

Biblical Courting

Securing the Next Generation

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What is Courting?

Courtship:

- Courtship, for a Christian, is a relationship between a young man and a young woman in which they seek to determine if it is God's will for them to marry each other.
- Under the protection, guidance, and blessing of parents or mentors, the couple concentrates on developing a deeper friendship that could lead to marriage, as they discern both their readiness and God's timing for such a marriage.

It's a time for a couple to agree on issues and see if they share the same vision for marriage.

It's also a time for the couple to prayerfully consider if marriage is part of God's plan for them.

- Christian courtship involves two people that have agreed to walk together, in the direction of marriage - Amos 3:3.

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Purpose of Courtship

A Christ-centered courtship

- Is rooted in purpose and spiritual growth, and a desire to be with the person God has chosen.
- A commitment to stay pure and chaste, with the one God has chosen for you
- To allow God to direct your steps

Purpose Continued:

Courtship is a commitment to honor the Lord and each other as they seek God's best - for His glory.

The couple makes a decision to walk by faith, to trust in God, to honor others above themselves, and to believe that God will deal bountifully with them.

- ❖ II Corinthians 5:7
- ❖ Psalm 9:10
- ❖ Romans 12:10
- ❖ Psalm 13
- ❖ I John 4:8

By embracing the concept of courtship, a couple is making a declaration:

- I entrust this vital decision about marriage to the Lord by seeking His guidance.
- I will refrain from manipulating situations or individuals to fulfill my desires, and instead, patiently wait upon the Lord's plan for me.
- I surrender my right to my own will and submit to His will for my future.

Importance of Biblical Courting:

Why is Biblical Courting Important?

- ❖ Honors God's design for relationships
- ❖ Promotes purity and holiness
- ❖ Builds strong, godly foundations for marriage
- ❖ Prevents emotional and physical hurt

What Biblical Courting Looks Like?

Characteristics of Biblical Courting:

- It has intentional and purposeful involvement of family and church community
- It focuses on friendship and spiritual growth
- It has clear boundaries and accountability
- It will be accountable

The Process of Courting:

Steps in the Courting Process:

- ❖ Prayer and seeking God's guidance
- ❖ Involvement of parents or ministry
- ❖ Building a friendship and relationship with clear intentions
- ❖ Setting physical and emotional boundaries (to govern feelings).
- ❖ Ongoing accountability and guidance (for safety)
- ❖ Discernment and decision for marriage

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Principles: The Bible doesn't use the words "courtship" or "dating", but it does provide some principles that Christians can follow during courtship.

These include:

- ❖ Separating from the world's view on dating
- ❖ Discovering the other person's character before committing
- ❖ Finding out if the other person has been born again, and has the Holy Ghost
- ❖ Is he or she "Spiritually Stable" in their walk, vision, and commitment to the Lord
- ❖ Loving the Lord above all else
- ❖ Avoiding premarital intimacy
- ❖ Loving and honoring others more than you love yourself

**** Is there fruit of that stability? ****

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The 4 C's of Courtship

1. The Character of Courtship

Courtship affords two young people an opportunity to study at close range the attitudes and conduct and true worth of their friends.

It would certainly be foolish for people suddenly to marry, without ever having paid any attention to each other, or without being mutually attracted and happy together.

Marriage is God ordained; it is sacred; it is a lifetime proposition, and the Bible encourages young people to consider marriage.

We read in Proverbs 18:22, "Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord."

2. The Commencement of Courtship

When we speak of “commencement,” we speak of a beginning And so when we speak of the commencement of courtship, we want to speak of a few matters that need to be considered at the beginning of courtship.

First : Be a consecrated child of God—not just a church member, but a consecrated Christian. And by “Christian” we mean not merely one who attends church services, but one who has the Holy Ghost, and vision of the body of Jesus Christ, A new creature (true continual change) in Jesus Christ. A person with new appetites and new direction in life.

Second: Pray that God will lead you. Pray about life’s affairs, we are commanded to pray for our daily bread and for our physical needs. Surely this second greatest step in life (selecting a spouse) should always be accompanied by much praying and waiting before God.

He wants for you the very best in life: He will guide your choice and insure your happiness if you will only ask Him.

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3. The Choice of Courtship

The Bible is crystal clear in teaching that believers are never to even consider marriage with unbelievers under any circumstances.

2 Corinthians 6:14. Those who seek your hand in marriage may be everything in the natural you are looking for—but unless they are children of God, born again, baptized with the H.G, and has an active vision of the Body of Christ, they should not be an option for marriage.

Failure to observe this basic law of the Scriptures has caused shipwreck in thousands upon thousands of homes.

A Christian is not to marry or fall in love with a non-Christian. (If the Word of God is governing us, this should not be possible)

If you do, How will your children be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? You’ll teach them one thing, and their dad/mom will teach them the opposite.

When you go to church services, they will do something different. When you read the Bible and engage in prayer, they may read the latest novel, or turn on the TV. When you praise the Lord, they indulge in blasphemy. You tell your children one thing, they encourage them to do the opposite. The Bible says, **“How can two walk together except they be agreed?”**

There are a lot of things in life far worse than being single - One of those is marrying the wrong person. Never enter into the marriage relationship lightly. Always look for biblical characteristics- qualities that will abide the test of time.

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4.The Comradeship of Courtship (Friendship)

There are wholesome things to do during your courtship days

- It is important to always have something definitely planned for each gathering (idleness leads to carnalness)
- It is when young people have nothing to do that they begin habits that arouse evil desires
- Have Bible studies
- Have chaperoned prayer together
- Read a certain portion of the Bible at the same time each evening during the week
- There's a special thrill that goes along with knowing that you both are doing exactly the same thing at exactly the same time, even though you may be separated by many miles
- Enjoy good "Godly" music together
- Enjoy good Godly open communication(it's important to learn skills of communication)

These are a few things you can do to make your courtship purposeful and constructive.

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Is there only one method of courtship?

Because each individual, family, and set of circumstances is unique, each courtship will be unique.

While those who choose courtship will hold to general guidelines for the relationship.

- Their specific choices about when, where, and how to court may differ according to their needs and circumstances.

The basic principles that are typically followed are:

- A greater involvement of parents or counselors
- A commitment to moral purity until marriage
- Remaining a chaste virgin
- Accountability in the development of the relationship
- A commitment to seeking God's will in the decision of marriage.

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Keeping the Next Generation

In a world where relationships often lack purpose and direction, Biblical courting offers a safe and transformative approach to Marriage.

By aligning our relationships with God's design- we honor Him, promote purity, and lay strong foundations for lifelong commitments.

Courting is intentional and includes - family involvement, encourages spiritual growth, it fosters environments where love can flourish in its truest, safest, and purest form.

This is a counter-cultural practice-we protect our hearts, strengthen our faith, and set a powerful example for future generations.

Let us commit to pursuing relationships that glorify God- trusting that His ways lead to the most fulfilling and blessed unions.

Through Biblical courting- we can experience the profound joy and peace that comes from following God's perfect plan for our lives.