


Preparing Your Children for  
**C**ourtship  
and  
**M**arriage   
*From toddlers to teens*

Video Seminar Syllabus



Reb Bradley

Preparing Your Children  
for  
**COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE**  
*From toddlers to teens*

Syllabus and Study Guide  
Version 2003

**FAMILY MINISTRIES PUBLISHING**  
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## Session 1 - The Biblical Model for Romantic Relationships

I. Why should Christian parents be concerned with preparing their children for courtship and marriage?

- A. Rampant
- B. Unstable, failing  
(See CHART in APPENDIX 6)
- C. Spiritual

II. The origin of recreational dating

- A. Dating is an \_\_\_\_\_ of unbelievers in the \_\_\_\_\_ century.
- B. Christians \_\_\_\_\_ dating from the world and \_\_\_\_\_ biblical and historical customs

III. What the biblical model for romantic relationships?

A. **Casual dating:** (Hesitations 6:12; Rebelations 3:16) \_\_\_\_\_ 20th century

B. **Informal Courtship:** Jacob & Rachel - Gen 29:18

*Gen 29:14 Then Laban said to him, "You are my own flesh and blood." After Jacob had stayed with him for a whole month ... 18 Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."*

⇒ The most basic difference between courtship and recreational dating:

Courtship	Dating
1. It is engaged in for the purpose of exploring or cultivating a relationship for marriage	1. It is engaged in for the purpose of personal gratification
2. It is a means to an end	2. It is an end in itself
3. It is engaged in when ready to marry	3. It is engaged in as a substitute for marriage

C. **Betrothal:** formalized engagement -- Ex 21:8-9; 22:16; Lev 19:20; Dt 22:23-28; Hos 2:19-20

- 1. Betrothals were arranged by parents or the groom. Jud 14:2, 10; 1 Sam 18:21; Gen 2:22; 29:18; 24:58
- 2. Engagement was solemnized by a formal ceremony
- 3. Marriage covenant vows were spoken to bind the couple in an unbreakable union
- 4. Commenced with payment of a dowry or bride price  
Gen 34:12; Ex 22:17; 1 Sam 18:25; Joshua 15:18; 2 Sam 3:14

D. **Marriage**

- 1. God's \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of romance and passion  
*1 Cor 7:9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion*  
*1 Cor 7:2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.*
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ relationship requiring a couple \_\_\_\_\_ themselves with vows of faithfulness  
Mal 2:14; Prov 2:17 (See Marriage Covenant in the APPENDIX 1)

IV. What are the differences between modern dating customs and the biblical model for romance?

THE BIBLICAL MODEL	THE MODERN DATING MODEL
<p>Marriage was God’s chosen relationship for the expression of romantic or sexual desires.</p> <p><i>1 Cor 7:9 ... it is better to marry than to burn with passion.</i></p>	<p>Dating and “going together” are the modern solutions to emotional and physical desires of those unable or unwilling to marry.</p>
<p>To gain the privilege of touching one another, a couple had to enter a covenant by swearing vows of lasting faithfulness and commitment.</p> <p><i>Mal 2:14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. (also Prov 2:17) (See Num 30:2; Deut 23:21, 23)</i></p>	<p>To gain sensual touching privileges, a couple must like each other or have some use for each other. No covenant is entered – no permanent commitment is required. Private, intimate parts of oneself are shared with as many as one desires.</p>
<p>After entering a binding covenant, God declared two separate people to be one flesh, which meant they gained rights to one another’s bodies.</p> <p><i>Mat 19:6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."</i></p> <p><i>1 Cor 7:4 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.</i></p>	<p>In the world’s dating model a couple has not bound themselves in a covenant and therefore has not been declared by God to be one flesh, yet they grant rights to physical intimacy to whomever they choose.</p>
<p>When a man was prepared to support a wife, he then began to seek a relationship. Courtship is the word describing the exploration and cultivation of a relationship for marriage. It is a means to an end.</p> <p>Gen 28:2; 29:14-18; Prov 18:22</p>	<p>Years before young people are prepared to marry, or ready to settle down and commit to family life, they engage in dating for the purpose of personal gratification. It is an end in itself -- it is, effectively, a substitute for marriage. It offers most of the benefits of marriage, but without the commitment.</p>
<p>When a couple knew they trusted one another enough to make the commitment of marriage, they entered their covenant by having a betrothal (engagement) ceremony, at which time they spoke their vows, but gained no rights yet to touch or live together.</p> <p><i>1 Cor 7:1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. [... not to marry] (Also Jud 14:2, 10; 1 Sam 18:21)</i></p>	<p>After a couple shares physical and emotional intimacies through dating, and find themselves significantly emotionally bonded, and they come to believe they will be sufficiently gratified by each other the rest of their lives, they decide they are ready to marry. They then enter a temporary, probationary period before marriage called engagement.</p>

V. Is the worldly system a counterfeit of God's original plan?

<p><b>The Worldly Model for Romantic Relationships &amp; the Accompanying Privileges:</b></p>	<p><b>The Biblical Model for Romantic Relationships &amp; the Accompanying Privileges:</b></p>
<p>Age to begin: Any age</p> <p>Casual acquaintances Privileges: &gt; back rubs, mistletoe kisses &gt; slow dance full-body hugs &gt; view attractive aspects of body</p> <p>Dating Privileges: &gt; moderate sexual activity, ie: holding hands, kissing, passionate hugging, face-caressing, etc. &gt; 1 on 1 alone-time &gt; cultivation of emotional intimacy &gt; development of social skills</p> <p>Going Steady Privileges: &gt; greater sexual contact, possibly petting and fornication &gt; guaranteed companionship &gt; emotional security &gt; occasional cohabitation &gt; partial cohabitation, ie: "playing house"</p> <p>Engagement Privileges: &gt; increased sexual contact &amp; cohabitation</p> <p>Marriage Privileges: &gt; complete cohabitation &gt; complete sexual privilege &gt; having children</p>	<p>Age to begin: When ready to marry</p> <p>Casual acquaintances Privileges: &gt; none</p> <p>Courtship Privileges: &gt; chaperoned time together &gt; no touching</p> <p>Engagement (Betrothal) Privileges: &gt; guaranteed spouse &gt; no touching</p> <p>Marriage Privileges: &gt; cohabitation &gt; 1 on 1 alone-time &gt; sexual rights, ie; back rubs, mistletoe kisses, slow dance full-body hugs, viewing of attractive aspects of body, and sexual intercourse &gt; cultivation of emotional intimacy &gt; guaranteed companionship &gt; emotional security &gt; having children &gt; development of social skills</p>
<p><b>Requirements for gaining the privileges offered in the Worldly Model for romantic relationships:</b></p> <p>&gt; couple must like each other, or . . .</p> <p>&gt; couple must have use for each other</p>	<p><b>Requirements for gaining the privileges offered in the Biblical Model for romantic relationships:</b></p> <p>&gt; couple must enter a marriage covenant which requires that the couple speak vows and oaths in front of witnesses, swearing faithfulness and unyielding commitment to their permanent partnership, thereby establishing formal, God-sanctioned boundaries to the relationship</p> <p>&gt; couple must be united by God as One flesh</p>

