

Dating: God's Perfect Choice?

Bible Study (Core text 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 & 7)

Introduction: How can God demonstrate His choice for a perfect mate? Our dating society is vastly different than courting was 100 years ago. Before the industrial age, those wanted to marry relied heavily upon parental involvement. But, today many do not have this support and need to seek other support. God is willing to reveal His choice for if you are willing to take steps in faith.

The Bible Says...

1. What is dating? (Define)
2. How do your friends find people to date?
3. Most dating is based upon the worldly belief system. What are these three things? Where are they from? (1 Joh. 2:15-17)
4. Does the Bible talk about dating? Marriage? No, Yes, How?
5. The Bible teaches about male/female relationships; they are based upon? (Pro. 17:17, 18:24, 27:9-10)
6. What type of love is to be demonstrated toward the opposite sex? (Heb. 13:1, 10:24)
7. Before marriage and sex, the bride and groom give each other? (SoS. 4:9)
8. God instructs married couples to have what type of relationship? (SoS. 1:2, 4:10-11)
9. What is God's standard regarding premarital sex? (1 Cor. 7:1-2)

Biblical male and female relationships.

10. Who gave Eve to Adam? Why? (Gen. 2:18-25)
11. Who were Adam's and Eve's authority and protector?
12. Did Adam and Eve date determine if they were compatible?

Read about Isaac's perfect choice in Rebekah. (Gen. 24)

13. What was Rebekah's response to God's choice? (Gen. 24:58)
14. What was Isaac's response to God's choice? (Gen. 24:67)

15. How were Isaac's and Rebekah's parents involved? (Gen. 24)

16. Did Isaac and Rebekah spend a lot of time dating and getting to know each other? (Gen. 24:64-67)

Isaac and Rebekah were under Godly parental protective authority. They both obeyed and willfully followed their parent's guidance. Read about Naomi, a widow, who followed her mother-in-law's advice. (Read Ruth)

17. As Ruth gains favor with Boaz, Naomi instructs Ruth to? What was Ruth's response? (Ruth 3:1-5)

18. Is Ruth free choice/decision results in Boaz going to the elders to? (Ruth 4)

Those who date without Godly guidance or protection are subject to peer pressure and the ways of the world.

19. How should single Christians choose a marriage partner? (1 Joh. 2:15-17; Mat. 6:33)

20. What do children need to demonstrate to their parents? What do children then receive from God? (Eph. 6:1-3)

21. "What if I am afraid that if I trust God to choose my spouse he/she will be some real weird person?" (Mat. 7:9-11; Psa. 37:4-5)

22. What does Paul say about marriage? (1 Cor. 7:39-40)

23. Is it OK to remain and live as a single person? Why?(1 Cor. 7:25-38)

Group Discussion (Optional): How and when should a single Christian choose whom to date? What guidelines can a Christian follow to stay sexually pure until marriage? If parents are not available, who can offer Godly protection and help in finding a spouse? (Give examples)

Prayer: *O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You. Jesus, I may have at times felt an emptiness because I am not married. But I proclaim today that I will now seek You first and will not be in want of any good thing, including my marriage partner. For the sake of my future spouse, I commit to you Lord and trust in You for a perfect marriage partner. In Jesus Name I pray.* (Adapted Psalms)

Action (Faith found in James): Do a self-examination: Are you seeking God first? Do you hang out with Godly friends? Are you attending a church that promotes sexual purity? If possible, ask for parental help with dating or seek out mature Godly counsel.

Further Study:

Video: Messy Mondays: Seven Tips for Successful Dating www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqkMAiShiSY

Lolo Jones -- Until Marriage www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_SRO9mpt4Y

Book: Every Teenager's Little Black Book on Sex and Dating (Little Black Books)-How to find the right person; How to be the right person; How to avoid the dangers

Internet: www.silverringthing.com/whatisr.asp the message of purity and abstinence until marriage

Sex: God's Design

(Bible Study – Core text 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 & 7)

Introduction: TV, the internet, magazines, etc. all bombarded peoples minds with sexualized images. Today's motto is "Sex sells!" Many youths see sex as a rite of passage into an adult, rather than a cherished marriage gift. The sexual consequences can be severe: over 2,000 teenage pregnancies, 3,287 abortions, 10,000+ contract Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Genital Herpes, HPV, or HIV/AIDS, a day, while 50% of the current youth will contract an STD before the age of 25. These are the consequences of living outside God's design for sex.

