

Friendship - Seminar 1 / The Single's Scene

1) - Levels of Friendship

Goal: To explain the levels of friendship so that we might have reasonable expectations of one another.
The various levels of friendship will be examined in light of Jesus' various human relationships.
The capacity for friendship at each level will vary from person to person. Some people can handle
many more friends than others and some much less.
People can move up or down the scale according to mutual interest in a more personal relationship.

The Multitudes -

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Acquaintance -

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Casual Friend - Better known than an acquaintance with more frequent contact

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Close Friends. There are several types

Close Associates -

Close Personal Friends -

Mentor Relationships -

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Intimate Friends -

Jesus

Characteristics:

Examples:

Capacity:

Thought Provokers:

List out some friends in each category. Why did you place that friend in that category?

Is it wrong to consider someone to be in a lower category of friendship than they might consider you? (They consider you an intimate friend, but you consider them a close friend, etc.) Explain.

How might you deal with someone who is hurt because your friendship with them is not as deep as they want? What if it was the opposite - they do not want as deep a friendship as you?

Dangers in Isolation or Inundation

The Foolishness of Isolation

Reasons for Isolation:

Pain

Expediency

Pride

The Danger of Inundation

Developing Friendships

Influencing, not influenced

People to Avoid as Close or Intimate Friends

Sinners - Proverbs 1:8-19

The Wicked and the Evil - Proverbs 4:14-19

The Immoral Woman - Proverbs 5, 6, 7

The fool - Proverbs 14:7

The Hot tempered man - Proverbs 22:24-25

The Gossip - Proverbs 20:19

Characteristics of Godliness for Close and Intimate Friends

Being a Godly Friend

Humility

Love

Loyalty

Confidentiality

Honesty

Resources:

Friends & Friendship, by White, Jerry & Mary, NavPress, 1982

https://gracebibleny.org/proverbs_friendship_part_1

https://gracebibleny.org/proverbs_friendship_part_2_selected_scripts

https://gracebibleny.org/becoming_quality_friend

The Single's Scene Seminar
Learning Contentment
Philippians 4:10-16

Contentment Defined

Contentment Explained - Philippians 4:10-19

The Impossibility of Contentment without Christ

The Secret of Contentment - Philippians 4:11

Faith and Contentment - Matthew 17

Obedience and Contentment - Exodus 17, 24-32, Joshua

Conclusions

https://gracebibleny.org/the_secret_of_contentment_part_1_philippians_4_10_16
https://gracebibleny.org/the_secret_of_contentment_part_2
https://gracebibleny.org/the_practice_of_contentment_part_1
https://gracebibleny.org/the_practice_of_contentment_part_2

Advantages of Singleness

1 Corinthians 7

Introduction

Pressures to Get Married

Poor / Bad Reasons to Get Married

1 Corinthians - Introduction

1 Corinthians 7

Advantages of singleness - 1 Corinthians 7
vs. 25-32

vs 32-35

vs. 36-40

Advantages You Can Think of -

The “Gift” of Singleness - Matthew 19:3-12

Contentment in Being Single

Using the Advantages of Being Single

Difficulties of Singleness
Loneliness

Feeling Left Out of the Group

No Children

Resources
Book: *A Single Thought* by Allen Hadidian, 1981
Some used copies still available on Amazon at a reasonable price.

Elizabeth Elliot books / recordings
Passion and Purity (on / off / on courtship with Jim Elliot)
Through the Gates of Splendor (how she became a widow)
Loneliness (dealing with being a widow)
www.elizabethelliot.org

The Single's Scene Seminars Dating vs. Courtship

Christian Marriage

Marriage Definitions:

Humorous

Cultural

Christian: Marriage is to be a monogamous, lifetime relationship between a man and a woman which is bound together by a love that reflects that of Jesus Christ for His church and in which each spouse can fulfill their God given roles to one another, the family and society.

