

Family: Investing in Something that Lasts | Part 1

Lesson 3

Deuteronomy 7:3-4; Joshua 23:11-13; Proverbs 21:9; Matthew 7:15-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; Hebrews 13:4

April 21, 2024

Signs You're Dating the Wrong Person

INTRODUCTION

God invented marriage between a man and a woman as a symbol of the union between Christ and His church. God gives us clear, explicit instructions for how that union is to be entered and maintained. God's plan for our dating and married life is not a burden or an arbitrary set of restrictions but provides guardrails He has established with all intention to bring us the best He has to offer in this world.

However, the messages given to us by this world and our own sinful nature can easily lead us off His intended path. Too easily we excuse bad behaviors, ignore character flaws, even dismiss unbelief in a potential mate, justifying it to ourselves as something that can be worked out later, something that doesn't really matter, or something that can be forgiven.

God may be telling you that you are dating someone He does not intend for you as a life partner. Look for the warning signs. Are you anxious to get married right away? Are you overlooking character flaws? Does your date share your values about having a family? Is your date a believer? There are several Bible characters who've faced these situations, as well.

Memory verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

—Galatians 5:22-23

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?

1. What imagery is used to describe teachers and philosophies that are to be avoided? (Matthew 7:15-17)
2. What are the attributes produced by the Spirit of God? (Galatians 5:22-23)
3. What warning is made to the Israelites entering the promised land concerning intermarrying with the people already living there who worship other gods? (Deuteronomy 7:3-4; Joshua 23:11-13)
4. What comparisons are made between the relation between a believer and an unbeliever? (2 Corinthians 6:14)
5. What words are used to describe God's will for us? (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)

3. Why is it so important to be matched with someone who shares your values and beliefs?
(Deuteronomy 22:10; Malachi 2:15;
1 Corinthians 10:21, 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14)

4. How are we to conduct ourselves in marriage?
Why is it important? (Proverbs 6:32; Mark 10:9;
1 Corinthians 6:20; Ephesians 5:5;
1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; Hebrews 13:4)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. When examining our current and potential relationships, how can we know if we are with someone who will strengthen our relationship with God versus someone who may hinder it? Have you ever felt out of harmony with God while pursuing a relationship?
2. Paul's words in Galatians 5:22-23 describe the fruit of the Spirit. How can keeping this understanding in your heart be helpful in building and maintaining a dating or marriage relationship?
3. How have these passages inspired you? What steps can you take this week in your marriage or dating relationship to follow Jesus?