The Bible Says...

1. Who created sex? Who then should write guidelines for sexual intercourse? (Gen. 2:18, 4:1)
2. When Adam and Eve "new" each other, what were the results? (Gen. 2:24, 4:1; 1 Cor. 6:15-20)
3. We are made in God's image and are expected to _____ God with our bodies. (1 Cor. 6:15-20)
4. Sexual intercourse with someone who we are not married to causes the body to? (1 Cor. 6:9-20)
5. Sexual sin harms more than other sins because it is a sin... (1 Cor. 6:18)
6. Our bodies are a _____ of the Holy Spirit whom dwells in us. Who owns our body? Why?(1 Cor. 6:19-20)
7. The deeds of the flesh are listed in Galatians 5:19-24, list...
8. Those that practice these fleshly sins will not?
9. Why do Christians fail in meeting God's holy moral standard? (2 Tim. 3:1-5)
10. James says that those who are tempted are carried away by... (Jam. 1:12-15)
11. He offers advice about sinful lusts, what is the key to becoming God's own? (Jam. 4:6-10)
12. If we cannot control our sexual desires, Paul says we should? (1 Cor. 7:9)
13. How does God want us to live with the opposite sex? (1 The. 4:1-7 CEV)
14. God sanctioned sex between a husband and a wife, how then is the marriage bed to be used? (Heb. 13:4)

15. Do we demonstrate honor to a brother or sister in Christ when having sex outside of the marriage covenant?
16. What will God do to those who are unrepentant and continue to live outside His design (marital covenant)?
17. What guidelines are given by Paul regarding sex? (1 Cor. 7:1-6)
18. He states we are not to be held as _____ to sexual desires! Why?
19. God wants us to use our bodies as vessels of? (2 Tim. 2:19-22)

Read Song of Song. This is God's sexual manual, both the husband and wife are to give willingly and freely of their hearts and bodies to each other. (SoS. 4:10-11, 1:2; & Pro. 5)

20. Solomon warns to _____ (sexual desires) until she _____. (SoS. 2:7, 3:7, 8:4)
21. What does this mean to the single Christian man and woman? (2 Tim. 2:22)
22. In regards to sexual passions we are to... (2 Tim. 2:22)

Group Discussion (Optional): Read about King David 2 Sam. 11 & 12. What caused his fall? How was David restored? What were the consequences for violating God's design? What are the consequences today for those who violate God's design for sex? Could an argument be made that David is the greatest King of Israel? (See Psalm 51)

Prayer: Think of the ways you are like King David. Reread Psalm 51 and make it your prayer to God. Come to Jesus with a pure heart by repenting of any past/or present (sexual) sins. (Heb. 4:15-16; Act. 3:19)

Action (Faith found in James): Remove all sexualized images (nudity) as commanded by Jesus. (Mat. 5:27-30) Search out your life, home, closets, computers, TVs, DVDs, and any other place you may have pornography, etc. Jesus said to "cut it off," to remove sinful temptations because it is better to chop off a hand than to lose one's soul.

Further Study:

- You Tube: Messy Mondays: The One about Sex <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roEI3pC929E>
- Books: Every Teenager's Little Black Book on Sex and Dating (Little Black Books) by Blaine Bartel & Raising Your Kids to Be Sexually Pure by Duffield, Renee, and Durfield, Richard
- Internet: The God who made sex doesn't frown on sexuality-not when it's "righteous sexuality"
http://70030.netministry.com/articles_view.asp?articleid=32692&columnid=3844

Marriage: God's Covenant

(Bible Study – Core text 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 & 7)

Introduction: Today, the media often portrays sexual love outside God's marriage covenant. God created and designed marriage as a life long covenant of two bodies (souls) that become one. This covenant is based upon a spousal love that always has the others interests at heart. The Song of Solomon illustrates this loving covenant. Solomon's wife proclaims: "I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me." (SoS. 7:10)

The Bible Says...

