

Biblical Relationships

A Series Designed to Focus on:

*What the Bible **SAYS***

[There is **POWER** in the Word]

Series: Biblical Relationships

The Three Goals of this Series

1. To establish the biblical principles governing relationships, dating, and marriage.

2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us ***all things that pertain unto life and godliness***, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

1 Thessalonians 4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and ***exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.***

2. To establish the absolute authority of the Word of God in all matters of life.

Romans 3:4; Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 12:6, 7; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; James 1:22-27

KEY – The Lordship of Jesus Christ!!!

3. To give the Christian an understanding of how marriage ultimately pictures the relationship between Jesus Christ and His church.

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: ***but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***

Series: Biblical Relationships

Guiding Principles as we prepare to study God's Word.

1. These principles **MUST** be applied for this study to be effective in your life.

- Principle #1 – It matters what the Bible SAYS. John 14:6; John 1:1, 12; Rev 19:13
- Principle #2 – If what I believe does not line up with what the Bible actually says, I must immediately REPLACE my belief with what God says. James 1:22-25; John 14:15
- Principle #3 – It is very important for me to SEARCH the scriptures and prove these things to be so. Acts 17:11; 1 Thes 5:21
- Principle #4 – I must understand that if I choose to DO what God says, I will be going against the mainstream ideals of this world. John 15:8; Eph 2
- Principle #5 – I must understand that my HEART is deceitful and wicked. Jer 17:9
- Principle #6 – I must understand that my EMOTIONS will tell me to do what makes me feel good. Galatians 5:17; Romans 1:32; 2 Thes 2:12; Heb 11:25
- Principle #7 – I must have FRIENDS that will encourage me with God's Word and also hold me accountable to His truth. Prov 27:6, 17; 1 Thes 5:11
- Principle #8 – I must care more about what GOD thinks than what anyone on this planet may think! Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28; John 12:43

2. God's Ways are **NOT** your ways.

Isaiah 2:3 - And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 55:8 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 55:9 - For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

3. God's desire is for you to **OBEY** His Word – which is for your benefit.

1Sam 18:22 - And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

NOTE: *Meditate on the Proverbs this week...*

Series: Biblical Relationships

WEEK 1

A – Biblical Definition of Dating

INTRO – Isaiah 45:18-19 (“right”)

1. There is **NONE**.
2. Dating is **NOT** in the Bible, but that does NOT mean that it is *unbiblical*.

NOTE:

- We must be very careful appropriating Jewish customs and traditions for this particular age (Church) and to our Gentile (primarily) American culture.
- In contrast, just because something is in the Bible does not necessarily mean that it is right to do! (i.e. words, Job’s friends, 1 Cor 14:39, book of Ecclesiastes, etc.)

2 continued – Dating, as defined by our present culture, is certainly unbiblical.

- However, whether we like it or not, here we are in our culture.
- What do we, as Christians do?
- What would God have us to do?

Jeremiah 10:¹ Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

² Thus saith the LORD, ***Learn not the way of the heathen***, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

³ For ***the customs of the people are vain***: ...

Q? Does God have a purpose for **MARRIAGE**?

Genesis 1:²⁶ And **God** said, ***Let us*** make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

²⁷ ***So God created man in his own image***, in the image of God created he him; ***male and female created he them***.

²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, ***Be fruitful, and multiply***, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

³¹ And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, ***it was very good***. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Genesis 2:²⁰ And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; ***but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him***.

A: **YES**

- **Therefore, He MUST have a purpose for dating!**

DOES THIS MAKE SENSE?

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B – Purposes of Dating *(basics found in the first marriage)*

1. To help you determine what you are **LOOKING** for in a future partner.

Genesis 2:²⁰ And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found **an help meet** for him.

