

# Christlike Thinking in This World

## Dating and Relationships

Adult Training Seminar Session 3 – Todd Bolton 9-22-19

### Addressing Common Reasons for Dating Biblically

1. Mitigate loneliness (we cannot mitigate loneliness through serial dating, denial of personal loneliness, through materialism, or only through career pursuit, etc.). Loneliness is addressed through a balance of:
  - a. close moment-by-moment fellowship with God (1 Jn 1:3-10)
  - b. biblical marriage w/ godly person or embrace and celebrate the gift of celibacy (Gen 2:18-25; Eph 5:22-25; 1 Cor 7:7)
  - c. family (1 Tim 5:4; Proverbs)
  - d. friends (Prov 17:17; 18:24; 27:6, 9)
  - e. local body of Christ and ministry (1 Cor 12:12-27)
2. Explore physical intimacy (we must not explore sexuality through premarital sex, pornography, or course jesting, etc.)
  - a. sexual love is exclusive to the marriage-union (Prov 5:15-23; Eccl 9:9; 1 Cor 7:3-5; Song of Songs)
  - b. premarital purity is commanded (1 Thess 4:3; Proverbs 2; 5; 7)
  - c. develop and desire the inner person (Eph 4:1-32) beyond only developing external appearance (1 Peter 3:1-7; Proverbs 11:22)
3. Enjoy closeness (we cannot enjoy real closeness through sexually dominated relationships, number of Facebook friends, virtual relationships, sinful or unrealistic fantasies).
  - a. prioritize brother/ sister Christian relationship (1 Tim 5; Rom 14)
  - b. work at honesty, acceptance, and transparency (Col 3:12-17)
  - c. bless *one another* and *others* through your close relationships
  - d. maintain friendships while making new friends (Proverbs)
  - e. apply principles of Christian liberty (glorify God, act in faith/confidence without violating/ searing your conscience or being a stumbling block, etc. (1 Cor 8-10; Rom 14)
4. Look for life-partner in marriage. Biblical marriage or gift of celibacy is God's gift for aloneness; note the following priorities:
  - a. Spirit controlled Christian consistently showing fruit of the Spirit (commitment to authority of Scripture; Eph 5; Gal 5)
  - b. consider future ministry partner (vocational or lay-ministry)
  - c. consider future abilities to parent children
  - d. wisdom to help navigate the trials of life (look for patterns to how a person responds to disappointments, trials, finances, ability to compromise, integrity, realistic life views, etc.)