VI. What are the effects of the two systems?

**Effects of the Worldly Model**

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- A. Creates a permanent bond
  - 1. Scars, calluses, & wounds
  - 2. Emotional \_\_\_\_\_ with others remain
  - 3. Develop \_\_\_\_\_ of commitment
  - 4. \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ with many,  
leaving \_\_\_\_\_ for future mate
- B. Develops wrong concepts of \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Teaches " \_\_\_\_\_ "
- D. Develops \_\_\_\_\_ for variety & change
- E. Creates a standard of \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Causes \_\_\_\_\_ marriages
- G. Promotes \_\_\_\_\_
- H. \_\_\_\_\_ the conscience
- I. Marriage is \_\_\_\_\_
- J. Fellowship is \_\_\_\_\_

**Effects of the Biblical Model**

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- A. Protects from heartache & resulting problems
- B. Keeps the mind clear
- C. Prevents habits of separation
- D. Content with only 1 person
- E. Content with one's spouse
- F. Marry earlier
- G. Preserves purity
- H. Keeps conscience clear
- I. Marriage is more highly esteemed
- J. Fellowship is preserved

VII. What can we conclude from this session about biblical romance?

A. Dating is a modern custom which does \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ pattern.

1. It is not a \_\_\_\_\_ custom

2. It \_\_\_\_\_ morally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually

3. It \_\_\_\_\_ marriage, taking many of its \_\_\_\_\_ essentially \_\_\_\_\_ marriage of it

4. It forms the \_\_\_\_\_ for marriage, so helps \_\_\_\_\_ marriages \_\_\_\_\_ they

⇒ Since marriage is a Divinely-designed institution, its foundation \_\_\_\_\_ must be built within a

*Luke 6:49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."*

⇒ A building will either stand or crumble according to the ingredients of its foundation

5. Even when \_\_\_\_\_ dating remains

B. Marriage is the \_\_\_\_\_ God designed for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and

*1 Cor 7:2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband ... 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

1. Since romantic bonds are enduring, we should strive to help our children reach marriage, never having \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to another's

⇒ The 10<sup>th</sup> commandment reveals God's \_\_\_\_\_ for holding \_\_\_\_\_ toward another's

*Deu 5:21 "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*

2. We should especially strive to help our children avoid \_\_\_\_\_ romantic \_\_\_\_\_ before they are \_\_\_\_\_ to marry.

C. We must be careful of \_\_\_\_\_ the biblical model, because it

⇒ Marriage is designed by God, therefore its privileges are not

D. To pass on this vision, parents cannot merely \_\_\_\_\_ dating. They must \_\_\_\_\_ marriage.

E. \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ yourself. We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ what we do not



## Session 2 - Teaching Your Children the Sanctity of Sex & Marriage

I. How has the marriage bed been devalued today?

II. Why do so many Christian young people fall into impurity?

A. They are exposed to

*1 Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

*Eph 5:3 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. Tempted

2. Become \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ being

3. Constant exposure

4. Boy-girl \_\_\_\_\_ breaks down

5. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ make them unwitting \_\_\_\_\_ to sin

6. \_\_\_\_\_ are welcomed by their flesh

7. Spontaneous

B. They ask "How far can I go?" → The \_\_\_\_\_ for ones following Christ

*Eph 5:10 and find out what pleases the Lord*

*2 Cor 5:9 So we make it our goal to please him ...*

C. Morality has been made a \_\_\_\_\_ - no clear

*Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them ... 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*

D. \_\_\_\_\_ - casting off

*Eph 4:17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*

E. Relying on \_\_\_\_\_ which guarantee

*Eph 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,*

*Eph 5:3 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.*

## F. Dangerous

*1 Cor 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."*

*Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.*

## G. Their \_\_\_\_\_ with their \_\_\_\_\_ is

*Mal 4:6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."*

## H. \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_ in their

*1 Pet 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts ...*

*2 Cor 5:15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

## III. What is the purity to which we and our children are called?

*Eph 5:3 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 Tim 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.*

*1 Tim 5:22b ... do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.*

PURE katharos, kath-ar-os'; clean, free from defilement

PURE hagnos, hag-nos'; clean, chaste, innocent

## A. Purity is the \_\_\_\_\_ of

LUST epithumia, ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah; a strong longing or passion

*Mat 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

*2 Tim 2:22 Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

*Col 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.*

*1 Pet 4:3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.*

⇒ Lust is manifest in two levels

*1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

1. Lust of the eyes -- I want to gratify myself by the \_\_\_\_\_ of what

2. Lust of the flesh – I \_\_\_\_\_ what I

3. Lust in \_\_\_\_\_ - physical, visual

4. Lust in \_\_\_\_\_ - emotional

B. Purity is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ – Eph 5:3-7; 1 Thes 4:3-8; 1 Cor 6:9-20, Gal 5:19

*1 Cor 6:13 ... Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.*

*1 Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

FORNICATION *porneia*, por-ni'-ah; illicit or illegal sexual intercourse, as in harlotry; includes involvement in adultery, incest, homosexuality, bestiality, and premarital sex

⇒ Any sexual relationship occurring without the \_\_\_\_\_ of the marriage

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ by God for His people

*1 Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication*

*Eph 5:3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints*

2. God insists on \_\_\_\_\_ for unrepentant fornicators in the Church

*1 Cor 5:9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people--10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.*

3. Fornicators in the Church are \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

*Gal 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery ... 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*Eph 5:5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.*

⇒ We are to show by our purity that we are not \_\_\_\_\_ among the \_\_\_\_\_ (Mat 13:25-43)

