

The Talk

Intentional Dating

Followers of Jesus live – and *date* – to bring glory to God (1 Corinthians 10:31-33). This means that followers of Jesus have a different, better standard for *who* they will date: someone of Godly character who has made Jesus their ONE. It also means that they have a different standard of what they *do* in a dating relationship: waiting until marriage for physical intimacy and the bonds that are formed there. Just as in marriage, we are called to be equally yoked spiritually in our dating relationships (2 Corinthians 6:14).

GETTING STARTED

What were (or are) your dating experiences, and how did it work out for you? What do you think are appropriate, healthy boundaries in a dating relationship? Is there anything that you would have done (or wish you could do) differently? What is culturally acceptable now when it comes to dating, and do you believe it is beneficial?

GO DEEPER

1. From 1 Corinthians 10:31, what does it mean to *do all for the glory of God* (e.g. in our motives, thoughts, desires, choices, etc.)? What do you think it looks like to glorify God in a dating relationship?
2. Both Song of Solomon 1:2-3 and Proverbs 22:1 address the importance of a good name. What is the difference between having a good reputation and godly character? Why is godly character important in a dating relationship or in marriage?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 6:14, believers should not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever. What does being unequally yoked produce in a dating and marriage relationship, and why is that cruel? What should someone do if they are unequally yoked in a dating relationship, and how is that different from what they should do if they are unequally yoked in a marriage (1 Corinthians 7:12-16)?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. If single, what does dating look like for you, and does it glorify God? If married, do you still go on dates with your spouse? Why or why not?
2. If you have children or grandchildren, what do you desire for their dating relationships?
3. What needs to change in the ways you view and approach dating, regardless of whether you are single or married?
4. Pastor David mentioned that Jesus should be our ONE and our spouse our TWO. What place does Jesus have in your life, and is He your ONE, TWO, or does He even rank? If Jesus is your ONE, what would He say about your dating or marriage relationship?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take some time as a group to pray and to ask Jesus to be your ONE. If you sense that you have placed other things/people ahead of Jesus, ask for forgiveness from Him and for an increased capacity to focus on Him above all else. Pray that you will glorify Him in all that you are and in all you do, especially in the area of dating.

BLESS

Who can you serve this week in a simple but powerful way? Make a point to serve with your spouse or with whomever you may be dating, and ask God to use you both to be a blessing.