



Cosmic Or Doctrinal Motivation In Dating

Motivation-- Why many teenagers want to date

- Peer pressure-- “But Mom, but Dad, everyone else is doing it.”
- Status symbol-- this other person is your “trophy,” the football jock or the hottest babe
- Security blanket-- looking for some type of emotional stimulation that you don’t receive at home.
- It cuts out competition-- the attitude of “now I don’t have to work at it,” or so you think!.
- Long to be important-- insecurity complex.

Standard Operating Procedure

- A. Who? A Christian friend, friendship matters. If you wouldn’t marry them, then you have no business dating them! In 2 Corinthians 6:14 Paul commands Christians not to “**...be bound together with unbelievers.**” He say’s, “**for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?**”
- B. What? The 3 F’s-- for friendship, fellowship and fun.
- C. When? When both are mature enough mentally and spiritually to understand the purpose of dating and take responsibility for their actions and decisions. Who determines that?-- the *parents*. Regardless of how old you are or of what you perceive your ‘intellectual prowess’ to be, as long as you reside under their roof, you reside under their authority, *period!*
- D. Where? Someplace where both can have fun *without* compromising security or integrity.
- E. Why? To extend friendship. What’s your *motivation*-- to protect or possess?

Why teenagers ‘going out’ or ‘going together’ does more harm than good?

- A. No teenager is prepared *or* equipped to have authority over another teenager. A man has no authority over a woman until God-given in marriage.
- B. The equivalent to ‘going out’ in the Word of God is betrothal, a mutual pledge to marry, what we call an *engagement*. A betrothal was a binding contract between a man and his fiancée’s father.
- C. Most couples are attracted by selfish motivation. They use the other person until they’re tired or bored, and then call it quits.
- D. This steady ‘romantic’ relationship forces young people together *more* than they’re ready for! Teenagers should never be alone for too long; all that sweetness can turn bitter, *real* fast.

Young men, until you have your spiritual priorities in order, until you have some honor and integrity, you *don't need* and are *not ready for* God's grace provision of a woman.

- E. The teenage years are part of the preparation process, a 'boot camp' in humility to orient us to the absolute authority of God's will-- a spiritual life of service and impact for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Basic principles for dating

- A. Never date anyone that you would *not* marry. This implies evaluation from divine viewpoint *before* the dating process begins. That rules out *all* unbelievers! You *cannot* and *will not* change another person, therefore, dating them 'for Christ' is *not* a legitimate function of the Royal Ambassadorship.
- C. If your boy / girlfriend is not Christ-centered and grace oriented; if the Word of God is not priority number one in their life, then what you have is the spirituality vs. carnality or spirituality vs. religion syndrome-- either way, you're headed for big trouble and big-time problems. Jesus provides Christians with the perfect example to follow. He is the epitome of what a real man should be. If you're a young man here today; your goal in life should be to grow up spiritually and become exactly like Jesus Christ. Young ladies, the same applies to you. The boys you date and the man you eventually marry ought to be focused on Jesus Christ and His Word as priority #1 in life. If he's not, then he is a *loser*, and you're better off leaving him behind.
- D. Gentlemen, you call the shots; *you* are the responsible party. E.g., upon meeting her father you extend a *firm* handshake (none of that weak, wilted lily nonsense) and say, "Hello Mr. Johnson, it's nice to meet you, Sir. I'm Ric Webb, and I'll be responsible for your daughter tonight. Katie and I are going to the movies tonight, Sir. We're going to see 'Return of the Dinosaur Weasel Warrior, part 14.' It starts at precisely 7:10 p.m. and ends at approximately 9:15 p.m. I will then transport your daughter to Bacon Bob's Burger-Rama where I will proceed to purchase a chocolate malt for her and one of those Oreo shakes with the little cookies in it for myself. Upon finishing this calorific feast, I will bring her back to this exact spot at the designated time-- 10:30 p.m. Sir!"
- E. The young man *and* the young lady must have a pre-determined honor code, *before* dating. Where do you get this? This comes from doctrine in the soul-- divine viewpoint. When you leave it to the woman to determine your character, guys, you are *weak* and *irresponsible*. No *real* man would dare take a woman, emotionally or physically, where she doesn't need to go. If so, you are breaking down her barriers. She'll be physically and emotionally used, exploited down the road. You are dating another man's future wife. Keep in mind, someone's dating *yours!*
- F. Teenagers, you don't have the right to turn each other on. You don't have the capacity or self control to handle that type of situation. The Bible reserves that right and privilege for the marital relationship.
1 Corinthians 7:3-4 say's, **"Let the husband fulfill his *duty* [o]feilh/ (opheile)-responsibility, obligation, debt] to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband {does}; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife {does.}"**

G. Gentlemen, if you wouldn't marry her, *don't date her!* The same is true for you, young ladies. You'll marry exactly what you date and exactly what you are-- cheap, easy, dishonorable, lazy, apathetic, dishonest, etc.

H. Dating is the exploration of a friendship, not an *excuse* for sexual immorality. There are many passages in the Word of God that deal with premarital sex and sex between two unmarried individuals. The Biblical term is fornication, and it is listed as a personal sin and a violation of God's plan for the sexual relationship of marriage-- 1 Corinthians 6:9. Hebrews 13:4 lays down the command, to “**{Let} marriage {be held} in honor among all, and let the {marriage} bed {be} undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**”

- **Principle:** Victory over sexual temptation will be gained *only* through the utilization of divine power (HS) and divine provision (Word of God). If you're dating to 'turn him or her on,' you're *turning off* the plan of God.
- **Principle:** Spiritual love is never selfish or self promoting-- 1 Corinthians 13:4-5.
- **Final Principle:** You can't *lose* when you execute things according to the divine protocol.
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True love is basically a commitment. Feeling, emotion, selfish and childish expressions would change and fall-out of love. Fallen expectations and broken promises are basic elements that you can avoid.

A relationship that is founded and operating by emotion rather than by the truth and reality results only to broken promises, unrealistic expectations, and endless self-made miseries!