

## SHIPS

**NOTE:** So much of the pain we find ourselves facing in life, generally comes from some sort of relationship gone wrong. As we saw last week, the parent/child relationship can be a sticky one. But so can work relationships, best friend relationships, marriage relationships, neighbor relationships, sibling relationships, and DATING RELATIONSHIPS. The easy route to escape the pain is to just avoid people altogether. But the God route is to learn how to navigate the stormy waters and create beautiful connections that can last a lifetime. If you can legitimately say you have one solid relationship that has stood the test of time, then you are a rich man/woman.

### Week #3 – Dating Relationships

- **SHIP POINT:** *We need to be taught how to date. The world has a way, but God has a better way.*
- The modern definition for dating is *to go out with someone that you are romantically or sexually interested in.*
- Short term pleasure almost always causes long term pain. So, it's better to save yourself from the unnecessary stress, headaches, and problems that come along with casual dating.
- **Colossians 2:10 (NLV)** – *When you have Christ, YOU ARE COMPLETE. He is the head over all leaders and powers.*
- **SHIP POINT** – *The first step toward Godly dating is to develop a relationship with Christ to the extent that I am no longer desperate for a romantic partner*
- **QUOTE:** *There are lots of people who are UNMARRIED but are not SINGLE.*
- *Single (dictionary.com) – Consisting of one part, aspect, or section; not divided; unbroken; separate from others; individual and distinct; honest and undisguised.*
- **Philippians 4:11 – 13 (NIV)** *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be CONTENT whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*
- **Proverbs 18:22 NIV** - *He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.*
- **QUOTE:** *In Christian dating, the search is really for a mate...not just a date*
- **QUOTE:** *If they are not MATE MATERIAL, they are also not DATE MATERIAL.*
- **SHIP POINT** – *Scripture gives no advice on how to find a good date, but it is full of principles for finding a marriage partner*

### Seven Principles for CHRISTIAN DATING?

#### **1. HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE PROCESS**

- **Proverbs 18:24 NKJV** – *A man that has friends MUST SHOW HIMSELF FRIENDLY...*

#### **2. CLEARLY COMMUNICATE EXPECTATIONS**

#### **3. REFUSE TO SETTLE**

- **Jeremiah 29:11 AMP** - *For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you, 'says the LORD, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*
- Don't be UNEQUALLY YOKED!! Spiritually, financially, educationally, socially, etc...

#### **4. SET PARAMETERS**

- **I Corinthians 6:18 NIV** – *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body but whoever sins sexually sins against their own body.*
- **QUOTE:** *Sin will take you further than you planned to go, hold you longer than you planned to stay, and cost you more than you planned to pay*

#### **5. TAKE YOUR TIME**

- Take time to develop in the stages of the relationship
- Give yourself time to see a person in various situations (the good, the bad, and the ugly) to make a true assessment of your choice

#### **6. BE PRAYERFUL**

- **Proverbs**

#### **7. MOVE FORWARD OR MOVE ON**

- **Colossians**
- When you come to the realization that it is Not Wise or Not the Will of God to move forward, move on without being enemies.
- Love yourself enough to know, *"If this isn't it, then God has better in store."*