

Fine Wine

What's the biggest issue you face in being single?

Do you think that social media helps or hurts? (False identity; catfish filters)

Is loneliness a big issue?

How much pressure do you feel to find someone?

How much time do you:

- give to relationships?
- give to your job?
- give to social media?
- give to God's word?

Dating Principles

1. Every date is a potential mate.

2. If you wouldn't marry them, don't date them.

3. Never date an unbeliever.

2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (NASB95)

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.

18 "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

4. Keep yourself sexually pure.

5. Every person you date, if they aren't your future spouse, they are someone else's future spouse.

6. Make a list of qualities you are looking for in a mate.

7. Every date is an opportunity to test for the qualities you are looking for in a mate.

Questions to ask when on a date:

1. Tell me how an ideal day off would look for you?

This will tell you about his style: is he on a schedule or relaxed? Is he physically active or sedentary most of the day? Is he in nature or in a crowd of people?

Find out what he would enjoy most on an ideal day and why. This will help you to know how your styles would mesh if you married.

2. Tell me about the very best day of your life?

This will tell you about the types of experiences he values most in life.

3. What are the 3 things you would most like to be sure you do before you die?

This will tell you about his values and priorities. See if any of them have anything to do with pursuing Jesus.

4. Tell me about how you came to know the Lord?

Look to see if he truly understands the Gospel and how his life changed after he got into a relationship with Jesus.

If he cannot clearly describe how he came to know the Lord, be aware he may not be a believer.

5. What area of your life have you seen God working to change you?

If he is in a genuine relationship with God, his life should be changing as he matures in his spiritual life. If he says there have been no changes, that would be a bad sign.

It is ideal to be in a relationship with someone who is growing and developing to be more Christ-like every day.

6. Tell me about your parent's relationship?

Probe deeper by asking follow-up questions. What were their respective roles? How was conflict resolved?

Be aware, without therapy, people who witnessed dysfunctional family dynamics as children often go on to repeat similar dysfunctions in their dating life.

7. How is your relationship with your parents right now?

A man with an ongoing beef with his parents (especially unforgiveness) will have ample opportunity to work out his unresolved conflicts on you if you get into a relationship with him. Marriage relationships often echo early childhood family experiences.

People with unresolved conflict with their parents will often unwittingly project those issues onto you.

Forgiving the parents doesn't mean he is seeing them for dinner every week. It just means he has made peace with his parents and has let go of any resentment over past hurts.

8. Is there an area in your life God has recently prompted you to start growing in?

Probe deeper with a few questions if needed:

- How did you know this area needed work?
- What specifically are you doing to grow in this area?
- Do you have any accountability set up and if so, what does that accountability look like?

This question will tell you whether he is actively working with God to grow right now. This is a real plus in a Christian dating partner or future spouse.

How can we pray for you?