Note: 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:5; 2 Corinthians 13:5

2. To find your life **PARTNER** (or to find a **SPOUSE**).

Genesis 2:²⁴ **Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.** ²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Ephesians 5:³¹ **For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.** ³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Note: **BALANCE** – Proverbs 11:1; 20:23; 1 Corinthians 7:27; Colossians 3:1

3. To gain friendships that will challenge your **WALK** with the Lord. *(life experiences)*

Proverbs 27:¹⁷ Iron sharpeneth iron; **so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.**

Hebrews 10:²⁴ And let us **consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:**

Romans 8:¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

1 John 1:⁷ **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

Note: **CONTRAST** – Ephesians 2:2; 4:1, 17; Colossians 1:10; 4:5; 1 Peter 4:3-5

4. To develop **FRIENDSHIPS**, in **MINISTRY**, with members of the opposite sex.

Romans 16:¹ I commend unto you **Phebe our sister**, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: ² That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for **she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.**

Note: “*succourer*” means helping in times of need—ministering and serving others.

Philippians 4:³ And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help **those women which laboured with me** in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, **whose names are in the book of life.**

Note: You should be able to spend time with someone without them becoming “*yours*”.

**** VERY IMPORTANT NOTE ****

Be careful who you DATE. People MARRY people they date!

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C – Principles Governing Dating

Bible passage that will be key to this part of the study – **Genesis 24***

* This is the longest chapter in Genesis – when you seek to do things God’s way, it will seem to take **FOREVER** ... but it will be worth the wait!

Key pictures from Genesis 24

- Abraham = “old, and well stricken in age” = **ANCIENT** (God the Father) “Ancient of Days”
Genesis 24:1; Daniel 7:9; 13, 22; Revelation 1:8
- Unnamed Servant = “eldest servant of his house” = **ELIEZER** (God the **HOLY SPIRIT**)
Genesis 24:2; 15:2
- Isaac = “my son” = a child of **GOD** – a born again **BELIEVER** – ultimately Jesus Christ Jo 3:16
Genesis 24:3; John 1:12; 1 John 3:1
- Water = “water” = the **WORD** of God
Genesis 24:11; Psalm 119:9; Ephesians 5:26; John 4:10, 11; 7:38
- Well = “well” = a place to get water = the **CHURCH** (also is “the way”)
Genesis 24:11; John 4:14; **14:6**

1. They must be a fellow **BELIEVER** (already part of God’s FAMILY). *Genesis 24:1-4*

Genesis 24:1 And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

² And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

³ And I will make thee **swear by the LORD**, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, **that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites**, among whom I dwell:

⁴ But thou shalt go unto **my country**, and to **my kindred**, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

2 Corinthians 6:14 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers**: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Note: The Bible calls us as believers an “ox” and unsaved people a donkey (God uses the word ...)
1 Corinthians 9:9-10; 1 Timothy 5:17; Job 11:12; Job 11:12; Deut 22:10; Exodus 13:13

Consider: 1 Cor 15:33; Eph 5:10-11; Prov 13:20; Mt 11:28-30

2. They must be **WILLING** to follow God’s will or REMAIN single. *Genesis 24:5-8*

Genesis 24:5 And the servant said unto him, **Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land**: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest?

⁶ And Abraham said unto him, **Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again**.

⁷ The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father’s house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.

⁸ **And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath**: only bring not my son thither again.

Note: The key is CONTENTMENT with Jesus Christ alone! Psalm 23:1; 1 Timothy 6:6

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3. **CHARACTER** is more important than beauty. *Genesis 24:9-27*

NOTE: She is beautiful (16), **pure** (16), **hardworking** (19) and **a woman of her word** (19,22).

Genesis 24:¹⁴ And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, **and I will give thy camels drink also**: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

¹⁶ And the damsel was **very fair to look upon, a virgin**, neither had any man known her: and she went

¹⁹ And when she had done giving him drink, she **said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.**

²⁰ And **she hastened**, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and **ran again unto the well** to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

²¹ **And the man wondering at her held his peace**, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

²² And it came to pass, **as the camels had done drinking**, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold;

Note: 1) He has a plan,
2) He positions himself in the most likely place – the well!
3) You can **KNOW!**
4) She qualifies.