*1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.*

4. It is a sin against one's own body

*1 Cor 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.*

5. It is a sin against God because it morally defiles His temple (1 Cor 6:13-20)

*1 Cor 6:19 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; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

6. God's prohibitions are for our protection

*Psa 119:93 I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.*

⇒ Purity shelters from physical, emotional, and spiritual risks

7. Those who cannot or will not obey God and wait, are driven by LUST not "LOVE"

*1 Th 4:4 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;*

8. Petting: nothing less than \_\_\_\_\_ without risk of \_\_\_\_\_

IV. What popular solutions to the problem of sexual impurity do not work?

- A. Kiss, but keep your hands to yourself
- B. Kiss, but don't kiss intimately
- C. Short kisses only
- D. Use one of the first three solutions, but only when engaged

V. What are the problems with the popular solutions?

- A. By design of the human body, they each \_\_\_\_\_ - with all its
  - 1. Destroys the \_\_\_\_\_ relationship
  - 2. Devalues the \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Blinds and clouds one's ability to \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. Removes one's \_\_\_\_\_ and distorts one's ability to \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5. Bonds two people together bringing \_\_\_\_\_ from breaking up
  - 6. Creates \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7. \_\_\_\_\_ - Makes people into \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8. Breeds \_\_\_\_\_
  - 9. Breeds \_\_\_\_\_ - aselgia - unbridled and excessive lust
  - 10. Promotes \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage
  - 11. Creates \_\_\_\_\_ in the marriage bed
  - 12. Cultivates \_\_\_\_\_ for impurity once married
  - 13. Defiles the \_\_\_\_\_

B. Each solution leads to \_\_\_\_\_ sin

*James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*

C. Each solution fights the design of the \_\_\_\_\_

D. Each solution sets false

E. Each solution proposes nothing more than

1. No allowing such rights and privileges

2. No given anywhere in Scripture

3. No precedent

4. They bear only

F. Each solution is the problem

VI. What is God's solution to the problems of sexual impurity?

A. the marriage covenant

B. Take Paul's words to Timothy:

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.***

⇒ We must treat one another with the same degree of chastity with which we would treat our own

1. their purity

2. their purity

C. Value, treasure and esteem sex as a of a holy union

## Session 3 - Tips for Raising Children to Value Purity

### I. What is the importance of shaping a child's values?

- A. Values determine dreams, ambitions and pursuits
- B. Values dictate personal ethics
- C. Parents must shape their children's values to combat the world
- D. Value-training started early is more effective than started later

### II. How can we shape our children's values and prepare them for the challenges of adolescence?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ them from \_\_\_\_\_ influences  
*2 Corinthians 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*
- B. Put \_\_\_\_\_ them that which will  
*Prov 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

### III. How can we shield our children and protect their innocence?

- A. Keep them from situations which may \_\_\_\_\_ of their  
*Rom 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.*
  - 1. Scrutinize their \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Keep them from \_\_\_\_\_ which might defile them
- B. Limit their exposure to that which \_\_\_\_\_ the world's  
*2 Cor 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*
  - ⇒ Limit their exposure to \_\_\_\_\_ oriented
  - ⇒ Scrutinize youth-oriented \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Beware of emphasizing physical \_\_\_\_\_ and  
*1 Pet 3:3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, 1 Tim 2:9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.*

D. Keep yourself lest you them yourself.

*Mat 18:6 But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.*

1. your own and mind.

*Eph 5:11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.*

*Psa 101:3 I will set no unclean thing before my eyes...*

*Job 31:1 "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.*

2. Eliminate sexually -- the holy

*Eph 5:4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*

3. Eliminate sexual with

*Eph 5:3 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.*

E. Avoid worldly methods of

*Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

1. Don't rely on public or private school sex-education
2. Don't use books, videos, or anything else which leaves them with mental pictures
3. Don't give them more information than they really need

IV. How can we put into our children the right values?

A. Take time to them about purity and the sacredness of marriage

⇒ Remember that it is all about the of  
*Song 4:12 "A garden locked is my sister, my bride, A rock garden locked, a spring sealed up.*

B. Teach them which topics are to be as and only with

1. Have them if anyone tries to speak with them about private things or tries to touch them in a private place.

2. what they will do if it happens.

C. Make their preeminent members of the

⇒ The primary obstacle to maintaining purity is lingering

D. Warn them of \_\_\_\_\_ and plan \_\_\_\_\_ for them  
*Col 4:5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

**1. Pornography**

*Ps 101:3 I will set no unclean thing before my eyes ...*

⇨ Look away and intercede for perpetrators and victims

**2. Temptation or pressure from people requires good comeback lines**

*1 Pet 4:3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 4 They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.*

**a. Teasing or pressure to date**

⇨ Bless those who are ignorant, train them to be on the offensive

*Luke 6:28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.*

**b. Propositions**

*1 Pet 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

“I’m saving that for my wife.”

“If that’s such a good idea, come tell my father.”

“You’re a Christian! You need to repent of this!”

**c. Flirting**

*Prov 7:21 With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.*

*Prov 6:24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress.*

⇨ As they approach adolescence, acquaint them with techniques of flirtation

(See “Preparing Your Children to Respond to Aggressive Flirting” in the APPENDIX 2)

⇨ Role-play with them to practice responses

E. Equip them to handle

*Ecl 3:1 “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:... 8 a time to love...”*

**1. Curb inappropriate**

*2 Cor 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

**2. They can \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ just as they will when**

F. Guard them against

**1. Help them avoid a**

*Prov 31:30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

*1 Pet 3:3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

⇨ A flirt \_\_\_\_\_ to get

⇨ What girls think is \_\_\_\_\_ may be interpreted by boys as a sign of

⇨ What boys think is \_\_\_\_\_ may be interpreted as \_\_\_\_\_ investment



2. Train them to be

*1 Tim 2:9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.*

⇒ Modesty the of sex

⇒ Modesty reaffirms that an individual is not

⇒ Modesty reduces the likelihood that others will be

*Rom 14:21 It is better not to ... to do anything ... that will cause your brother to fall.*

⇒ are the optimum teachers of modesty to their and

G. Use situations as opportunities.

1. Express over sexual sin – not merely

2. Dim the of sexual sin by using proper -- Call sin

H. Nurture a with them while young

⇒ A approach rarely is sufficient to influence teens

⇒ Without parents have a teen's walk with Christ.