1. Marriage God's covenant is based upon an unbreakable bonding of flesh, mind, will, and soul. Sexual intimacy is not the ultimate purpose for marriage, yet God places in each of us need to be sexually devoted to only one person. The husband is to... (Complete Ecc. 9:9)
2. The husband's (wife's) sexual feelings are to be directed toward whom? (SoS. 7:10)
3. The Song of Solomon is God's sex manual. What is the attitude that a husband and a wife are to have towards each other? (SoS. 7:10; 2:16; 6:3)

Sex was created and ordained by God. And for our protection, He issued the sexual guidelines in the Old Testament. It contains the who, why, when, and how for sex within marriage. The underlining guiding principle for sexual intercourse is found in Hebrews.

4. How are couples to keep the marriage bed? (Heb. 13:4)
5. Write our Heb. 13:4...
6. What does God do to those who continue to practice (sexual) sin? (Isa. 42:23-25)
7. Read Luke 7:36-50. What does the adulterer (and sexual sinner) do in order receive forgiveness?
8. What is God's solution for those who have violated God's marriage bed? (Mal. 3:7)
9. New Godly habits cannot be established until sexual sins that have tainted the marriage bed are recognized, repented, and renounced. What will God do for those who turn away (repent) from sexual sins? (2 Chr. 7:14)
10. Read 1 Cor. 6:12-20 & 7. Paul instructs men and women to get married. Why?
11. When a man and woman are married, who has authority over the others body?
12. Is it OK to withhold sex from your spouse?
13. What was Paul's exception to this rule?
14. Why should abstinence be for a limited time?
15. Who does the sexually immoral man sin against? (1 Cor. 6:13-20)

16. Attaching one's body to others whom you are not married defiles the _____. To whom is the body for?
17. Those who follow God's marriage covenant give glory to?
18. How are a man and woman to maintain God's marriage covenant? (Eph. 5:22-33)
19. How is the husband supposed to love his wife?
20. How are we to be subject to one another? (Eph. 5:21)

Marital intimacy is a key to maintaining the love and commitment during a life long covenant. The Song of Songs is God's marital love book. (SoS. 7:10; 2:26; 6:3; 1:9-17)

21. Summarize the lover's attitudes towards one another...Who is allowed to stir a husband's (wife's) sexual desires? Why? (SoS. 3:5; 8:4)
22. Read SoS. 4:1-9. Describe the man's attraction to the bride's physical qualities. What does this do to a man's heart?
23. Emotional and erotic love will not sustain a marriage relationship, and that is why God's marriage covenant is until death. Read Col. 3:8-17 and use it as a guide to define God's marital love?

Action (Faith found in James): Write a love letter by hand to your wife or husband using the Song of Song as your inspirational guide. [i.e. "Behold, you are beautiful, my love! Behold, you are beautiful! You have doves' eyes." (SoS. 1:15)] Affirmation of your love towards each other is key to living in the covenant. Be genuine; only use words that are your own, you will be amazed at the result. Do it today.

Group Discussion (Optional): Read Eph. 5. Paul talks about the husband who needs to "love" his wife and how a wife needs to "respect" her man. Does it take more than feelings and actions to sustain God's marriage covenant? Why? (Col. 3:12-17 and #28) How do your current actions demonstrate God's covenantal love towards her or him? What do you say and do that makes her feel loved or him respected?

Prayer: *God fulfill Your word and bring me to your marriage covenant. I know your plans are for my well-being and not calamity. Teach me Your beloved holy ways, put on me a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; allowing me to bear with one another, and forgiving others. I now give you my whole heart so that I may be found by You and You will restore the fortunes of Your Holy marriage be and that I will live my marriage in honor to You. In Christ Jesus' name, I pray!*

Further Study:

- Book: Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, *Love, and Respect*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2004).
- Internet: Sex, Marriage, & Fairytales <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TUF9PxNP0k> and Dear Girls of the World <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2-q8lBxe9s>

Family: God's Blessings

(Bible Study – Core text 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 & 7)

Introduction: God created the family structure to pass on His blessings. In modern Western cultures, it is widely acknowledged that the family is in serious trouble. Have you heard the term "dysfunctional family"? Most families do not receive these blessings. God designed the core family structure for protection and benefit. Within a Godly family, we learn His love, discipline, self-sacrifice, self-control, gentleness, patience, more. There is no better classroom to learn and model Godly attributes than within the family. Strong, loving families do exist today. But if you want to receive God's blessings you will need to know His guiding principles.

