



Defective Dating

The Seven Habits of Highly Defective Dating

- Dating, in many cases, distracts young people from their primary responsibility of preparing them for the future
- Dating can cause discontentment with God's gift of singleness.
- Dating creates an artificial environment for evaluating another person's character.

The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Dating

1. Embrace the beauty of total intimacy and total commitment in marriage.
2. Choose to build your future marriage on the solid foundation of friendship with your spouse.
3. Choose purity and the clarity that comes in relationship undistracted by premarital physical involvements.
4. Say yes to the joy, wisdom, and Godly perspective that comes from investing in family and other friends.
5. Choose to glorify God and serve your future spouse by using this time in your life to prepare for the future.
6. Embrace the contentment that comes with a heart of gratefulness and an attitude that seeks to make the most of today.

Choose to get to know your future spouse in a setting that lets you both see who you really are and what your true character is.

Five Attitude Changes to Help You Avoid Defective Dating

1. Every relationship is an opportunity to model Christ's love.
2. My unmarried years are a gift from God.
3. Intimacy is the reward of commitment--I don't need to pursue a romantic relationship before I'm ready for marriage.
4. I cannot "own" someone outside of marriage.
5. I will avoid situations that could compromise the purity of my body or mind.

Learning the True Definition of Love

There are three deceptions in the world's pattern for love:

1. The world's deceptions flow from the belief that love is primarily for the fulfillment of self, but true love is defined by serving others and living for the glory of God. Jesus demonstrated this kind of love by dying on the cross.
2. The world claims that love is based on feeling, but true love is based on obedience to God and service to others (John 14:15)
3. The world tells us that love is unpredictable and beyond our control, but true love is a choice we must make, just as Jesus chose to love us.

How to Keep Impatience from Robbing You of the Gift of Singleness

Three principles are given to help adjust wrong attitudes toward the timing of relationships:

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2. We don't need to shop for something we can't afford.
3. Any season of singleness is a gift from God.

How to Get on the Road to Righteousness

Three principles to help you maintain the direction of purity

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2. Self-pity which uses feelings as an excuse to turn away from God and exalt our own needs. To combat self-pity, we must refrain from comparing, redirect our feelings into comparison and service to others, and use feelings of loneliness to draw closer to God.

What to Do When People Ask Why You Don't Play the Dating Game

Three principles to help us communicate our decision:

1. You don't have to prove someone wrong to do what you know is right.
2. Our primary purpose for communicating with others should be their encouragement and growth.

Making the Most of Your Singleness

We're given five areas we can prepare for while we're single:

1. Practice intimacy. In our homes and in our friendships, we should learn the art of sharing our lives with others by being open and honest.
2. Practice seeking God with others. To prepare for a dynamic spiritual life in marriage, we should learn to talk about and share our faith with other believers.
3. Practice financial responsibility. Now is the time to learn to manage money wisely. This includes saving, giving, and keeping a budget.
4. Practice parenthood. We should be observing how skilled parents raise their children and seeking opportunities to learn from them.
5. Practice practical life skills. We'll greatly bless our future husband or wife if we learn how to manage and care for a home before we get married.

Character Qualities and Attitudes that Matter Most in a Life Partner

Two criteria by which to evaluate a person and are encouraged to maintain a humble attitude of self-examination.

Principles that Can Guide You from Friendship to Matrimony

1. Seek a deeper friendship first. Focus on developing a closer friendship with a potential partner before introducing romance. Don't change your routine; instead look for opportunities to bring that person into your real life. Wait to verbally express your feelings.
2. Watch, wait, and pray. If you feel inclined to deepen a relationship with a guy or a girl, it's always wise to take extra time to get to know the person better as a friend and to seek God's guidance. Seek the counsel of a few, older, trusted Christians (ideally, this should include your parents). Ask them to pray for you, and invite them to keep you accountable about your relationship.
3. Define the relationship's purpose: pursuing marriage. It's the guy's responsibility to clearly state the intentions and provide leadership and direction for the relationship.
4. Honor her parents. The man should show respect by asking the girl's parents for permission to pursue marriage with their daughter and inviting their perspective.
5. Test and build the relationship in real-life settings. This is the time for the young man to win the girl's heart and for the two of them to test the wisdom of their potential marriage. This period need last only as long as it takes for both to feel confident about getting married.
6. Reserve passion for marriage. Protect each other by refusing to physically express your love until the proper time.

Romantic love is an illusion. Most of us discover this truth at the end of a love affair or else when the sweet emotions of love lead us into marriage and then turn down their flames.

God's love is His immutable righteousness and incorruptible Justice. They are the attributes of God's love. God's love is His essence. God loves His perfect righteousness and perfect justice (Psalm 33:5).