I. Help them establish a of with God and give them a of their chastity

V. Should a parent require compliance with the biblical model for purity, even when their teenager doesn't share their values?

a parent is convinced that the Bible teaches, they as the for their home.

VI. How can a parent help a fallen child regain self respect?

A. Reassure them that cannot be (in case of rape, incest, etc.)

B. Reassure them that can be

*Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

## Session 4 - Helping Your Children Understand "True Love"

I. What true love is not: \_\_\_\_\_ :

A. Eros

1.

a.) Looking

b.) Doing

c.) Fantasizing

2.

3.

a.)

b.)

c.) gratification

d.)

e.)

f.) Filling a

g.) satisfaction

h.) or

i.)

B. storge

love

C. phileo Fond affection based on attraction; love

*Titus 2:4 Then they can train the younger women to love [phileo] their husbands and children*

*2 Sam 1:26 I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.*

D.

1. Physical/hormonal

2. Emotional bonding

3. Trauma bonding

4. Adventure bonding

5. Rescue bonding

6. Spiritual bonding

## II. WHAT TRUE LOVE IS:

### A. How, exactly, is TRUE LOVE defined?

*agape* Unconditional to

1. An act of the not on the attractiveness or merit of the one loved

*Mat 22:39 "... Love your neighbor as yourself."*

*Mat 5:44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

2. An -- not a

*1 John 3:17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*

*James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?*

3. and

*1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

*John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

*Eph 5:25 Husbands, **love** your wives, just as Christ loved the church and **gave himself up** for her*

*1 Cor 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.*

### B. What is the difference between true love and romantic affection?

1. Romantic affection is -- true love is

⇒ True love is because it is based on a of the

2. Romantic infatuation may & be for true love

3. Romantic affection is a mixture of & - true love is

C. What are the problems with the modern ideas of true love?

1. Present dating system revolves around
2. Results in marriages built on
3. Idea of "perfect chemistry" emphasizes \_\_\_\_\_ over the

D. How to teach your children TRUE LOVE

1.  
⇒ Appropriate the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for yourself

*1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.... 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.*

- 2.
3. -- Married love is \_\_\_\_\_ oriented

*Eph 5:22 Wives, **submit to your husbands** as to the Lord.*

*23 For the **husband is the head of the wife** as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.*

*24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also **wives should submit to their husbands** in everything.*

*25 Husbands, **love your wives, just as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her*

*26 to **make her holy**, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,*

*27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

*28 In this same way, husbands ought to **love their wives as their own bodies**. He who loves his wife loves himself.*

*29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he **feeds and cherishes it**, just as Christ does the church 30 for we are members of his body ...*

*33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife **must respect her husband**.*

## Session 5 - God's Will in Choosing a Mate

*Establishing biblical guidelines for the process of selecting a mate*

I. Does the Bible teach that God has one special person picked out for us to marry?

A. What did Paul teach?

1. In discussing the \_\_\_\_\_ to marry or remain single, Paul \_\_\_\_\_ celibacy.

*1 Cor 7:8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: **It is good** kalos for them to stay unmarried, as I am. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

*1 Cor 7:26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are. 27 Are you married? Do not seek a divorce. Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife.*

⇒ He \_\_\_\_\_ God had a special person picked out for us

2. The decision to marry – God \_\_\_\_\_ to

*1 Cor 7:36 But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, **let him do what he wishes**. He does not sin; let them marry ... 39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, **she is at liberty** to be married **to whom she wishes**, only in the Lord.*

B. What should we deduce from all the biblical occasions in which God brought a couple together?

⇒ Adam and Eve were \_\_\_\_\_ picked for each other by God

- Isaac & Rebekah: She was an answer to his servant's prayer (Gen 24:14)
- Joseph & Mary: After betrothal they were prohibited from divorcing (Mat 1:19-20)
- Hosea & Gomer: He was instructed about the type of person to choose (Hos 1:2-3)
- Widows: They were told they could marry any Christian man of their choosing (1 Cor 7:39)

⇒ We should conclude that couples \_\_\_\_\_ finding God's "chosen" one.

⇒ We should conclude that God is \_\_\_\_\_ a

II. Reasons we believe that God has one person picked for us:

A. The Word emphasizes the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ God's

⇒ The Word gives \_\_\_\_\_ in decision-making, ie: James 4:13-15

B. We believe that \_\_\_\_\_ marital \_\_\_\_\_ requires the right

C. \_\_\_\_\_ we have \_\_\_\_\_ suggest that God orchestrates marriages.

D. Those \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage "appear" to have \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ one.

III. What is the fruit of the belief that God has one special person selected for us?

A. It is not \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore may \_\_\_\_\_ fruit.

B. It \_\_\_\_\_ God's sovereignty, suggesting that His \_\_\_\_\_ can be

⇒ God's \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ be

*Job 42:2 "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.*

*Ps 33:11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever ...*

*Prov 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*

⇒ Even the one who violates God's \_\_\_\_\_ and marries an unbeliever does not step outside God's

*Prov 16:4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.*

C. It \_\_\_\_\_ the way for

⇒ Marriages are entered into with

⇒ As marriage grows difficult, \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ a couple.

⇒ This belief is the \_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ among believers.

D. We may become \_\_\_\_\_ when it is time to enter engagement.

E. We may become \_\_\_\_\_ about an unwise choice.

⇒ \_\_\_\_\_ are not to be

F. A conscience may become \_\_\_\_\_ an individual into a \_\_\_\_\_ choice for a partner.

IV. Might God have some reason to bring two people together in marriage?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ but His \_\_\_\_\_ for the relationship will NOT be

B. Like with all of life's challenges, God might bring someone into our life who will best \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us into the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

*Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son ...*

*2 Cor 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

V. What is the role of parents in the selection of a mate? (See APPENDIX 3)

A. God \_\_\_\_\_ children's lives through

*Deu 5:16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

- 1 Sam 3:13-14 -- Eli lost the priesthood for his family line, because he failed to control the behavior of his grown sons.

- 1 Kings 1:5-6 -- Adonijah, David's son, rebelled and tried to take Israel's throne, because David didn't assert proper control over him.
- Luke 2:51 -- Jesus, in his first year of adulthood, was described as being “subject to” his parents.
- Luke 15:11-32 -- The prodigal son’s older brother boasted of his faithfulness to his father
- Ex 21:17 -- Any young adult who cursed (qalal: trifle with) his parents was to be executed.

