

# 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.**