

Righteous Relationships 101: Part 1
What you need to know before you meet that special someone

Introduction to the Series

I. Preliminary thoughts

- A. This is the second most important decision you're going to make in life

- B. Learn now what dating is about before you are in a relationship

- C. The first commitment we must make is that the Bible has the answers we are looking for

- D. *How* do we date?
 - 1. We focus so much on the process that we forget who we need to be
 - a. "Am I even ready to date?"
 - b. "Am I personally prepared for this process?"
 - c. "Am I the person God wants me to be in a relationship?"
 - 2. Relationships run off of character not procedure
 - a. Character is the fuel that drives godly relationships
 - b. The right process does not guarantee a successful relationship
 - c. Take your eyes off the process and put them on yourself
 - i. Where are your priorities?
 - ii. Have you set your desires on the Lord?
 - iii. Or has dating hijacked your thoughts?
 - 3. Kurt Gebhards says: "It takes less than you think to find the right person, it takes more than you think to be the right person."

II. Are you who God wants you to be?

- A. Right and wrong questions to ask
 - 1. Ask, "Am I who God wants me to be?"
 - 2. Not, "Am I the person that this other person wants me to be?"
 - 3. Ask, "Who do I need to be to enter the process of dating?"

- B. Would you consider yourself to be an honorable disciple of Jesus Christ?
 - 1. Good disciples make good dates, which make good spouses
 - 2. Are you willing to bear the responsibility of being in a relationship?
 - 3. Your responsibility is to work on yourself and be a good disciple

- C. It all starts here in dating
 - 1. Are you looking critically at your own life?
What are the flaws you need to fix?
 - 2. If you're not willing to work on your character and life, hit the pause button on your aspirations for dating

III. Essentials of a godly disciple of Jesus Christ

A. The characteristics of a disciple

1. Saved - you yourself know the gospel and have a genuine faith
 - a. The beginning of character development is found in a relationship with Christ
 - b. Without Christ you cannot achieve the bar God has set

2. Humble - Humility is the king of all Christian virtues
 - a. Humility gains the favor of God (I Peter 5:5)
 - b. Humility drives character development
 - c. Humility is the soil in which every grace of God grows
 - d. Humility sustains godly relationships

3. Teachable
 - a. Towards God
 - i. Do you seek God for advice, counsel?
 - ii. Is He the first One you go to for guidance?
 - b. Towards godly counsel
 - i. Do you express your teachability by seeking the counsel of godly people?
 - ii. Do you take to heart what they are saying?
 - c. Marriage is a learning process
 - i. You will learn about yourself
 - ii. You will learn about your spouse
 - iii. If you are not teachable and humble, it's going to be a long road

B. The commitments of a disciple

1. Personal Devotion
 - a. Is God a priority in your life?
 - b. Do you seek the treasures of God's Word?
2. Church Involvement
 - a. Life principle: "You make time for what you want to do"
 - b. Biblical principle: "You do what your heart desires" (Matt. 6:21)
 - c. Singles who are committed to the church will turn into couples who live in light of the church
3. Ministry Driven
 - a. You are to consider how you are going to stimulate others to love and good deeds—this is a call to ministry, to serve the body
 - b. You are called to a life of living the "one anothers"
 - c. Service ministry: A disciple of Christ follows in His steps
 - d. People ministry: To consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds
 - e. The Bible says we are to minister to one another
 - i. When you get into a relationship, this does not change
 - ii. There is no such thing as a self-serving relationship

f. Dating is another ministry

- i. You are called, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, to minister and serve that person, just as you are to serve all other saints in the body
- ii. If you're not a good disciple now and serving others now, you won't do that when you're in a relationship either