



Dating on Purpose - Sunday, September 16th

SCRIPTURE:

Song of Songs 2:7

Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we warned you before

Sermon Quotes:

If intimate relationships were mortgages we might call these sub prime commitments. They are high risk projects with little or no collateral security. Unfortunately, just like sub prime mortgages, these relationships are designed to fail.

- Jonathan Grant

In short, sex outside of marriage is wrong because every sex act is supposed to reflect an absolute and complete covenant unity. There must be no physical union unless there is also every other kind—a legal, economic, personal, emotional, and spiritual union. There must not be one unity without all the rest.

- Tim Keller

Sermon Points:

- *Dating with the "God Card"*
- *Dating as shopping*
- *Dating as "Hanging Out"*
- *Dating as "Playing House"*
- *Dating as Disappearing*
- *How far is too far?*
- *What kind of person am I becoming?*
- *The Chuppah – A Jewish wedding took place under the "Chuppah" (Sounds like Hoopah!), a prayer shawl. Then the prayer shawl was placed over the couple in a tent where they consummated the marriage covenant and the community celebrated them becoming "one."*

- *Sexual Fraud – when with your body you commit to something sexually that you cannot emotionally, mentally and spiritually follow through with.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How old were you when you went on your first date? What do you remember about your first date?
 2. What does using the “God Card” in dating mean? Give one example.
 3. Why is “Dating as Shopping” even harder today because of all the images (real, internet, TV, ads, etc.) we see from birth on?
 4. How does “Dating as Hanging Out” keep folks from commitment and sacrifice?
 5. What are the pitfalls of “Dating as Playing House” through cohabitation?
 6. What is one thing you can do this week to pursue your spouse romantically?
 7. What is one thing God spoke to your heart today? What is God calling you to do in response to what you heard?
- Action Steps: If single, then use the wisdom from today’s message in your dating relationships. If married, then plan a date with your spouse in the next 2 weeks. Make it special; initiate, ask and keep doing it.
 - If you need help figuring out your “next steps,” including finding a counselor or a Small Group connection, then email connect@covechurch.com.