



Rating Your Dating

"God's insights on Love, Dating, Mating, and Relating"
By Pastor Joe

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Scriptures are printed verbatim with references noted but highlights and underlines are added. Quotes and all primary sources are footnoted.

A. Introduction

A. ***"You have to get this right!"***

B. Decide how you will decide when it comes to dating, mating, and relating

- People you know
- People you don't know
- Your heart
- Your hormones
- Your head—committed to just you! (Moral relativism)
- Your head—committed to just God! (Moral absolutes—what does God's word say?)

C. A word about "dating" vs. "courting."

D. "Everything" is fair-game in this discussion.

E. I want to ask you if I can be COMPLETELY HONEST?

B. Understanding God's Plan for dating, mating, and relating

From Scripture, it is clear that sex outside of marriage is wrong and sex inside marriage is right.

❶ Two Reasons God gave us a "Wait Until Marriage" Command:

1. Protection – God loves each of us and wants to protect us from the many hurts that could result in premarital sex (e.g. emotional pain, hurt, loss of honor, an unwanted pregnancy, a disease, and other consequences).
2. Provision – God loves each of us and wants to provide His great plan for our lives. When we disobey God in the area of sexuality, we run the risk of completely missing His plan. WE trade a few minutes of pleasure for a lifetime of unhappiness.

② How Far Should I Go on a Date?

Decide whether you will live for God or live on the edge. I Thess. 4:6 says not to “defraud” (or create a sexual desire that can not be righteously satisfied.) Anything that would cause an individual to want to go all the way is wrong. It may be how you dress, how you talk, how you act, pet, kiss, etc. In general, anything from the neck down or the knees up should be considered “out of bounds.” Another thought: Ladies, you need to treat a man on your date the same way you would want some other girl to treat your future husband. Men, you need to treat a lady the way you would want someone else to treat your future wife.

③ Realize how Satan Works in the area of your Dating:

There are two words that describe Satan in the Bible:

1. Pervert – Satan takes what is right and makes it wrong.
2. Queer – Satan takes something that is meant for one thing and uses it for another.

④ The purpose of dating, engagement, and marriage

In the area of dating and marriage, Satan seeks to get God’s plan and order all turned around.

The Purpose of Dating: unite spiritually to seek God’s plan for your lives.

The Purpose of Engagement: unite your hearts to agree upon the future.

The Purpose of Marriage: complete the ‘Uniting Process’ by uniting physically.

⑤ How old are you when you are old enough to date?

Four things must take place before you are old enough to date;

1. You must know the purpose of dating.
2. You must have worked from the Scripture an objective standard for dating. (These standards must be in keeping with your parent’s standards for dating.)
3. You must come to the place in your life when you say:

“I Will Not Compromise My Standards for Anybody—Anytime!”

4. You must have your parent’s permission (and blessing) to date.

⑥ Is dating Non-Christians Okay?

No! II Corinthians 6:14-17 says that we should not be unequally yoked with one another. Believers should not be together with non-Christians in a serious dating relationship.

Another reason girls should not date a non-Christian guy: Girls, there are two types of guys that you can win to the Lord on a date. (1) A weak sissy, “panty waist” guy—Oh Boy! Real Great. (2) A tough guy, with character, a leader...if...he falls in love with you. If this happens, you have set yourself up as the spiritual leader in the relationship. The Bible is clear that the male is ideally supposed to be the spiritual leader in a relationship.

The conclusion: Girl, don't date non-Christian guys!

Another reason Guys should not date non-Christian girls: Guys, sometimes girls will trust you because you are a Christian. They will trust you with past problems. In your desire to help, you may find yourself talking about problems that you don't need to be talking about in a dating relationship. "Their problems will become your problems." Missionary dating is very risky and works only in a very few cases.

The conclusion: Guys, don't date non-Christian girls!

"Remember, God has the plan, you find it you win; miss it you will lose!"
-J. Taylor

"Young people do many things "in the name of love" that, in reality will keep them from having a real love that God can bless."
-J. Taylor

⑦ Why is it wrong to have sex outside of marriage?

