

Giving Your Children a Vision for Courtship

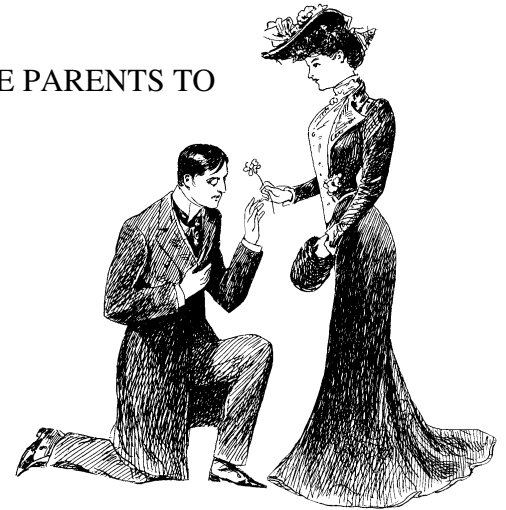
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I. WHAT CONDITIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH SHOULD MOTIVATE PARENTS TO GIVE THEIR CHILDREN A VISION FOR COURTSHIP?

- A. Rampant
- B. _____ marriages
- 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 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>Mal 2:14; Prov 2:17; Num 30:2; Deut 23:21, 23</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. Parents were involved in arranging or overseeing it.</p> <p>Gen 28:2; 29:14-18,26; 34:8; 34:16-18; 41:45; Deu 5:16; 1 Cor 7:36-38 (KJV); Ex 2:21; 22:16; 28:32; 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; Matt 22:30; Mark 12:25; Luke 20:34-35</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 ... It is good for a man not to touch a woman. [... not to marry] (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>

IV. What are the privileges offered by the two models of romance?

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

V. WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF THE 2 SYSTEMS?

Effects of the Worldly System

- 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 God's Plan

- 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

VI. HOW CAN WE IMPART A VISION FOR COURTSHIP?

- A. Influencing values requires that we have their

⇒ We do not _____ from those we do not
We respect those who are consistent and firm –

⇒ Keep in mind: A strictly _____ approach is rarely sufficient to influence teens.

Not about CONTROL ----- They are their own person. You may be able to control **behavior**, but not the **heart**
PARENTS CAN DO EVERYTHING RIGHT...

--- **It's not even about METHOD.** No **ONE** biblical model.

- B. Cultivate a _____ relationship with them.

⇒ God motivates us by both _____ and _____. David sang of his love for God and his fear of God

*Deu 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to **fear the LORD** your God, to walk in all his ways, to **love him**, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*

⇒ We do not receive from someone we do not

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

Cultivate TRUST with them – We do not receive from those we do not trust OR TRUST ACCEPT US

⇒ If _____ is not _____ in their _____ they will lack the insight and power they will need.
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.

- C. From infancy, _____ as the place for expression of **ROMANTIC INTIMACY**.

It's about the elevation of MARRIAGE --- NOT THE ABSENCE OF DATING.

1. Elevating _____ preserves the sanctity of marriage. *Song of Sol 4:12*

Not sharing with the world that which their mate will want preserved for them

2. Elevate to them their _____ emphasizing keeping themselves _____ as a _____ for their mate

3. When they witness _____ outside marriage, ie: TV, immodest magazine covers, park benches -- expose it as action which _____ from marriage.

4. 2 Cor. 7:1 Limit their _____ to that which _____ outside marriage, ie: TV, videos, fairytales, Christian romance novels, influential relationships, etc.

5. Rom 13:14; Mat 18:6 Limit their exposure to _____

⇒ It _____ them, _____ their values, and _____ to that which should be kept sacred. **Parents don't do it, because WE are desensitized.**

D. Raise your children to _____ the opposite sex

⇒ Raise your daughters to be _____ and your sons to _____ a woman's
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.*

E. Get fully equipped and then schedule a time of _____ to be certain they understand.

F. Proverbs 1-31: Prepare them for coming _____

⇒ Plan for them _____ to porno, flirting, mockery, etc.

G. Dim the glamour of fornication by using _____ in reference to it.

H. Equip them to handle _____ (Eccl 3:8; Song 2:7; 3:5)

1. Curb inappropriate _____ (2 Cor 10:5)

2. Guard against sending _____

a. 1 Tim 2:9-10; Rom 14:21 Explain the power of _____
Rom 14:13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

b. 1 Tim 2:9 Help them avoid a _____ spirit
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.