4. They **MUST** have a good relationship with their PARENTS and FAMILY. *Gen 24:28-48*

Genesis 24:²⁸ **And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things.**

²⁹ **And Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.**

⁴⁷ And I asked her, and said, **Whose daughter art thou? And she said, the daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bare unto him: and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands.** ⁴⁸ **And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.**

Note: That does not mean they have to be SAVED people or even GOOD people!

5. They **MUST** have parental consent. *Genesis 24:49-60*

* **All** parents – typically 4 or more

Genesis 24:⁴⁹ And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.

⁵⁰ **Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.**

⁵¹ **Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken.**

⁵⁷ **And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth.**

⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, **Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.**

Note: If she/he will not submit to parents, she/he will not to husband/Jesus Christ/God's will!

Series: Biblical Relationships

6. God's will is more **IMPORTANT** than LOVE. *Genesis 24:61-67*

True biblical love comes as a result of following God's will. Love comes **LAST**.

Genesis 24:⁶¹ **And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.**

⁶² **And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi;** for he dwelt in the south country.

⁶³ **And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.**

⁶⁴ And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

⁶⁵ For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.

⁶⁶ **And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.**

⁶⁷ And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and **took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her:** and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Note: Love is not an emotion, it is an ACTION! John 3:16; John 14:15

WOW! "the way" Gen 3:24; John 14:6; "the well" Hagar/Gen 16:7; "meditate" Josh 1:8; Ps 1:2; 63:6; 1 Tim 4:13-15; "in the field" Matthew 13:38 (the world); "lift up your eyes" John 4:35 (harvest)

D – The Time when a person is **READY** to date

1. When you are **WILLING** to follow Jesus Christ wherever He goes even though you may have to remain single (and perhaps LONELY).

John 10:¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: ***I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.***

Psalms 23:¹ The LORD is my shepherd; ***I shall not want.***

1 Corinthians 7:²⁵ Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. ²⁶ I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be. ²⁷ Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. ***Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.***

1 Corinthians 7:³⁷ Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, ***but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well.***

³⁸ So then he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better.

Colossians 2:⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after ***the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*** ⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. ¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

QUICK TEST – IS JESUS ABLE TO LEAD YOU NOW?

NOTE: Parents – your kids?

1 – How do you obey him now? Luke 17:5-10; John 14:15

2 – How do you love the brethren? John 13:35

3 – How do you love the Bible? Psalm 119

4 – How do you love the lost? John 15:16

Series: Biblical Relationships

2. When you are **WILLING** to DENY yourself and the desires of your flesh.

Romans 8:⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; **but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.** ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; **but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.** ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸ **So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

Matthew 16:²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

1 Corinthians 7:¹ Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: **It is good for a man not to touch a woman.**

1 Corinthians 7:⁷ For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. ⁸ **I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, it is good for them if they abide even as I.** ⁹ But if they cannot contain, let them marry: **for it is better to marry than to burn.**

QUICK TEST – WHAT DO YOU DENY NOW?

- 1 – Food?
- 2 – Pleasure?
- 3 – Sleep?
- 4 – Self?
- 5 – Do you know when to **STOP** overindulging in **ANYTHING**?

3. When you are **WILLING** to WAIT upon God to bring you your spouse.

Psalms 132:² Behold, **as** the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and **as** the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; **so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God,** until that he have mercy upon us.

Psalms 145:¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon thee;** and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Genesis 24

Ruth

QUICK TEST – DO YOU?

- 1 – Do you **RELY** upon God for anything in your life?
- 2 – Do you believe God has done anything in your life?
- 3 – Can you name a time or circumstance when you have waited on God?
- 4 – Have you ever waited even when it cost you something or hurt you in a big way?
- 5 – Do you use cash or credit? ... get the picture?!?

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4. When you have **STUDIED** the scriptures concerning personal holiness and purity, and when you are prepared NOT to compromise those standards.

2 Timothy 2:¹⁵ **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

2 Timothy 2:²⁰ But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and **some to honour, and some to dishonour.** ²¹ **If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.**

1 Thessalonians 4:⁴ That **every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;**

Psalms 119:⁹ Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? **by taking heed thereto according to thy word.**

2 Timothy 3:¹⁶ **All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ **That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

Titus 3:⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, **that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.**

Titus 3:¹⁴ And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, **that they be not unfruitful.**

Acts 9:¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for **he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings,** and the children of Israel:

QUICK TEST – DO YOU?