The Bible Says...

Families

List the following blessings families are to receive from God:

1. Psa. 127:3-5
2. Deu. 28:4
3. Psa. 128:3
4. Pro. 17:6

Parents

5. Even if only one parent is a Christian, God _____ the unbeliever in order that the children are now _____ (1 Cor. 7:14)
6. Parents are responsible for the training of children. "Train up a child in the way he should go; Even when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Pro. 22:6) Does this proverb guarantee that if a child departs from this training, they will eventually return God? Yes, No, Why?
7. What Godly principles are parents supposed to teach and model? (Deu. 6:5 & Mat. 22:36-40)
8. Where are we to keep God's instructions? (Deu. 6:6)
9. Are parents to? (Deu. 6:7)

There are many examples in the Old Testament of children from Godly parents who did not return: Adam's and Eve's Cain (Gen. 4); Eli's sons (1 Sam. 2:22-24); David's Absalom (2 Sam. 13-19); Solomon's Rehoboam (1 Kings 12-15). Like God, parents are not in control of a child's free will, nor are they able to guarantee that children will become Christians.

10. Fathers (parents) are not to? (Eph. 6:4)

11. Fathers (parents) are to?

The Amplified version illustrates: "Fathers, do not provoke or irritate your children [do not be hard on them or harass them], lest they become discouraged and sullen and feel inferior and frustrated. [Do not break their spirit.]" (Col 3:21 AMP)

12. Parents are to be leaders of a child's spirit. What is God's path like? (Pro. 4:18)

13. What happens to children who do not follow God's path? (Pro. 4:19)

14. Are parents responsible for teaching and modeling God's? (Pro. 4:20-21)

15. What happens to the child that pays attention to God's words? (Pro. 4:22)
16. Parents are to keep watch over their children's hearts. Why? (Pro. 4:23)
17. Parents' hearts are to be like God's heart and are to love as He loves. List some Godly attributes parents are to model towards children... (Exo. 34:5-7)
18. What can happen to children if the father sins?

Children

19. Children are to? Why? (Eph. 6:1=3; Pro. 23:22)
20. When children follow God's commandments, it makes Him feel? (Col. 3:20)
21. When a child obeys their parents, they also are obeying?

In the beginning, God associated being fruitful (family and children) with the ability to subdue and rule over all the earth. (Gen. 1:27-31) When parents, children, and grandparents live as God designed, the family unit can expand its impact upon the world.

22. Paul summarizes the attitude parents, children, and grandparents are to have towards one another. Complete (Eph. 4:32)
23. What is the best Godly principle(s) parents are to teach and model?

Group Discussion (Optional): We all have parents, but in a fallen world many parents have missed God's blessings. What are some of the ways a child can bless their parents? What are some of the ways parents can bless their children? Grandchildren? Why do you think God purposed Grandchildren to have four grandparents and two parents? Does a Godly home guarantee Godly children? Why?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus give me the Father heart of God. Show me how I can be compassionate and gracious; slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth. Make my heart like your tender heart so that I may forgive my family members for their sins, just as You have forgiven me. Teach me how to forgive my (parents, child, spouse, etc. put in name)*

_____ . *In Jesus name, I pray. (Continue for each member.)*

Action (Faith found in James): What actions can you take today to become a better child, parent, and grandparent? I once counseled a man who needed to make peace with his departed father. He wrote a letter expressing regrets, anger, and unforgiveness. Then visiting the grave, he read the letter. Can you incorporate [Eph. 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."] into a letter/phone call to a parent or child? Making family peace will bring times of refreshing and blessing from the presence of the Lord. (Acts 3:19; Isa. 9:6)

Further Study:

- Book: Gary Chapman, *Five Signs of a Loving Family*, (Chicago: Northfield Publishing, 1977).
- Internet: <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/>

