

Relationship Goals 3 - Finding The One

Big idea: Don't just try to discover the right person. Instead, strive to develop into the right person.

Do you believe in soulmates? That there is just one person out there for everyone. You will meet them, and then, you will know, because you just “know when you know”. Everyone on Earth has a soulmate. It's so simple.

Let's take this apart logically. 8+ billion people live on the Earth, and you need to find “THE ONE” that is right for you? Your odds of winning the lottery are actually better. Also, what happens if just one person marries the wrong person? Then, their perfect person marries the wrong person. Then, those people's perfect people marry the wrong people, too. And BOOM! With one mistake, a young couple has thrown off the entire romantic future of all mankind. It just doesn't make sense. God's plan for our relationship health and happiness can't start with an obsessive hunt for “the one.”

Disney movies have conditioned us to think that our lives will hit perfect harmony when we discover the right person for us. We imagine locking eyes with this handsome prince or pretty princess, and finally, our whole world falls into perfect order. We can convince ourselves that finding the right person will bring happiness to our hearts, harmony to our homes, and help cure some ancient curse that turned a prince into a beast. Okay, maybe not that last one.

Don't fall for this logic. Don't try to find love like it's something to be discovered. When you convince yourself that “the one” is going to come into your life and change everything, then you are putting far too much pressure on one person— who is not God.

You are inevitably setting that person up for failure. No matter how great they are, they aren't perfect. They will fall short. They will make mistakes. They can't be held responsible for completing you. God is the only one who can offer you complete healing, true joy, fulfilling purpose, and perfect love. Allow God to help you grow into a healthier, godlier you so that you can enter your next relationship with personal and spiritual maturity.

Before you start dating, really take a look at who you are and who you are becoming. **Don't just try to discover the right person. Instead, strive to develop into the right person.**

Focus on development, not just discovery.

READ:

James 1:23-25 pg. 586

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

- V. 22 “be doers” = be “poetites” in greek. This is the same root word used in Eph. 2:10
 - Ephesians 2:10 - *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
- Its the same root we get our word poet. I think James is trying to tell us to be intentional and wise with the Word of God, like poet does with their words, not to treat the Word like a checklist of do's and don'ts.
- He also compares the Word to a mirror. In the same way a mirror reflects back to us what we look like physically. The Word has the ability to reflect back to us our spiritual reality
- A hearer only of the Word, sees imperfections and flaws in themselves but doest nothing about them
- A doer, sees the problems and takes action to correct them in the same way we use a mirror to fix our hair, put on make up, etc.

Seek God First

It's not about who you are looking for. Rather, it's about who you are becoming in your own life. Listen to the advice of James, the brother of Jesus. When he is writing to the church, he encourages them to take a long look into the mirror. Take a close look at yourself, and then, take an even closer look at the Word of God. Are you developing into the person God wants you to be? Are you daily growing closer to Jesus? Is the Bible changing your behavior? Stop looking for the one and start becoming the one.

Matthew 6:31-34

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

- Jesus and James' message is that our primary concern should be finding and following God.
- Jesus goes a step further to promise that you will have the things you need for each day if our first priority is seeking God.
- In the first week we pointed that we need relationship, they are as important as air and water. We need family, friends, and in the proper time and place, we need romantic relationships.

Be a Doer

Its not enough to simply know about God or know what the Bible says. James say that we should be doers, “poeites”, of the word. In the next chapter he adds to this point.

James 2:14; 17-19 pg. 587

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?...

17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

When you feel like you are ready to start pursuing dating or relationships, start with self-discovery. Take an honest look at yourself and take an inventory of your spiritual maturity.

- It’s easy to date for validation, but you should find your identity in who God says you are.
- It’s convenient to date because that’s what everyone else is doing
- Do you truly feel like you're ready for this emotional and spiritual commitment?
- Most people date the way everyone else dates, but are you ready to build a relationship that reflects God?

Fight the urge to spend your time searching for the perfect person. Instead, look inwardly at yourself. Grow closer to God. Become more secure in who He says you are. Let God transform and mature you into someone who is ready for a healthy, God-honoring relationship.

Seize your single season. Leverage this time to know yourself better and grow your faith deeper. Your next relationship will be stronger because you are stronger.

Best Dating advice: Run after Jesus, as hard and as fast as you can. Then, look around and see who is keeping up with you. These are the people you can and should date.

Small Group Questions

- What are some reasons people choose to enter a dating relationship?
- Can you think of good reasons to date that God might agree with?
- What do people often expect their significant others to bring into their lives?
- Would you say that these things are selfish, based in lust, or selfless based in love?
- What might happen if you depend on a significant other to fix something in your life?
- Have you been spending more time looking outwardly for the one or reflecting inwardly to grow into the one?
- Where do you think God wants you to be emotionally, spiritually, and personally when you enter a relationship?
- What do you think a person should do if they have realized they are not in a good place to be in a dating relationship but they are already in one?
- What steps could you take to move towards becoming the kind of person God wants you to be before entering a relationship?
- How could you specially put one of those steps into action over the next week?