

LIFE + LOVE

Dating : Evaluation

January 31, 2018

When you hear the word "dating", what comes to mind? How do you define the term? Is it important to have a clear definition? Why or why not? Why is it important to consider *how* we will date and not just *who* we will date?

When we think about who we want to date, we often look at physical attraction first. Why is it important to look at other characteristics first? Read Proverbs 31:30-31. While this is talking about a wife, how does it apply to dating? Which of the list of seven things Ben listed for who to date resonates most with you? Which resonates least with you? (Believer, pursuer of God, running the same race, theologically compatible, socially compatible, philosophically compatible, physically attracted to)

How do you prepare to date someone? Why is it important that both people in a dating relationship maintain autonomy? How does this impact the dating relationship? How does this help you date with grace? Read Ephesians 4:31-32. How will this improve dating relationships? Which area do you struggle with the most in verse 31?

Whether you are dating someone or want to date someone, it's important to remember that dating is an evaluation for potential marriage, not a status to achieve. If you are a believer, how does viewing the person you are dating (or want to date) first and foremost as a brother/sister in Christ change things? Does it make you feel convicted about your relationship? Does it change anything about who you might want to date in the future? How so?

When we date, we tend to want to spend time with just the other person we are dating. Why is it important to keep other healthy relationships when in a dating season? How do you do this? Who in your life do you seek out when you need wisdom? Do you trust them enough to speak truth into who you may want to, or are, dating? Why or why not?