When two people have sex before they marry and then marry, it no longer will be as fun as it was, because, no longer is it sin. WE fall in love, according to the Bible, with what feeds "the flesh." There is only one thing that feeds the flesh and that is sin. We fall in love with the "sin," not the person.

When two people who have been having sex outside of marriage get married, sex is usually not as exiting as it used to be (as when it was in the back seat or over at someone's house) because no longer is it sin.

"If you compromise your standards, you run the risk of gin through life without ever having a boy or girl really love you."
-J. Taylor

Remember Not to Defraud:

The scripture says not to "defraud" someone. To "defraud" means to create in someone else a sexual desire that cannot be righteously satisfied.

Remember, there are no accidents in the area of going all the way. Think of a real "accident" and the different situations that would have to occur for two people to "accidentally" have sex with each.

WARNING: Sex drives are normal, but be careful!

The sex drive is at its greatest level from ages 16-25 for males and between late 20s and early 30s for females.

Ladies, remember that most girls do not ask "how can I have the thrill of sex?," but instead, "How can I keep a good man?" When you use sex to get a guy, you have to keep him with sex.

"The farther you go, the more your glands decide and the less your mind (much less the Holy Spirit in you) decides about what is right in the area of sex!" -J. Taylor

⑧ What should "we" do if we are already sexually active outside of marriage?

Once you have tasted the experience, it will be very hard to say no the next time. Sex can be the biggest trap you can fall into. But here are some positive steps you can take to solve this problem. Remember, it is absolutely necessary that you get this area of your life under control. Your life and happiness depend on it.

1. Communication is important. Sit down and talk. Guilt can cut off communication in any relationship, so make sure you both know you are sitting down to talk about this very serious problem in your relationship.

2. Both must agree that you have gone too far. Take 42 days without physical contact of any kind to cool down. This is important!
3. Be accountable to somebody. This someone must be able to follow-up on your life, encourage you, and counsel you about this area.
4. Plan dates together. Poorly planned dates equal dead times. Dead times will lead you back to the problem.
5. Double dating is also a good idea for a couple who is getting into trouble sexually.
6. Pray together and read the Bible and other books about what dating should be like.
7. Make an important decision. Decide that if in fact you can not stop engaging in sex, you will break off the relationship. Remember. . .

“There is ALWAYS more to lose in compromising than there is to gain!” – J. Taylor

C. Handling pressure from your friends

❶ An Attitude That Needs to Be Addressed:

Many Young People feel that is unrealistic to wait until marriage for sexual activity. Remember, we are not talking about animal sexuality; we are talking about human sexuality. We are created in the image of God, able to make moral, right, righteous decision. The moment we surrender that right, we become no more than a “dog in heat.” It is your future, so be willing to go against the trend and make a right decision to control your own sex lives.

❷ How do I say no to someone I like?

- (1) Broken Record Approach – Say “No, No, No, No ...” Then share your feelings by saying ‘Jim you know how this makes me feel? It makes me feel that I am just a sex object and that you really don’t care about who I am or what I believe.’
- (2) Sandwich Approach – Start with a positive, then a negative, then a second positive with an alternative. (e.g. “You are so fun to study with, but I don’t think it would be a good idea to study with your parents gone, let’s go to the library - - it’s open!”)

❸ Understand the Pressure Lines:

“If you love me you will let me” – Your reply: “If you really loved me, you wouldn’t persist. And, if you really loved me you wouldn’t have asked.”

“If we have sex, our love will grow” – Your reply: “Grow into what?”

“But Honey, if we have sex, it will bring us closer together.” – Your reply: “Like on *Sex in the City*” (Or some other soap opera.)

“You never buy a pair of shoes with trying them on first” – Your reply: “Look I’m not a pair of shoes...do you buy a tooth brush that way too? Not me!”

