

# **SINGLE ALLIANCE**

## **AVOIDING MISTAKES SINGLES MAKE**

### **"Avoiding Mistakes in Dating"**

#### **I. Intro**

- A. Last week we talked about mistakes singles make with the opposite sex
- B. We talked about the importance of building a relationship according to Biblical love- Agape and phileo
- C. We talked about the importance of developing a friendship before a physical relationship develops
- D. This leads into the next topic we will look at - mistakes in dating

#### **II. History of dating**

- A. The modern practice of dating in the way it is done today is new development in human history. It arose in the 19th century. For millennia the way couples met and married was by arranged marriage and then later courtship. Courtship and dating have similar aspects but also are very different in others.
- B. Until modern dating arose, the family played a significant role in the courtship process. Before the industrial revolution families lived and worked together. They did not travel a lot and children grew up together and most attended church. By the time someone was ready to get married friendships had already been developed over some years at social functions and church.
- C. Courtship occurred in the family home in rooms called parlors and at group functions.
- D. As the industrial revolution occurred and cities sprang up, men started working away from the family and farms. With WWII women started working and after the war many kept on working to maintain a modern way of living. Family breakdown started occurring at this time.
- E. With the advent of the car and entertainment after WWII young couples started going out on dates alone. This slowly led to increased sexual activity and multiple partners. Dating became another source of having fun, courtship was based on developing a commitment for marriage. Courtship brought together two that were familiar to each other into a relationship that was open for inspection. Modern dating puts two strangers in a romantic position that is closed to others.

F. As lives got busier and we got more advanced online dating popped up. They did all the work matching you and you just fall in love and marry! This process is highly dangerous because it puts two complete strangers together in a romantic situation.

G. Some negative aspects of modern dating

1. Modern dating tends to lead to intimacy without commitment- 4 go to's- Go to dinner, go to a movie, go back to his apartment, go to bed!

2. Modern dating tends to skip friendship

3. Modern dating tends to confuse physical intimacy with love

4. Modern dating often isolates a couple away from other vital relationships

5. Modern dating creates an artificial environment to evaluate character

### III. **Modern courtship**

A. The subject of dating is not found in the Bible because it was not practiced in the bible. In the bible days marriages were arranged and largely guided by one's father and family

B. Modern dating has evolved to taking out a practical stranger and becoming physically intimate very quickly- holding hands, kissing, long talks.

C. There is nothing wrong with a couple going out together and doing something together. The problem happens when a couple moves much too quickly in the relationship.

D. Dating a stranger tends to lead to this. Modern dating is not focused on developing a friendship. When you go on a date you focus on how you look and smell like. You worry about saying the right thing and wonder if you should hold hands or if there should be a good night kiss or not. Friends do not worry about all this! Well you should care what you smell like!

E. Personally I am not a big fan of dating someone you do not know. Personally, I believe courtship is a more safe way to develop a relationship.

F. Courtship was conducted with others around the couple a lot. Throughout the years the church and its functions played an important role in this process for couples to spend time together and to get to know each other. Today is the same. In our class we provide many

group activities to participate in. Few take this opportunity. These activities are great places to get to know someone as friends without the pressure of moving too fast.

G. I think for those who are still in the acquaintance and casual friendship stage that group activities are best for getting to know the opposite sex. Once the close stage comes then some alone activities are normal and good.

H. Ask a girl to a church function for a first date. If a guy asks you out and you do not know him and you would like to then ask that you go to a social function together.

#### **IV. Boundaries in dating**

A. The question is not so much of dating or courtship as it is on taking your time before you get into a physical relationship and emotionally intimate.

B. When you get into a physical relationship you will develop love feelings. This is a combination of infatuation and lust not real love.

C. People are addicted to the feeling of falling in love.

D. When they do not feel love anymore they fall out of love and seek that love again.

E. You need to set physical and emotional boundaries when dating.

F. Many are afraid of setting boundaries in dating because they might scare off the only interested person you have seen in a while and maybe the last you will ever see!

G. So many couples rush ahead with the physical relationship and spend inordinate amount of time getting to know the other person. E.i. We spent the whole weekend together talking- I know everything about my girlfriend now.

H. Hollywood formula to relationship is: 1) Find the right person 2) Fall in love 3) Put your hopes upon them to meet your needs 3) if steps 1-3 fail start over.

I. God's formula for relationships is: 1) Be the right person 2) Walk in love 3) Put your hopes in God to meet your needs 4) If steps 1-3 fail, start over!