Nature of Marriage

Marriage is Good - Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 9:9

Negative Views:

Marriage is a Blessing - Proverbs 18:22; 19:14, 31:1-31

Marriage has Struggles

Marriage is Optional

The Purposes of Marriage

Companionship - Genesis 2; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Procreation - Genesis 1:28;

Physical Intimacy - 1 Corinthians 7:1-2, 9; Proverbs 5:15-19; Song of Solomon

Warnings about Sex outside of Marriage: Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 20:10; Deut. 22:13-27;
Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:18

Glorification of God - Ephesians 5:22-33

Finding a Spouse

Dating

Dangers of Dating - DATE - Deceptive Attaction Too Emotional

Physical dangers - Going “too far” romantically - who determines what is “too far”

STD’s; infertility; Pregnancy; abortion; single motherhood

Mental dangers - developing a wrong understanding of the opposite sex - and the individual

Dating is artificial - it concentrates on fun activities and few or none of the more unpleasant and service activities of real life such as: cleaning their house / church / yard, doing laundry, shoveling snow, etc.

People present their best sides and try to hide the flaws.

Conflicts are avoided if possible. Serious issues are also often avoided for this reason

Emotional dangers - emotional commitment \ dependence prior to wisdom being applied. When reality finally does push its way in, then the break-up becomes a heartache.

Spiritual dangers - unbelievers led farther from God, immature believers forsake pursuit of godliness in the pursuit of the date / romantic interest. Sin speeds the decline

Social dangers - “pairing off” changes the group dynamics; introduces competition / rivalry between previous friends for affections of a sought after date; removes from the group those who could have been helpful; isolates people from the group after a break-up.

Fig (Friend In God.)

Courtship

General description - no paring off until a definite & reasonable interest in possible marriage.

Male / female friendships are kept within the larger group of friends. Activities in the group.

Male does not pursue a female until he is in a position to be able to support a wife

Male does not pursue a female until he has already developed a relationship over a long enough period and wide enough range of experiences to have a fairly good idea if she has the character traits and abilities that will enable him to pursue his life goals and therefore is a reasonable choice as a possible life partner.

Male seeks advice of friends **before** giving indication to the woman of his desires / intentions

Male seeks permission of the woman's father **before** entering a courtship relationship (he will talk to her about it first - and she would tell her dad what her desires are and why - but they do not court without parent's permission (there could be exceptions)).

Courtship occurs largely in context of friends and family. The courting couple would not be left alone in situations that could facilitate compromise and stumbling into sin.

The decision to marry is made with the advice of family and friends.

Benefits of Courtship instead of Dating

- 1) Until man is in (near) position to support a wife, he should not seek to "pair off" / court
 - A) Helps prevents feeding desires within himself that he cannot properly fulfill (Flee lust)
 - B) Is a greater act of selflessness and love - he keeps from putting the woman in the position of having to wait for him - which would be a source of frustration and may or may not be in her best interest. (Jim & Elizabeth Elliot example)
 - C) Keeps him from distraction while he is preparing himself to take on all the responsibilities of life and having a family
 - D) Since dating focuses the attention on one friend, this by necessity delays "pairing off" and so enables him to have more friendships by which he will better understand *women in general, *his own strengths and weaknesses *what he actually does want to pursue in life * the qualities he would need in a wife in order to reach his goals (a missionary cannot marry someone who will not leave her hometown)
- 2) Prevents pursuit of infatuation and promotes development of true love
- 3) Facilitates a larger group of friends (and deeper friendships) out of which a potential spouse will come A FIG - Friend In God - makes a better spouse than a DATE - Deceptive Attraction Too Emotional
- 4) Female is protected from predatory males by family and friends (males protected too).

- 5) Gives a more thoughtful and serious aspect to the relationship since it has a stated goal
- 6) Greater prevention against stumbling into sin due to greater accountability and avoidance of compromising situations.
- 7) Facilitates better advice from family and friends due to greater observation and better interaction with the couple.
- 8) Lays a foundation for a stronger marriage since it facilitates an environment which the fruit of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness & self-control - can be developed.

Characteristics of an Excellent Wife - Proverbs 31:10-31

Characteristics of a Godly Husband: Psalm 15

Resources:

https://gracebibleny.org/holy_free_7_dating_courtship_marriage

On Courtship:

I Kissed Dating Goodbye, by Joshua Harris (no relation).

Boy Meets Girl, by Joshua Harris (no relation).

On Dating:

Sex is Not the Problem, Lust is, by Joshua Harris (no relation).

Boundaries in Dating, Dr. Henry Cloud, Dr. John Townsend

God's Design for Christian Dating, Greg Laurie

Why True Love Waits, Josh McDowell

Too Close, Too Soon, by Jim Talley (the book I have most often recommended about dating)