“Everyone’s doing it? – Your reply: “Then it shouldn’t be too hard to find someone else to do it with, should it? Besides, I don’t want what most people have (i.e. broken homes, S.T.D., worries, bad memories.) Besides, what everyone else does is their business, what I do is my business.”

“Come on, honey, let me make you feel goood. It can’t be wrong if it feels so goood, can it?” [What does “feelings” have to do with making it right? Let’s say it did, let’s say “if it feels good, it was right:” some questions, a) How much does it have to feel good, b) How long ...until you get pregnant or get a disease. Every rapist says it feels good, but that does not make it right.] Reply: Don’t give me that excuse, (ad summarize the above.)

“Come on; let me make a man (or woman) out of you.” – Your reply What does that have to do with being a man, a thirteen year old can have sex, my DOG can have sex?” [Remember, anyone can have sex, but it takes a man to say “No!”

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. - Hebrews 13:4 (NIV)

④ If I mean business in the area of sexuality, how can I say “No?”

Step one: Find someone with the same convictions and hold each other accountable.

Step two: Guard your eyes. Much of our sexual temptation begins with what we see and how that affects our mind. (Matthew 6 – Job 31:1)

Step three: Guard yourself from dangerous situations. (I Cor. 6 – Rom. 13:4 – Prov. 6)

Step four: Set your standards before you date. (Write out your convictions and plan out your date.)

Step five: Let God give you strength to stay pure. (Do this by having a strong desire to be filled with God’s Spirit and power, have no unconfessed sin, and have every area of your life turned over to God—be a disciple, committed to Him!)

⑤ Again...How Far Should I Go on a Date?

Decide whether you will live for God or live on the edge. I Thess. 4:6 says not to “defraud” (or create a sexual desire that can not be righteously satisfied.) Anything that would cause an individual to want to go all the way is wrong. It may be how you dress, how you talk, how you act, pet, kiss, etc. In general, anything from the neck down or the knees up should be considered “out of bounds.”

Another thought: Ladies, you need to treat a man on you date the same way you would want some other girl to treat your future husband. Men, you need to treat a lady the way you would want someone else to treat your future wife.

D. A Word From the Lord—TO YOU!

Dear Child whom I love with all My heart:

Everyone longs to give themselves completely to someone, to have a deep soul relationship with another to be loved thoroughly and exclusively. But God, to a Christian says; “No, not until you are satisfied, fulfilled, and content with being loved by Me alone, until giving yourself totally to Me, having an intensely personal and unique relationship with me alone, discovering that only in Me is your satisfaction to be found, will you be capable of the perfect human relationship that I have planned for you. You will never be united with another until you are united with Me – exclusive of any other desires or longings. I want you to have the best. Please allow Me to bring it to you. You just keep watching Me, expecting the greatest things; keep experiencing the satisfaction I bring. Keep listening and learning the things I tell you. You just wait, that’s all. Don’t be anxious. Don’t look at the things you want. You just keep looking off and up to Me or you’ll miss what I want to show you. And when you are ready, I’ll surprise you with a love far more wonderful than you could ever dream of. You see, until you are ready (I am working even this moment to have both of you ready at the same time until you are both satisfied exclusively with Me and the life I have prepared for you), you will not be able to experience the love that exemplifies your relationship with Me—a perfect love. And dear one, I want you to have the most wonderful love. I want you to see in the flesh a picture of your relationship with Me, and to enjoy materially and concretely the everlasting union of beauty, perfection, and love that I offer to you with Myself. Know that I love you utterly! I am the Almighty God of this universe. Believe it and be satisfied. AS I have promised, I will meet every need you will ever have. I mean that and I will do that!”

-Your Heavenly Father!

APPENDEIX: "What the Bible says about sex."

1. God is the Author of Sex.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV) ⁻²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

2. The Purposes of Sex are manifold.

A. Procreation (having babies)

Genesis 1:28 (NIV) ⁻²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; ...

