness rather than a righteous and holy reverential fear of God. Prov. 31:30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.
 1. Those who have physical beauty will be exploited by society. A psychological study indicated more physically attractive college girls were less happily married 25 years later. Ps. 12:2 They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. Jude 16...their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of ad-

vantage.

- a. Sarah almost lost her happy marriage to Abraham because of attempts to exploit her beauty. She would have lost her husband and marriage had not God intervened. Gen. 12:11-20; Gen. 20.
 - b. Attempts to exploit Rebekah's beauty caused Isaac to fear for his life at Gerar, Gen. 26.
 - c. Joseph lost his position as overseer in Potiphar's house due to a woman's attempt to exploit his beauty, Gen. 39.
 - d. Bathsheba's beauty was exploited in adultery with King David, II Sam. 11:2-4.
2. The aging process is more painful for the person caught in the physical beauty cult. Ecc. 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.
- D. Do not date others based only on appearance.
1. Learn to apply God's standards. In selecting the new king of Israel to replace Saul, Samuel selected the tallest, most handsome son of Jesse, but God told him otherwise. I Sam. 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.
 2. Jesus warned against looking only to appearances. John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.
- E. Don't choose your date using worldly beauty and self-value standards.
1. Rock music and country music thrive on the beauty-and-lust cult. Avoid modern music dealing with dating, broken hearts, drug usage, and luv-luv-luv with the focus upon beauty and lust. Psalm 68:32 Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah.
 2. TV thrives on immorality based on the beauty-and-lust cult. Stop ungodly influence on your date. Psalm 119:37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.
- F. Put-down comedy destroys a proper understanding of the building relationships that should be in our families. Have a no put-down policy for all your dates. I Thess. 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.
- V. Dating can result in lasting love. True love is giving of oneself to another. Love produces emotional feelings. Notice that the feelings follow love. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I

John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

- A. Love requires work. Love does not just happen. Gen. 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her... Eph. 5:22,25 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord..25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.
- B. The world's (Hollywood movie and TV) idea of love is lust and not love at all! LOVE is a word which emphasizes GIVE; but LUST emphasizes TAKE. II Tim. 2:2 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity [love], peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
1. Love is eternal and increases, but lust is temporal and decreases. II Samuel 13:4,14-15 And he [Jonadab] said unto him [Amnon], Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister...14 Howbeit he [Amnon] would not hear ken unto her [Tamar's] voice; but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her. 15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred where with he hated her was greater than the love where with he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone. I Cor. 13:8 Charity (love) never faileth...
 2. Love covers sins, but lust brags about conquests. Prov. 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins. Eph. 2:2-3 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
 3. Love is spiritual, but lust is physical. Gal. 5:16-17 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye can not do the things that ye would.
- C. God will never permit you to be tempted without providing a way to escape. I Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape.
- D. Sexual desires are honorable and proper in marriage, but you must learn to control them or you will be consumed with ungodly sexual lust. I Cor. 9:27 But I keep my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.
- VI. Christ is our example of perfect love. I John 3:16 Hereby

perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. Psalm 84:1 No good thing will he withhold from them that walk up rightly.

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by Dr. Gail E. Terrell

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The Bible is our guide for life,
a road map of holiness