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set apart guy/girl: lesson 1- Friendship/courtship

Question: What is “dating” actually called today? How do you become boyfriend/girlfriend?

Question: What is the point of dating?

*We played a game where you thought you were going to get 1 thing and what you got was totally opposite.

Question: If dating is supposed to be so good/important, how come so many people end up with who they don't want and the MAJORITY end in divorce?

*The problem is the purpose of dating. It is a pointless cycle of finding someone you're attracted to for the purpose of pleasing yourself (making out, popularity, companionship) in the hopes that he/she will stick around and that you won't get tired of him/her. It is a cycle of regret and wasted time.

*Then, if you all do stick together, you have to decide if you are compatible for marriage or not. If not, you either break up with the one you've grown to love or marry the person who was never meant for you.

So...is there a better way?

*Share my story on being friends with Angel and choosing to “court”

I. Benefits of Beginning with FRIENDSHIP

- A. You get to know people without them trying to IMPRESS you in the dating stage
*you will know the real them and they will fall in love with the real you

Question: Do you have a friend of the opposite sex? How is that relationship different than dating?

- B. You can better see if someone would be a good SPOUSE and PARENT
- C. Friendship ENCOURAGES one another to be the best God created them to be
*it isn't based on selfish desires...to get what I can get out of the relationship
- D. Remember, you don't get to know someone in a SHORT period of time
*it's easy to fake a 3-6 month period (after 6, you start to see)
*don't risk the rest of your life on 3-6 months of romantic love

II. Benefits of Having the Mindset of COURTSHIP (after a season of friendship)

- A. Courtship is dating with a PURPOSE...the purpose of finding a spouse
- B. You choose not to date/court someone unless they are MARIABLE (we'll discuss next week)
- C. You commit to seeking ADVICE and direction from your PARENTS and godly friends
*Proverbs 15:22
- D. You challenge each other in areas of PURITY and SPIRITUAL walk
*ultimately, you are choosing to not make it all about you

III. The Joy of Being SINGLE

Read **I Corinthians 7:32-35**

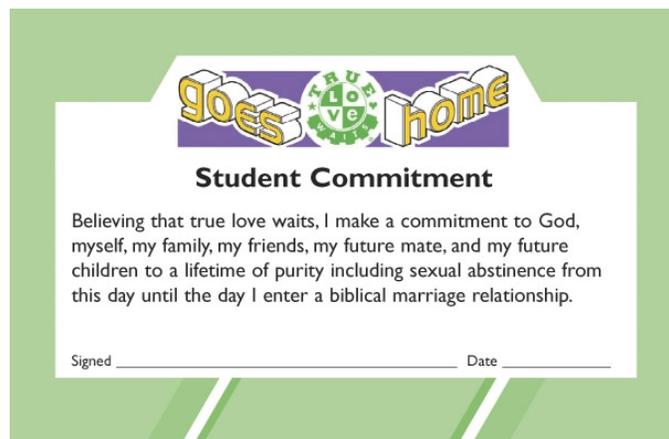
Paul made a choice of remaining single. While he isn't saying that we shouldn't marry, what are some of the reasons why Paul saw positive things in his "singleness"? Why should we take advantage of this time?

Some other benefits of being single are:

- A. Taking time to be who GOD wants you to be
- B. Building FRIENDSHIPS
- C. Not be TIED down to 1 person
- D. Able to focus on EDUCATION and FUTURE

Take it Home: Ok, this will be a BIG challenge, but choose to talk to your parents about dating. Ask them for their advice. Ask them what to look for and what they think. Ask if they have any neat stories.

Begin praying about making a commitment to remaining pure until marriage.



goes home

Student Commitment

Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to a lifetime of purity including sexual abstinence from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship.

Signed _____ Date _____

We will be having these cards available and we also encourage you to pray about asking your parents for a purity ring to symbolize your commitment. We will have a special service for your parents to give you those rings on February 19th.