B. A son finds a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his parents to

*Prov 18:22 He who **finds a wife** finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.*

*Eph 5:31 **For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.** (Also Gen 2:24; Mat 19:5; Mark 10:7)*

*Jer 29:6 Marry and have sons and daughters; **find wives for your sons** and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.*

C. A daughter is \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage by the \_\_\_\_\_ who has \_\_\_\_\_ over her – her

1 Cor 7:36-38 (KJV); Gen 29:26; 34:8; 34:16-18; 41:45; Ex 2:21; 22:16; Josh 15:16-17; Judg 1:12-13; 12:9; 21:1,7,18, 22; 1 Sam 17:25; 18:17,19,27; 25:44; 2 Ki 14:9; 1 Chr 2:35; 2 Chr 25:18; Dan 11:17

*1 Cor 7:36 But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry. 37 Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that **he will keep his virgin**, does well. 38 So then **he who gives her in marriage** does well, but he who does not give her in marriage does better.*

⇒ A man can only \_\_\_\_\_ what is \_\_\_\_\_ to give.

⇒ A man’s authority is \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ his wife’s or daughter’s \_\_\_\_\_ (Num 30:3-16)

⇒ To \_\_\_\_\_ a relationship with a woman, a man will need the \_\_\_\_\_ of her

D. It is a man’s \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ his daughter. (Deut 22:13-22)

*Deu 22:20 If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the girl's virginity can be found, 21 she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you.*

⇒ Protective papas are not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ – they are \_\_\_\_\_ -like

*2 Cor 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.*

*Eph 5:27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

## VI. What are wise guidelines for selecting a mate?

A. Who a parent or suitor should NOT consider for courtship:

1. One who does not follow  
1 Cor 7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1



2. Christians who as if  
1 Cor 5:9-13; 2 Thes 3:14

3. Those divorced on  
Mat 5:31-32; 19:1-12; 1 Cor 7:10-11

B. Qualifications parents should look for in their daughter's potential husband:

1. A man ready to the roll of and  
⇒ One who knows his and is pursuing it (Gen 2:15,18)

2. A man willing to your daughter's

3. One who has a strong for Christ and can spiritually your daughter  
Eccl 4:8-12; Eph 5:25-27; Titus 2:6; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1, Ezra 9:1-2,10-15, 10:1-4,10-12

⇒ One spiritually -- not a (1 Tim 3:6)

4. One who and plans to fulfill his biblical  
Eph 5:22-33

5. One who both his and  
Eph 6:1-3; Prov 1:8; 4:1; 6:20; 15:20; 19:26; 20:20; 23:22; 28:24; 30:17; Mat 15:4

C. Traits parents should be directing their son to look for in a prospective wife:

1. A woman who will in his call  
Gen 2:15,18

2. One who has a for Christ  
1 Cor 7:39, 2 Cor 6:14-7:1, Ezra 9:1-2,10-15, 10:1-4,10-12

3. One who and plans to fulfill her biblical  
Prov 31:10-31; Eph 5:22-33; Tit 2:5; 1 Pet 3:1-6

4. One who demonstrates honor for both her and  
Eph 6:1-3; Prov 1:8; 4:1; 6:20; 15:20; 19:26; 20:20; 23:22; 28:24; 30:17; Mat 15:4

D. How can your children know if they are ready to marry the one they are courting?

1. They must this one.

2. They must decide if they are to this one.

3. They must have their

## Session 6 - Practical Steps to Courtship and Betrothal

### I. What is the biblical courtship model?

- A. There is \_\_\_\_\_ model of courtship
- B. It is up \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ based upon biblical principles of purity and marriage

### II. Foundational biblical precepts for creating a courtship plan

The biblical principles covered in prior sessions ...

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ is the place for \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible teaches that marriage is God's intended relationship for the expression of physical or romantic desires. It is a covenantal relationship which requires the speaking of vows in order to gain its privileges.

**Therefore,** parents must discourage their children from premature or extra-biblical relationships which offer the romantic privileges of marriage without the covenantal commitment. A wise plan will postpone courtship until children are old enough and prepared to marry.

- B. \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible teaches that purity is neither a "gray area" nor an area of "Christian liberty," and that a believer must avoid even a hint of impurity. God's standard for pure relationships is the chastity of the brother/sister relationship.

**Therefore,** parents are to honor the Scripture and not permit any sensual contact, either moderate or mild, between their unmarried children and others. Children must be taught to treat others with the same purity with which they should treat their family members.

- C. \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible teaches that fathers have jurisdiction over their families, and have the authority to give away their daughters in marriage.

**Therefore,** fathers are responsible to guide their sons in choosing a wife and are particularly responsible to protect the purity of their daughters. This requires careful scrutiny of all potential suitors. Marriages should proceed only with both fathers' blessings.

- D. \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible teaches that a key way to honor marriage is to maintain single-mindedness towards one's mate, and hold heart affection for no one else.

**Therefore,** parents are wise to keep "courtship" from becoming like dating with multiple relationships and accompanying bonds which will be carried into marriage.

- E. \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible presents Christ's relationship with the Church as a model of courtship and betrothal.

**Therefore,** everyone would do well to acquaint themselves with the process of betrothal, as well as, Christ's example with the Church. (See section VI)

### III. Four approaches to courtship in preparation for marriage

#### A. Arranged Courtships

1. Suitor may \_\_\_\_\_ it -- Gen 29:18
2. \_\_\_\_\_ of both \_\_\_\_\_ may arrange -- Judges 14:2, 10
3. \_\_\_\_\_ may authorize in father's absence - Gen 24:53-60; 1 Kings 11:19
4. Daughters are \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the suitor -- Gen 24:58
5. Fathers or families may be \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ (after completing an application) -- Gen 24:53

#### B. Un-chaperoned Dating

1. Couple spends time together by themselves (most common among older, autonomous singles)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ -- Leads to \_\_\_\_\_ discussed in Session 1  
*1 Cor 10:23 "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive.*

#### C. Chaperoned Dating

1. Couple spends time together with a chaperone or in groups out on dates
2. \_\_\_\_\_ -- 1 Cor 10:23 Leads to dating \_\_\_\_\_ discussed in Session 1

#### D. Family Courtship – \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 29:14,18)

1. Suitor spends time with *her* family becoming a family friend, but \_\_\_\_\_ with her
2. Suitor obtains her father's permission to court when he promises he is willing to marry, and will \_\_\_\_\_ his commitment
3. If daughter is open, suitor spends time with her, but primarily in her \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ spend time getting acquainted with \_\_\_\_\_ or prospective  
⇒ Mothers can invite young ladies over to participate in household routine  
⇒ Fathers can invite young men home to work or out for coffee
5.
  - a. Limits opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Couple's relationship is based less on \_\_\_\_\_ and more on \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Family can get to \_\_\_\_\_ and provide \_\_\_\_\_

#### E. The couple becomes \_\_\_\_\_ (see APPENDIX 4)

### IV. A key to successful courtship

It's not about \_\_\_\_\_ -- it's about \_\_\_\_\_

*Philemon 1:8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, 9 yet I appeal to you on the basis of love ...*

V. How might courtship plans go astray, and how might we respond?

- A. Your teenager cultivates a romantic bond prematurely and without your permission.
  
