

Disciples Church

Marriage & Singleness Series - Session 7 -

A Single’s Pursuit of Marriage: Dating or Courting

Week of February 21, 2018

**HAND OUT**

- How does a single person who is eligible and ready for marriage pursue a spouse in a God-honoring way?

- How should we as parents of young adults or those who will one day be young adults shape the economy of our homes to prepare and walk with our children rightly if God gives the gift of marriage to them?

**1. Dating:**

**-The History of Dating**

**-Dating Defined and Practiced in Today’s Culture**

*Dating in our modern landscape is essentially a casual to committed relationship where two people spend an increased amount of time together (much or all being in unaccountable situations) in the pursuit of romantic connection and relationship.*

**-The Problems with the Practice of Dating**

**1. You complete me (looking for fulfillment in casual companionship)**

**Complete in Christ:**

**Selfish love:**

**Idolatry:**

**2. Giving away our heart (emotionally driven):**

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

**Song of Songs 2:7, 3:5, 8:4** I adjure you…that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

**Mini-divorces before you are married:**

**Deep wounds and life-altering consequences:**

**A breakdown of community:**

**3. Giving away our body (lustfully driven):**

**4. Serving self (accountable to one)**

**Proverbs 3:7** Be not wise in your own eyes

**2 Timothy 4:3-4** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

**2. Courting**

**-Courtship Defined and Practiced in Today’s Culture**

Courtship is when two people who have come to know and love each other through a God-honoring friendship seek to pursue an intentional relationship with the specific goal of preparation for engagement and marriage. This happens under the protection, guidance, and blessing of parents, pastors, and/or mentors.

**1. Complete in Christ:**

**Friendship instead of romantic dating:**

**Maturity in Christ:**

**2. Accountable to God and others:**

**Proverbs 1:8-9** Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

**Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

**Genesis 2:21-24** So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

**Pursuing courtship:**

**3. Oneness with one (guarding your heart):**

**4. Accountable practices and space:**

**Song of Songs 2:7, 3:5, 8:4** I adjure you…that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases.

**1 Corinthians 6:18-20** Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**Accountable space:**

**Engagement:**