- 1 – Do you memorize scripture? Why? Psalm 119:9-11
- 2 – Do you have open Bible study with parents on issues of purity?
- 3 – Have you compromised parents' rules in the past as a pattern?
- 4 – How about other authorities in life?
- 5 – Do you believe yourself to be a missionary?

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E – The Person YOU should date

1. A person who is spiritually growing, a born again Christian, and who BELIEVES what you believe.

2 Corinthians 6:¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

1 Peter 2:⁹ But ye **are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;** ¹⁰ Which in time past were not a people, **but are now the people of God:** which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Note: “likeminded” Romans 15:5; Phil 2:2; 20

2. A person with a GOOD report, and who is faithful to God’s purposes.

2 Timothy 1:⁹ Who hath saved us, and called **us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace**, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Revelation 17:¹⁴ These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: **for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.**

Romans 12:¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

[Contrast] Proverbs 25:¹⁹ Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a ...

3. A person who will NOT defraud and who is ready to date (see requirements above).

[Contrast] Proverbs 27:⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend; **but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.**

[Contrast] Matthew 26:⁴⁸ Now **he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss**, that same is he: hold him fast. ⁴⁹ And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. ⁵⁰ And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him.

4. A person who is APPROVED by parents, friends and spiritual leaders. [or NOT disapproved]

Ephesians 6:¹ Children, **obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.**

Colossians 3:²⁰ Children, **obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.**

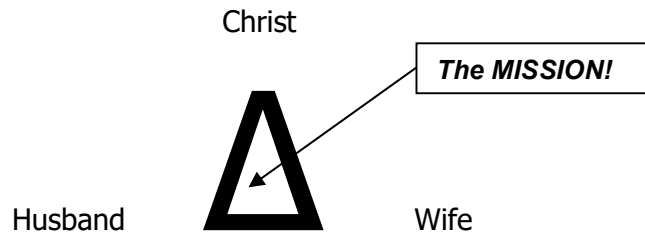
Galatians 4:¹ Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, **differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;** ² But is under tutors and governors **until the time appointed of the father.**

Romans 13:¹ **Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.** ² **Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God:** and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Series: Biblical Relationships

F – A *Practical, Biblical* “Checklist for Choosing” - choose wisely!!

1. Can you fulfill the MISSION with this person? Gen 24:1
- Our Mission: Genesis 1:28; Matthew 28:19-20
 - Abraham’s Mission: Genesis 17:1-6,9
2. Is the Holy Spirit of God LEADING you to this person? Gen 24:2 (Eliezar)
3. Is this person SAVED? Gen 24:3-4
- How important was this to Abraham? _____ (vs 3)
4. Is this person *unwilling* to fulfill God’s MISSION? Gen 24:5-8



God’s purpose for marriage = for 2 people to become one in the Lord Jesus Christ so that *together* they can bring more glory to God by accomplishing His mission – reproducing sons of God.

5. Does your strategy for finding a mate fit into the PLAN of God? Gen 24:11-15
- 2 Key things we need to form a strategy:
- (1) WATER – the Word of God, **and** (2) WELL – the local church
- How does the Word of God fit into my plan?
 - Is the person involved in ministry?
6. Is this person someone who is PURE? Gen 24:16
- Role of thumb to follow: Marry someone who brings as little baggage into the relationship as possible.
7. Are you being patient? The HOLY SPIRIT wants someone as bad as you. Gen 24:17
- Note: The servant RAN to meet her...
8. Does this person go above and beyond what is asked in MINISTRY? Gen 24:18-20
- Vs 18 – “...she HASTED, and let down her pitcher...”

Series: Biblical Relationships

- Vs 19 – "...she said I will draw water for thy CAMELS also..."
- Vs 20 – "...And she HASTED, ... and RAN again unto the well to draw water..."
- Note: Both willingness and generosity are necessary in marriage and ministry.