- B. Your adult daughter cultivates a bond with a young man before you have a chance to evaluate him.
  
- C. You grant your adult children autonomy, or permit them to move out, and they make poor choices.

VI. The optimum pattern for romance: The marriage of Christ to the church

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ stage

1. The bride is

*Eph 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”*

⇨ The Father was involved in the selection of the bride for his Son

*John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.*

⇨ The groom chooses the bride, she does not choose him

*John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

a. He \_\_\_\_\_ the bride

*Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

b. He \_\_\_\_\_ the bride

*1 Pet 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world ... 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood ...*

c. He \_\_\_\_\_ his bride

*1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.*

*John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Cor 6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

3. The groom spends the betrothal period \_\_\_\_\_ for his future wife

*John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

4. He sees to it that his bride is \_\_\_\_\_ for him

*2 Cor 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.*

*Lev 21:10 "The high priest, the one among his brothers who has had the anointing oil poured on his head and who has been ordained to wear the priestly garments, must not let his hair become unkempt or tear his clothes ... 13 "The woman he marries must be a virgin. 14 He must not marry a widow, a divorced woman, or a woman defiled by prostitution, but only a virgin from his own people*

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ stage

1. The bridegroom will \_\_\_\_\_ for his bride

*Rev 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*

2. The bride is \_\_\_\_\_ to the bridegroom

*Eph 5:25, 27 "...Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it ... that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish*

*Rev 19:7-8 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints*

3. The bride will be taken to the \_\_\_\_\_

*John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also*

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ stage

*Rev 19:9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*

*Mat 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.*

*Judg 14:10 Now his father went down to see the woman. And Samson made a feast there, as was customary for bridegrooms.*

# APPENDIX 1

## THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

### GOD'S MEANS OF LEGALIZING ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS<sup>1</sup>

*Malachi 2:14* ". . . It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, **the wife of your marriage covenant.**"  
(See also Proverbs 2:17)

COVENANT: (Hebrew) beriyth, ber-eeth'; in the sense of cutting; a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh; ie: sealed with blood): contract, confederacy, treaty

What is the Marriage Covenant? A covenant, as defined by historical Hebrew records:

- > It is a formalized official relationship.
- > It is entered into on a contractual basis and proscribes repercussions for violations. (ie: Lev 20:10)
- > It is entered into by taking vows and oaths of commitment, spoken before witnesses, among whom the foremost is God Himself.
- > It is consummated (made official) by a solemn oath of faithfulness which then allows the exercise of rights and privileges, ie: in marriage -- cohabitation, sex (1 Cor 7:4), etc.

*Numbers 30:2: When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes a pledge, he must not break his word, but do everything he said.*

*Deut 23:21, 23: If you make a vow to the Lord your God, do not delay in fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin ... 23 Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the Lord your God with your own mouth.*

*Ecc 5:4: When you make a vow to the Lord do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow.*

- > It is an indissoluble bond between two parties which protects the intimate rights and privileges of their new relationship; it is no more dissoluble than a blood relationship.
- > It is a protective, formal relationship which emphasizes duty and obligation before privileges.

God is the designer of the marriage covenant, so He defines the relationship. We as His creatures do not. We cannot change or improve on the covenant or tailor it to our own tastes or definitions. We must conform to what God has established the marriage covenant to be, and we must function within the scope and limits inherent in it.

God is incredibly brilliant! His design of the marriage covenant, just like everything He does, is absolutely perfect. We can be assured that when we cooperate with God and His plans, we ensure His protection and avoid the pitfalls of sin. These limits are established not only for our emotional and physical protection, but for the preservation of our soul as well.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Michael Stingley, Ph.D. "The Relevance of the Marriage Covenant in Marriage and Family Psychotherapy," Doctoral dissertation, 1985

## APPENDIX 2

### Preparing Your Sons and Daughters to Respond to Aggressive Flirting

#### WARNINGS FROM PROVERBS ABOUT TECHNIQUES OF FLIRTATION

##### **Their words**

- 5:3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her **speech is smoother than oil**;  
6:24 keeping you from the immoral woman, from the **smooth tongue** of the wayward wife.  
7:5 they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her **seductive words**.  
7:21 With **persuasive words** she led him astray; she seduced him with her **smooth talk**.  
7:18 Come, let's drink deep of **love** till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love!  
- Hints of love and commitment  
- Pours out praise and affirmation  
- More than others, compliments and flatters you, ie: "You're so good at that!" "You look so good in that!"

##### **Their gaze**

- 6:25 Do not lust in your heart after **her beauty** or let her captivate you with **her eyes**,  
- Stares longingly  
- Twinkles and smiles when listening  
- Laughs extra-hard at jokes

##### **Their appearance**

- 7:10 Then out came a woman to meet him, **dressed** like a prostitute and with crafty intent.  
- Groom themselves to capture sexual interest or admiration

##### **Their aggressiveness**

- 7:11 She is loud and defiant, her **feet never stay at home**;  
7:12 now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner **she lurks**.  
7:15 So I came out to meet you; **I looked for you** and have found you!  
- Is "on the make"  
- Manages to always be around  
- Finds you and sits next to you at church  
- Happens to sit by you in the car on the way to youth outings  
- Calls with a need as an excuse for a chat  
- Goes out of the way to say, "Hi!"

