

Should We Play the Dating Game?

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some common views of dating?
2. What do you desire in a dating relationship?

Date (*dāt*) An engagement to go out socially with another person, often out of romantic interest. *American Heritage Dictionary*

“The Purpose of dating is simple: getting to know someone and letting them get to know you so that you can decide whether you’re interested in spending any more time together...Dating, after all, is still about two people who are interested in one another and want to get together at a specific time and place. It’s not like we are talking rocket science here.” (Dating for Dummies, Dr. Browne p. 1 & 13)

Dating May Not Be the Best Option

I would like to share my opinion that dating is not *necessarily* bad. I think society’s definition of dating may not be the “best” way of finding “The One”. Finding relationships that are not centered on what God desires for us could leave us more vulnerable to physical and emotional temptations, which will hurt both people in the relationship.

1. **Dating may cause single people to waste their opportunities of being single by pursuing relationships instead of focusing on God.** *“Dating plays a role in fostering this dissatisfaction because it gives single people just enough intimacy to make them wish they had more. Instead of enjoying the unique qualities of singleness, dating causes people to focus on what they don’t have.”* (I Kissed Dating Goodbye, Harris p.41)

“Older Missionaries had told him (Jim Elliot) that single men were needed to do jobs married ones could never do. There were some areas where women could not go. Jim took their word for it and committed himself to bachelorhood for as long as the will of God required.” (Passion and Purity, Elliot p. 53)

2. Dating encourages an unbalanced level of intimacy and commitment in a relationship.

“In most cases, especially in high school, dating is short term, serving the needs of the moment. People date because they want to enjoy the emotional and even physical benefits of intimacy without the responsibility of real commitment.” (I Kissed Dating Goodbye, Harris p.33)

3. Dating can become an idol once it held more highly than obeying God’s will.

“One of the saddest tendencies of dating is to distract young adults from developing their God-given abilities and skills. Instead of equipping themselves with the character, education, and experience necessary to succeed in life, many allow themselves to be consumed by the present needs that dating emphasizes.” (I Kissed Dating Goodbye, Harris p.39)

These were the words of the Lord to me, for his hand was strong upon me; and he warned me not to follow the ways of this people: you shall not say “too hard” of everything that this people calls hard; You shall neither dread nor fear that which they fear. It is the Lord of Hosts whom you must count “hard”, he it is whom you must fear and dread. Isaiah 8:11-13