Dating: God's Perfect Choice

1. A: Various answers, dating is a form of courtship consisting of social activities done by two people with the aim of each assessing the other's suitability as a partner in an intimate relationship or as a spouse
2. A: Various, from friends, meet at bars, internet, school, church, work, blind dates, etc.
3. A: "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world."
4. A: Various
5. A: Friendship
6. A: Brotherly (sisterly), good deeds
7. A: Their hearts
8. A: Kiss on the mouth, romantic love (sex)
9. A: To not "touch" (have sex) before marriage, but if you need sex then get married.
10. A: God, Adam needed a helpmate
11. A: God
12. A: No
13. A: She knew it was from God and obeyed
14. A: He was happy
15. A: Various
16. A: No, they were married right away
17. A: To lie down at Boaz's feet, obeyed Naomi's instructions
18. A: To redeem Ruth by obtaining permission from the elders to marry her
19. A: By seeking God's will, Seek God first in all things
20. A: Obey and honor your parents, so it will be well with (you and) them on earth
21. A: God, our Father, only gives good gifts
22. A: If you have to be married, marry a Christian
23. A: Yes

Sex: God's Design

1. A: God
2. A: God's joining two souls to become one flesh, enjoyment, children, etc.
3. A: Glorify
4. A: To become one with theirs
5. A: Against our bodies
6. A: Temple, God, Jesus bought it with the price paid upon the cross, our marriage partner
7. A: "Immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these."
8. A: "Inherit the kingdom of God."
9. A: They become "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power."
10. A: "His (her) own lust."
11. A: To humble ourselves
12. A: Get married
13. A: To honor one another's bodies in holy sanctification
14. A: "Honorably, without defilement."
15. A: No
16. A: God will judge them
17. A: Various, But because of immoralities, each man is to have his wife, and each woman is to have her husband, only have brief times of abstinence
18. A: Slaves, various, holiness, etc.
19. A: Honor
20. A: Not awaken, please
21. A: To abstain, flee from all forms of sexualized acts (i.e. petting, fondling, caressing, oral sex, masturbation), before marriage.
22. A: "Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

Marriage: God's Covenant

1. A: "Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun."
2. A: His wife (each other)
3. A: "I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me."
4. A: In every way with honor and undefiled
5. A: "Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."
6. A: He pours out His anger
7. A: Cries out for mercy and repents
8. A: Various, return to Him through repentance from sin
9. A: Heal them and forgive them
10. A: Because of sexual temptations and sins
11. A: The other spouse
12. A: No
13. A: When both agree for a time, prayer fasting, etc.
14. A: "...so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control..."
15. A: God first and then their body
16. A: Christ, the Holy Spirit, our spouse only
17. A: God and His creation
18. A: Through mutual submission of each other will
19. A: Just as Christ loves the Church, lay down his life, unselfishly
20. A: "Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."
21. A: "My beloved is mine and I am his!" "I am my beloveds, and his desire is toward me!" "I am my beloved's garden and my beloved is mine! He feeds among the lilies which grow there." His wife only (spouse with spouse)
22. A: "You have ravished my heart and given me courage, my sister, my [promised] bride; you have ravished my heart and given me courage with one look from your eyes, with one jewel of your necklace."
23. A: Various, the love between a husband and wife, is a life long commitment and a moral decision of two submissive wills

Family: God's Blessing

1. Psa. 127:3-5 A: Children are a gift, fruit, reward, blessed man, not ashamed of his children
2. Deu. 28:4 A: Heritage, fruit, reward
3. Psa. 128:3 A: Fruited womb, olive plants
4. Pro. 17:6 A: Crown, glory of sons (daughters)
5. A: Sanctifies, holy
6. A: No
7. A: To love God with all their heart, soul, and might
8. A: To keep God's words/commands/Bible upon their heart
9. A: Parents are to teach God's words/commands/ and Bible
10. A: Provoke children to anger
11. A: Bring up children in the "discipline and instruction of the Lord."
12. A: "But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until the full day."
13. A: "The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble."
14. A: "My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart."
15. A: "For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body."
16. A: "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."
17. A: "...compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin."
18. A: "He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children..."
19. A: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." "Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old." "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER ...SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH." "Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord."
20. A: God
21. A: "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."
22. A: Various...(Mat. 22:36-40). "See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God." (Mic. 6:8 CEV)