

ASSIGNMENT – Trevor Naidoo

DANGERS OF DATING

Dating can be one of the most difficult transition times for adolescents. If we look at the personal experiences that some of us went through our adolescent years we would agree that we did not have sufficient guidance and direction when it came to dating. If we are honest enough we would also agree that we were illprepared which is said of them same regarding our teenagers of today.

This concept of dating stems strongly from a westernized culture. One has to look at the divorce rate of - 40-50% in America to acknowledge that dating from the perspective of trying out relationships without no accountability and firm commitment is destroying our moral values in families.

When it comes to Christian and secular dating practices, there are several differences to be considered. One of the most important differences is that many Christians see dating as a step in the serious process of finding a spouse. Alternatively, in the secular world, dating is often looked at as a way of getting to know many people and marriage may not play a part in the mind of either person. In other words, the purpose of dating is seen differently by the two groups.

Looking at some typical dating practices of many Christians helps to better explain their perspective on the process. First, in many cases the date may take place during a church-related activity. The two individuals get to know one another while interacting with others of the same faith. Fun, lighthearted outings, such as a trip to an amusement park or a basketball game, are also opportunities for two people who share a common faith to become acquainted. When the two individuals know one another better, then they might decide on a quieter atmosphere for the date, in order to talk alone. Many Christians believe in abstinence before marriage and even no-touch love as a way to avoid getting swept up in powerful emotions that may cause them to compromise their beliefs. In the view of many Christians, dating is a thoughtful process that entails slowly getting to know a person and considering whether marriage to the person is in their future.

It is vital as Christian parents to always use the word of God as the plumbline even in the area dating. Let us look at some scriptural references regarding these guidelines.

Although the words “courtship” and “dating” are not found in the Bible, we are given some principles that Christians are to go by during the time before marriage. The first is that we must separate from the world's view on dating because God's way contradicts the world's (2 Peter 2:20).

While the world's view may be to date around as much as we want, the important thing is to discover the character of a person before making any commitment to him or her. We should find out if the person has been born again in the Spirit of Christ and if he or she shares the same desire toward Christ-likeness. (Philippians 2:5).

The ultimate goal of dating or courting is finding a life partner. The Bible tells us that, as Christians, we should not marry an unbeliever) because this would weaken our relationship with Christ and compromise our morals and standards.

(2 Corinthians 6:14-15)

When one is in a committed relationship, whether dating or courting, it is important to remember to love the Lord above all else (Matthew 10:37).

Also, we are not to defile our bodies by having premarital sex.
Sexual immorality is a sin not only against God but against our own bodies
(1 Corinthians 6:18).

It is important to love and honor others as we love ourselves , and this is certainly true for a courtship or dating relationship.
Romans 12:9-10

Whether dating or courting, following these biblical principles is the best way to have a secure foundation for a marriage. It is one of the most important decisions we will ever make, because when two people marry, they cleave to one another and become one flesh in a relationship which God intended to be permanent and unbreakable
Genesis 2:24

Some of the dangers of dating:

- People become fake and put on a mask
- Educational and intellectual differences
- Fear of rejection
- Lack of common interest
- Domination
- Fear of confrontation
- Poor self image
- Lowering of standards

Dating is an inevitable process that teenagers go through but it is important that we continue to teach and guide our teenagers so that they fully understand the possible ramifications of an exclusive relationship and teach them that God has a better way – that of finding a lifetime partner. This is the kingdom culture that we need to adopt so that the next generation will not suffer the ramifications of the past generation. We must become the true model. Matt 5:13 –THE LIGHT AND SALT.

Bibliography

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