9. How is this person's relationship with their FATHER (or parents)? Gen 24:22-26

- Note: What we can learn from Rebekah...this will give you clues to the future!

10. Is this person engaged in the local CHURCH and ministry? Gen 24:27; John 14:6

- Vs 27 – "...I being in the WAY, the Lord led me..."
- Vs 48 – "...which had LED me in the right WAY..."
- The picture of Isaac and Rebekah:
 - She went his WAY (vs 61) and he came from the WAY (vs 62-64)

11. Can this person tell you what GOD is doing in their life? Gen 24:28-33

- Note: What are their goals? What are the current/future plans in ministry?
- Key: The Holy Spirit is witness to what is happening in your life!

12. Does this person know how to MINISTER the Word of God? Gen 24:44-46

- Vs 46 – "...so I drank, and she made the CAMELS drink also..."
- Note: She was ready to go because she was at the well doing the work.
- Role of thumb to follow: Don't marry a novice. Marry someone who has a track record in ministry. (can make others drink☺)

Why not a novice? Hebrews 5:13; 1 Peter 2:2

13. Will this person be willing to SEPARATE from their parents? Gen 24:55-59

- Vs 58 – "...and she said, I will GO."
- Note: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother..."
Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5; Mark 10:7-8; Eph 5:31
- Key: A man and a woman must have the ability to work things out ***on their own!***

14. WHY are you *looking for someone* to date or marry? Gen 24:65-67

- Key: The whole reason he was SEARCHING for a wife was ***to plug into the mission!***

Series: Biblical Relationships

G – Problems in DATING and the Proper Placement of *the Word of God!*

1. PROBLEMS in DATING

- Not understanding WHY we date
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17
 - Do all to the glory God!

1 Cor 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or ***whatsoever ye do, do all*** to the glory of God.

Col 3:17 And ***whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all*** in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

- Not having a proper BALANCE in the dating relationship
 - Proverbs 11:1, 20:23
 - Spiritual versus physical
- No STANDARD to follow
 - 2 Corinthians 9:8; 2 Timothy 3:17
 - God's Word versus man's wisdom/emotions

2 Co 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ***ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:***

2. Keys to AVOID problems in DATING

- The key to dating in the Lord = FELLOWSHIP ***around the Lord Jesus Christ!***
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:21,22
 - PROVE all things!
 - Abstain from all APPEARANCE of evil!

1 Thess 5: ²¹ ***Prove all things;*** hold fast that which is good. ²² Abstain from ***all appearance*** of evil.

- Never rely totally upon your FEELINGS.
 - 1 Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 17:9
 - God looks at the heart, not at the outward appearance

Jer 17:9 ***The heart is deceitful*** above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

- Realize your love for GOD is more important than any relationship with any person.
 - Remember Israel's downfall – Judges 3:5-7 (mixed marriages)
 - Where the Nation of Israel went wrong – Judges 2:21-3:1; Deut 6:4-6

Series: Biblical Relationships

3. The Word of God must **be** the CENTER of the dating relationship.

WHY ... must the Word be the center?

- It brings the SPIRITUAL aspect into the dating relationship.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:9-10; Romans 8:4-5

Rom 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; **but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.**

- It helps to bring the FLESH under subjection.
 - Romans 8:6-8; Ephesians 4:22-23

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh **cannot please God.**

- It is how we PROVE all things.
 - Proverbs 3:19-23; Romans 12:2

Rom 12:2 And **be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

HOW ... can you make the Word the center?

- Realize if the Bible is **not the center** of the relationship, SOMETHING is.
- Have the **right heart** ATTITUDE **individually** toward the Word of God.
- Make PRAYER and devotions a **consistent** part of the dating relationship.

4. Ask QUESTIONS.

- **Prove them** with hard questions.
 - 1 Kings 10:1; John 16:5-6
- **Practical questions** you can ask:

GUYS Will she submit to and support me? Will she willingly follow me?
LADIES Will he be my spiritual leader and provider? Will he biblically love me?

** HOW TO AVOID DATING AN UNSAVED PERSON!

** HOW TO KEEP PURE DURING THE DATING RELATIONSHIP!