

# What the Bible Says About ... Dating & Relationships

## Bible Verses used:

### \*Psalm 119:9-11

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

### \*2 Corinthians 6:14

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

### \*2 Timothy 2:22

22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

### \*1 Corinthians 15:33

33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

### \*1 Corinthians 10:31

31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

### \*1 Corinthians 6:18-20

18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

### \*Genesis 2:18, 24

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

### \*Proverbs 15:22

22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

### \*Philippians 1:9-10

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

### \*1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails.

### \*Song of Solomon 2:7

7 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

### \*James 1:5

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

### \*Matthew 6:33-34

33But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

### **Key Concepts:**

1. Remember your identity in Christ!
2. Know why you want to date before you actually do – make sure it’s a good reason
  - a. Genesis 2:18
  - b. Genesis 2:24
  - c. Song of Solomon 2:7
3. Know what your ideal match is and don’t settle
  - a. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
  - b. 1 Corinthians 15:33
  - c. 2 Corinthians 6:14
  - d. 2 Timothy 2:22
4. Know Biblical boundaries and don’t break them
  - a. Psalms 119:9-11
  - b. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
  - c. 1 Corinthians 10:31
5. Know your boundaries before you start dating
  - a. Proverbs 15:22
6. Ask God to make it happen, rather than you
  - a. James 1:5
7. Be friends first
8. Have spiritual conversations
  - a. Philippians 1:9-10
9. Keep God first in your life
  - a. Matthew 6:33-34
10. Go slow

### **Small Group Questions:**

Go through each of the 10 concepts to dating that are presented and read the verses for each one. Then discuss whether you would agree with the key concept or not. Use the questions below to help guide you.

1. Why is this an important first step?
2. In your opinion, what is the purpose of dating? What would you say is the Biblical purpose for dating? What’s a good reason for dating? In your experience, do people date for “good” reasons or “bad” reasons in our culture today?
3. What are some Biblical things you should look for in someone to date/marry? What are some “have to have” things that you personally would need in a relationship?
4. What are some Biblical boundaries that should not be broken? Do you agree with these? Do you think most of our culture today would agree with these?
5. Why would it be so important to have a good accountability partner & know what your boundaries are before you start dating someone?
6. What would it look like for you to enter into a relationship without God’s permission? Is that a good thing or a bad thing and why?

7. Can fulfill the purpose of dating without actually dating and by just being friends? How? What would that look like? What might be some benefits of doing that?
8. Why is it important to have spiritual conversations in a dating/marriage relationship? Do you think this is necessary? What would our culture say about the importance of doing this?
9. Once you're in a dating relationship (or marriage) why is it important to keep God first? Why is it important to seek Him and be obedient to the things God wants you to do first? Why shouldn't you worry about what tomorrow holds in the context of dating and relationships?
10. Why is it important to go slow? Is this something that our culture would agree with?