

The Use and Misuse of the Bible's Teaching on Dating

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taking
dating
seriously



1. Take dating seriously

- The **challenge**: great pressure, little support
- The **argument**: the Bible's answer in relational wisdom
- The **task**: explore popular themes with biblical corrective

2. Be safe and take risks: the challenge of trust in God

- Theme: intentionality & impatience
- Corrective: waiting & acting



a. Theme:

**Intentionality leading to
impatience**

a. Theme:
Intentionality
becomes
impatience

- Toward process
 - 1 Tim 5:2, Eph 5
- Toward self
 - Gen 1:28

b. Corrective:

Waiting and acting - the
challenge of meekness

b. Waiting and acting

- Know your tendency toward over- or underconfidence
- Move but do not rush
- Wait but do not prolong

helps and hopes



3. Aim for the ideal; live in the real

- Theme: marriage as hope
- Corrective: fallen goods

**a. Theme: Marriage as
help becomes marriage
as hope**

a. Theme:
Marriage as help
becomes marriage
as hope

- hope for loneliness
 - Gen 2:18
- hope for lust
 - 1 Cor 7:8-9

b. Corrective: Marriage and singleness as fallen gifts to be received in faith

b. Fallen gifts

- To be celebrated
- To be grieved
- To anticipate spiritual marriage and singleness (Rev 16:6-9, Matt 22:30)

3. Aim for ideal; live in real

Theme:

Marriage as
help becomes
marriage as
hope

Corrective:

Marriage and
singleness as
fallen gifts to be
received in faith

4. Step into independence and dependence

The challenge of personhood under God (Gal 6:1-5)

(in)dependence



a. Theme: People as a resource become people as a retreat.

a. Theme:
Retreating

- To advisors
 - Prov 11:14
- To their authority
 - Prov 6:20-21, e.g. Gen 21:21, I Sam 18:17)

b. Corrective:
Agency in
community

- Growing through communal dynamics
- Self-stewardship (1 Thess 4:11)

Communal dynamics

- Family changes: opportunities for spiritual change



Additions to the
family disrupt

Communal dynamics

- Family changes: opportunities for spiritual change
- Family: as relativized in the new kingdom (Luke 14:26)

b. Corrective:
Agency in
community

- Growing through communal dynamics
- Self-stewardship

5. Moving forward in love



Dating in 3
stages

5. Moving forward in love

- Connection
- Discernment
- Commitment

a. Connection

How it works

you'll never meet a decent
guy on those dating apps!
You need to meet a guy
in real life!

OK, but how?

Like, organically!

Seriously, how?



a. Connection

Pitfalls:

- Prolonging in fun or fear

Opportunities:

- The wisdom in “friends first”

b. Discernment

How it works (DTR)

b. Discernment

Pitfalls:

- Skipping or getting stuck on evaluation

Opportunities:

- The wisdom in really knowing the person

c. Commitment

How it works

c. Commitment

Pitfalls:

- Premature commitment
- Prolonged engagement

Opportunities:

- The wisdom in preparing

6. Special concerns

- High anxiety
- Stalled long-term dating
- Stalled long-term friending
- Online dating
- High risk situations and red flags



crosses in
community