##### **Their touch**

- 7:13 She **took hold of him** and **kissed him** and with a brazen face she said:  
- Brushes her (young woman) body up against you  
- Frequently touches you -- uses any excuse  
- during conversations puts his/her hand on leg, grabs your arm, playfully hits your shoulder  
- helps you on with your coat  
- your new hair cut gives an excuse to touch your head  
- Without warning she kisses you  
- Asks for a hand up as an excuse to linger and hold onto your hand  
- Gives backrubs without asking  
- Asks for help with application of suntan lotion  
- Jumps (young woman) on your back and asks for a piggy back ride

##### **Their provision for relationship**

- 7:17 I have **perfumed** my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.  
- boldly declare to you their interest in you  
- tell you they want to have a committed relationship with you

##### **Their lack of conscience**

- 30:20 "This is the way of an adulteress: She eats and wipes her mouth and **says, 'I've done nothing wrong.'**  
- justifies impure behavior and attitudes

## APPENDIX 3

### Parental Authority and Adult Children

In ancient Israel and for almost 1900 years in the church, adult children held that the fifth commandment required them to obey their parents up until their wedding days. In fact, that is why, until 100 years ago, both Christians and Jews accepted their parents' involvement in the selection of their mates. Young men could go off to find a wife of their choosing, but it was not uncommon that they were found wives by their parents. It was because adult sons were at home under their parents' authority that Scripture specifically says it is "for this cause" (*in order to marry*) that a man leaves his parents (Eph 5:31). The whole concept of young men "leaving and cleaving" is rooted in the understanding that old orders of authority don't end until a new family structure is formed when a man takes for himself a wife. According to Hebrew custom, that "leaving" didn't necessarily take place on his wedding day, but often occurred well in advance, for the purpose of establishing his own household in preparation for marriage. Most commentators agree that Jesus referred to this custom when he told his disciples he was going away (like a bridegroom) in order to prepare a place for them and would return to take them home (John 14:2-3; Rev 19:7; 21:9).

*Jer 29:6 Marry and have sons and daughters; **find wives for your sons** and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.*

*Judg 14:2 When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now **get her for me as my wife.**" 3 His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me."*

*Judg 12:9 He had thirty sons and thirty daughters. He gave his daughters away in marriage to those outside his clan, and **for his sons he brought in thirty young women as wives from outside his clan.** Ibzan led Israel seven years.*

*Eph 5:31 **For this cause** a man shall **leave his father and mother**, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. (Also Gen 2:24; Mat 19:5; Mark 10:7)*

*Gen 24:58 So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" "I will go," she said.*

None of the preceding passages authorized forced marriages in Israel (see Gen 24:58). They did however, demonstrate that parents were not being intrusive in the lives of their children when they participated or gave input in the selection of their children's mates. This perspective was and is far more natural in societies in which children typically live at home up until they become betrothed. In modern America with children moving out of the home to share housing with companions, and with our present system of Christian dating, parental involvement is viewed as intrusive. However, historically, children believed that the fifth commandment put them under their parents' jurisdiction, therefore receiving direction in the most important decision of their lives was natural and desirable.

Most notably, when studying the biblical practices related to betrothal and marriage, parental authority over daughters was quite different than with sons. All young people in Israel were expected to keep themselves pure before marriage, but for a young lady the responsibility lay with both her and her father. Upon marrying, if it was determined that a bride had misrepresented herself to be a virgin, she would be returned to her father and executed at his front door. She died for her immorality and her deceit, but her father bore the shame because it had been his duty to keep her pure.

*Deu 22:20 If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the girl's virginity can be found, 21 she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you.*

Fortunately for many in this age of promiscuity, this Old Covenant law is not in force. And although this law has no direct application for us, it does give us insight into God's view of paternal authority. Fathers have a tremendous responsibility to keep their daughters pure. Their protective duty, in fact, is illustrated in the New Testament by Paul when he told the Corinthian church that his goal (as their spiritual father - 1 Cor 4:15) was



to present them as a chaste virgin to Christ (2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:27). This perspective of fatherly duty came not from Paul, but from God who inspired him.

It was God who chose the purity of the betrothal arrangement to be the model of Christ's relationship with the church (Rev 19:7; 21:9; Eph 5:23-32). Is it reasonable to suggest that the very arrangement of purity which serves as the model for Christ and the church should now be set aside? Nothing in Scripture suggests that brides need not be pure and fathers need not keep them pure. Quite the opposite – with Paul as their role model, fathers should strive to present their daughters as chaste virgins to their future husbands. Sadly, fathers who attempt to faithfully protect their daughters are often accused by advocates of modern dating of being intrusive and oppressive. When in fact, they are only doing what the godliest of men have done for thousands of years.

As prescribed by Old Covenant law, the authority of a father over his grown daughter (as well as his wife) was such that he could veto any promises or vows she made. In contrast, the law effectively limited a father's authority over his sons by not granting him similar veto power over them.

*Num 30:3 "Also if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by an obligation in her father's house in her youth, 4 and her father hears her vow and her obligation by which she has bound herself, and her father says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand, and every obligation by which she has bound herself shall stand. 5 "But if her father should forbid her on the day he hears of it, none of her vows or her obligations by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will forgive her because her father had forbidden her ... 10 "If a woman living with her husband makes a vow or obligates herself by a pledge under oath 11 and her husband hears about it but says nothing to her and does not forbid her, then all her vows or the pledges by which she obligated herself will stand. 12 But if her husband nullifies them when he hears about them, then none of the vows or pledges that came from her lips will stand. Her husband has nullified them, and the LORD will release her.*

Once again, laws such as these hold no direct power over believers today, but they do reveal God's view of family authority. Mothers and adult daughters are portrayed as family members completely under authority while young men, as future heads of households, are at least partially responsible for themselves. Just as wives were under their husband's headship from the moment of creation, and their role didn't change in the New Testament, there is no biblical evidence which hints that the role of daughters changed either. This concept of headship and submission precedes and transcends Old Testament law – the apostles emphasized it to the church (Eph 5:22-33; Col 3:18; Tit 2:5; 1 Pet 3:1-6). In fact, Christian maturity is partially measured by how well a man "ruleth ... his own house" (1 Tim 3:4-5; Tit 1:6). Fathers are accountable for the behavior of their families, and the power to veto is clearly a key element of *full* authority.