B. Companionship

Genesis 2:18 (NIV) ⁻¹⁸ The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." ²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

C. Pleasure

Genesis 18:12 (NIV) ⁻¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Song of Solomon 7:1-10 (NIV) ⁻¹ How beautiful your sandaled feet, O prince's daughter! Your graceful legs are like jewels, the work of a craftsman's hands. ² Your navel is a rounded goblet that never lacks blended wine. Your waist is a mound of wheat encircled by lilies. ³ Your breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle. ⁴ Your neck is like an ivory tower. Your eyes are the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath Rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon looking toward Damascus. ⁵ Your head crowns you like Mount Carmel. Your hair is like royal tapestry; the king is held captive by its tresses. ⁶ How beautiful you are and how pleasing, O love, with your delights! ⁷ Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. ⁸ I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like the clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, ⁹ and your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth. ¹⁰ I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.

D. For Meeting Physical and Emotional Needs

1 Corinthians 7:1-5 (NIV) ⁻¹ Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. ² But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. ³ The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

E. To honor God

Hebrews 13:4 (NIV) ⁻⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

3. Regarding different types of sexual perversion

Adultery: Deuteronomy 22:22-29 (NIV) ⁻²² *If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.* ²³ *If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her,* ²⁴ *you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death—the girl because she was in a town and did not scream for help, and the man because he violated another man's wife. You must purge the evil from among you.* ²⁵ *But if out in the country a man happens to meet a girl pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die.* ²⁶ *Do nothing to the girl; she has committed no sin deserving death. This case is like that of someone who attacks and murders his neighbor,* ²⁷ *for the man found the girl out in the country, and though the betrothed girl screamed, there was no one to rescue her.* ²⁸ *If a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered,* ²⁹ *he shall pay the girl's father fifty shekels of silver. He must marry the girl, for he has violated her. He can never divorce her as long as he lives.*

Prostitution: Deuteronomy 23:17 (GN) ⁻¹⁷ *No man or woman is to become a prostitute.*

Incest: Leviticus 18:6-18 (NIV) ⁻⁶ *"No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the Lord.* ⁷ *"Do not dishonor your father by having sexual relations with your mother. She is your mother; do not have relations with her.* ⁸ *"Do not have sexual relations with your father's wife; that would dishonor your father.* ⁹ *"Do not have sexual relations with your sister, either your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether she was born in the same home or elsewhere.* ¹⁰ *"Do not have sexual relations with your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter; that would dishonor you.* ¹¹ *"Do not have sexual relations with the daughter of your father's wife, born to your father; she is your sister.* ¹² *"Do not have sexual relations with your father's sister; she is your father's close relative.* ¹³ *"Do not have sexual relations with your mother's sister, because she is your mother's close relative.* ¹⁴ *"Do not dishonor your father's brother by approaching his wife to have sexual relations; she is your aunt.* ¹⁵ *"Do not have sexual relations with your daughter-in-law. She is your son's wife; do not have relations with her.* ¹⁶ *"Do not have sexual relations with your brother's wife; that would dishonor your brother.* ¹⁷ *"Do not have sexual relations with both a woman and her daughter. Do not have sexual relations with either her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter; they are her close relatives. That is wickedness.* ¹⁸ *"Do not take your wife's sister as a rival wife and have sexual relations with her while your wife is living.*

Homosexuality: Romans 1:26 (NIV) ⁻²⁶ *Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.* ²⁷ *In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

Mankind with Beasts: Deuteronomy 27:21 (NIV) ⁻²¹ *"Cursed is the man who has sexual relations with any animal." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"*

4. Other Important Scriptures on Sexual Purity

Matthew 5:28 (NIV) ⁻²⁸ *But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

Romans 13:13 (NIV) ⁻¹³ *Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.*

1 Corinthians 6:13-19 (NIV) ⁻¹³ *"Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"—but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.* ¹⁴ *By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.* ¹⁵ *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!* ¹⁶ *Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."* ¹⁷ *But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.* ¹⁸ *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.* ¹⁹ *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*

Ephesians 5:3 (NIV) ⁻³ *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.*

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7 (NIV) ⁻³ *It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality ...* ⁷ *For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.*