

## DATING - 1: discussions for high school & post high school singles, 2 pgs

Bible quotations from <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

*When are you old enough to date? [This is the way the question is usually framed, but it misses the point. The issue has to do with preparedness rather than age.]*

*Are you a Christian? Are you serious about living a life that is pleasing to God? Have you committed yourself to be a witness to the reality and holiness of the Living God? If so, and only when you fit this description are you ready to move on to considering the following **3 prerequisites for dating**:*

1. You are aware of both the benefits and the dangers of dating;
2. You have personally worked out from Scripture a set of dating standards;
3. You have purposed that you will not lower those standards, even if it means losing dates.

This answers the question to the satisfaction of the parents and gives young people a means of moving forward toward clear-cut goals. It also provides good reasons to pause and back off for those already involved in dating relationships. This common-sense approach is meant to protect young people and opens the door for them to work with their parents or advisors instead of against them. And it provides a good basis for a regular discussion time where such issues can be raised.

It is incumbent upon the participants to take notes on each aspect of these studies. Identify specific activities and situations and decide what would be appropriate before God. Maintain working definitions for the terms the Bible uses in discussing matters related to dating. Speak truth and call things as they are especially when strong desires are at issue.

Where do most people get their ideas about same or mixed gender relationships? Other people? Movies? Television? The general culture? The internet? How does this differ from the teachings of Scripture? In other words, how does being **of the world** contrast with being **in Christ** in the area of dating? What will happen if you either stop pressing against the darkness in Christian witness or neglect those standards given to us in Scripture? For example, what are the predictable results if you begin pursuing a romantic relationship with a non-Christian?

You are responsible to prepare for our meetings by thinking through the following passages and questions. Look up what you need to understand the passage and terms used. Write down your observations, questions, and comments. Come prepared to give personal examples related to this discussion.

**How does God expect us to treat one another? What sets Christians apart from everyone else in the world?**

### Jn. 13:34-35

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another [meaning what? see **Rom.12:10; Gal.6:9-10** below]: just as I have loved you [notice the standard], you also are to love one another [What form is this love to take?]. By this all people will know that you are my disciples [this sets us apart from the rest of the world and testifies to the world that we belong to Christ], if you have love for one another.* \_\_\_\_\_

### Jn.17:11

And I [Jesus] will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one, **Jn.17:11**. **he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him**, **1 Cor.6:17**, [the language here, speaking of spiritual unity of all believers, parallels that of marriage] – they shall become one flesh (**Gen.2:24**) ... at the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and said, For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh ... Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate. **Mt.19:4-6**.

The following verses express the foundation for the way we relate to each other as Christians. Do they apply to you and your date? How? \_\_\_\_\_

**Rom.12:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love each other like the members of your family (CEB). \_\_\_\_\_

**Rom.14:13**

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother [another]

**Rom.14:13** specifically says it applies to a “brother.” To whom does this passage apply?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Does that mean that it is ok to treat people not in this category differently?  
\_\_\_\_\_ What does the context show this passage to be referring to?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Gal.6:9-10**

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ ... And let us not grow weary of doing good for **in due season we will reap**, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_