Another aspect of paternal authority which transcends the Old Testament is the authority a father has to give away his daughter in marriage. In both Old and New Testaments single women, unlike single men, were not permitted to leave home when they became "adults," but remained at home under the protective jurisdiction of their father until he gave them away in marriage. Every reference of a virgin daughter marrying described her as either being *given* by her parents or being *taken* as a bride. *The consistent pattern of Scripture is: sons leave – daughters are given.* It should be noted that a man cannot "give" that which he has no authority to give. It is especially important to note how the apostle Paul perceived the extent of a father's authority. In his instructions to the Corinthian church Paul acknowledged that a father had authority to either give his virgin daughter away in marriage or keep her at home.

*1 Cor 7:36 But if any man thinks he is behaving improperly toward his virgin, if she is past the flower of youth, and thus it must be, let him do what he wishes. He does not sin; let them marry. 37 Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that **he will keep his virgin**, does well. 38 So then **he who gives her in marriage** does well, but he who does not give her in marriage does better.*

*Gen 29:26 Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to **give the younger daughter** in marriage before the older one.*

*Gen 34:8 But Hamor said to them, "My son Shechem has his heart set on your daughter. Please **give her to him as his wife.***

*Gen 34:16-18 Then we will **give you our daughters** and **take your daughters** for ourselves. We'll settle among you and become one people with you. 17 But if you will not agree to be circumcised, we'll take our sister and go." 18 Their proposal seemed good to Hamor and his son Shechem.*

*Gen 41:45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and **gave him** Asenath **daughter** of Potiphara, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.*

*Ex 2:21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, who **gave his daughter** Zipporah to Moses in marriage.*

*Luke 17:27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being **given in marriage** up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.*

It is especially important to note that the authority of fathers to give away daughters in marriage was not a concept that originated with Old Covenant law. In fact, strong authority of fathers over adult daughters was established by God from the very beginning and therefore transcends the Old Testament. (See Gen 29:26; 34:8; 34:16-18; 41:45 above). That is why New Covenant passages such as 1 Corinthians 7:36-38 continue to portray fathers as having the same authority over their daughters, authority that allows them to decide *if* and *when* their daughters will marry. And that is why the pattern of the historical church reflects the same convictions. It is only recently in secular history that some have begun to suggest that daughters are just like sons and have the authority to be their own covering and move out of the home. (The only righteous, biblical examples of single women who acted independently from parental authority were widows and divorcees.) Sadly, late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, members of the church began to adopt this unprecedented idea, which has become so prevalent in our present culture that most believers are completely unaware that they are embracing a christianized concept borrowed from the world. For modern believers to discredit men who believe that their daughters are to remain at home under their authority up until they are given away in marriage is to stand against the historical position of the church and the clear pattern of Scripture.

Although the pattern of history and Scripture shows us that daughters have traditionally lived at home under their father's authority until given away in marriage, it is important to note that God did not *mandate* such an arrangement. The absence in Scripture of such a command is not an oversight by God – He could have included it had He desired. When Scripture is void of a direct command, then life choices become a matter of *wisdom*. Therefore, the father who chooses to allow his 18-year-old daughter to participate in the modern tradition of moving out with roommates is not in sin. If he determines it is wisest, he may certainly grant her autonomy and allow her to live on her own. Let each man be convinced in his own mind what will be wisest and best for his family.

# APPENDIX 4

## Engagement and Betrothal

### MODERN ENGAGEMENT

Temporary period preceding marriage when a couple has tentatively agreed to marry, but both understand they may back out any time up until the wedding day.

### HISTORICAL BETROTHAL

Formalized, irrevocable engagement which a couple enters as the first step of marriage.

Ex 21:8-9; 22:16; Lev 19:20; Deut 22:23-28; Hos 2:19-20

BETROTH: ya'ad, yaw-ad'; to fix upon by agreement or appointment; to meet (at a stated time)

#### 1. Betrothals were arranged . . .

- By fathers of both partners -- Judges 14:2, 10; 1 Sam 18:21; Gen 2:22
- By interested groom -- Gen 29:18
- Bride given by father or family in marriage -- Jer 29:6; Gen 24:58; 29:19; Exo 2:21; Josh 15:17; Judg 1:13; 12:9; 1 Sam 18:17; 1 Kings 11:19; 1 Chr 2:35; Luke 17:27
- Agreed upon by the daughter -- Gen 24:58; 1 Sam 18:20

#### 2. Betrothals were solemnized by a formal, covenantal ceremony

- Ceremony consisted of majority of wedding ceremony: vows, witnesses, benediction, feast
- Some entered into on paper only -- by letter, delivered personally or by deputy
- Commenced with payment of a dowry or bride price
  - • Paid to bride's father - Gen 34:12; Ex 22:17; 1 Sam 18:25
  - • Sometimes paid to one another -- Joshua 15:18
  - • Amount was fixed at time of betrothal -- 2 Sam 3:14
- Solemnized by legal document called "Shitre Erusin" which laid out the terms and obligations of the agreement
- Legal union: from the moment of betrothal ceremony the couple is treated as married, ie: inheritance, adultery, divorce (Luke 1:26-27; Matt 1:19) - no touching or cohabitation
- Generally lasted no longer than 12 months
- Exempted groom from military service -- Deut 20:7

#### 3. Marriage was esteemed by the Jews as a sacrament

- Often preceded by prayer & fasting
- Partners are to enter their union chaste -- pure, undefiled, untouched  
Deut 22:20-21; 2 Cor 11:2; Rev 19:7-9; Heb 13:4

## APPENDIX 5

### How can parents give peace to their older children who are anxiously awaiting marriage?

A. Teach them from their youth to trust that God uses you

*Prov 23:22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.*

B. Encourage them to rest in the Lord

*Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

*Prov 16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.*

C. Direct them to Christ as their source of contentment

*Phil 4:12-13 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

D. Warn them of the results of desperation (1 Sam 8:19-22; Luke 15:11-12)

1. Self-centered marriage -- both partners trying to get their needs met
2. Miserable, unfulfilling marriage
3. Defiled conscience, broken relationships

## APPENDIX 6

### SEXUAL PURITY and DIVORCE among God's faithful followers through centuries of courtship:

2000 BC Birth of Israel	----->	1 <sup>st</sup> Century AD Birth of the Early Church	----->	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>
	Informal courtship and formal betrothal		Formal courtship and informal betrothal	Unchaperone d courtship	Dating invented by the world, adopted by the Church
For centuries -- LOW divorce rate and			LOW degree of impurity		

Sexual impurity  
and divorce rate  
SKYROCKETED !!!

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