

CHRISTIAN DATING

Our God commanded life-foundation MUST NEVER change even with dating - 2 Cor 5:7 We **LIVE** by faith, **NOT** by sight.

We must recognize that relationships will most likely be triggered by desire, and if "life focus" is wrong, we are doomed - Rom 8:5-8 - 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature HAVE THEIR MINDS SET ON WHAT THAT NATURE DESIRES; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, NOR CAN IT DO SO. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature CANNOT please God.

What I get out of it vs. How to Glorify God
Emotionally led vs. Spiritually led

How I see it vs. what God says
What I want vs. God's Word

When desires lead the way, they WILL lead us wrong - James 1:14-15 - 14 but each one is tempted when, BY HIS OWN EVIL DESIRE, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

* **The feeling one gets when they are attracted to someone has dangerously been mistaken as "falling in love". This IS NOT Love, it is simply desire.** The Bible shows true love is something we have control over, not something we fall into. We know this because love is **commanded by God** (Rom 12:9, Matt 22:37-40, Luke 6:35-36, Eph 5:25-26, 1 Cor 13:4-7).

Understand, you will desire intimacy, but know that intimacy outside of God is Dangerously WRONG - 1 Thess 4:3-8 - 3 **It is God's will that you should be sanctified**: that you should **AVOID SEXUAL IMMORALITY**; 4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is **holy and honorable**, 5 **NOT IN PASSIONATE LUST LIKE THE HEATHEN**, who do not know God; 6 and that **in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him**. **THE LORD WILL PUNISH MEN FOR ALL SUCH SINS**, as we have already told you and warned you. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

***We must be what is in control, NOT our surroundings, NOT what we think, or NOT our bodies (2 Cor 10:5-6, 1 Cor 9:26-27)**

Characteristics that MUST exist in every Christian partnership

Must be a Christian on the same path - 2 Cor 6:14 **DO NOT be yoked together with unbelievers**. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

Relationship with believers should be as with family - 1 Tim 5:1-2 - Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. **Treat younger men as brothers**, 2 older women as mothers, and **younger women as sisters**, with **absolute purity**.

It can NEVER be about self - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **DO NOTHING** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Godly communication will give clarity - James 1:19-20 - 19 My dear brothers, take note of this: **Everyone should be** quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 for **man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires**.

All Christian relationships must be Godly planned through Godly friendship. How we are as friends will display how we are as partners
The righteous are careful of who their friends are - Prov 12:26 A **righteous man** is **cautious in friendship**, but **the way of the wicked leads them astray**.

True friends will be careful not to offend - Prov 17:9 He who covers over an offense promotes love, but **whoever repeats the matter separates close friends**.

True friend love will never change - Prov 17:17 **A friend loves at all times**, and a brother is born for adversity.

True friend will be faithful - Prov 20:6 Many a man claims to have unfaithful love, but a faithful man who can find?

A True friend's rebuke is welcomed – Prov 27:6 **Wounds from a friend can be trusted**, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Simply put, true friends make each other better in God – Prov 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so **one man sharpens another**.

The only time a relationship should go from friendship to exclusivity is with the goal of marriage. The sacred bond of marriage defined by God – Matt 19:4-12 – 4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?' 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." 7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" 8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. 9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery." 10 The disciples said to him, "If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry." 11 Jesus replied, "**Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given**. 12 For **some are eunuchs because they were born that way**; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

- **One male & One female**
- **Intention to become one in and by God**
- **The bond is until death**
- **God sets the standard, not us**