

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF DATING

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1. Marriage is a good gift from God.

- Matthew 19:4-6 – “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

2. You were not created chiefly for dating marriage, family or sex.

You were created to know and worship God.

- John 17:3 – “Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, The only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

3. It’s honorable to be single. It’s honorable to pursue marriage.

- Hebrews 13:4 – Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage.
- 1 Corinthians 7:8 – “8 Now to the unmarried I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do.

4. The purpose of dating is to find a spouse.

- **Five BAD reasons to date:**
status or social expectation, boredom or loneliness, insecurity or fear, sex or making out, because they asked

5. Stop looking for a romance and a soulmate. Look for a partner and friend.

6. Look for good and godly character more than common interests and physical attraction.

- 1 Timothy 4:12 – “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 – “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.”

7. Proceed with wisdom. There’s not one right way to date, but there are plenty of wrong ways.

- It’s okay to go on a date; a date is not dating.
- Men, take the risk on yourself as much as possible.
- It’s ok to ask. It’s ok to say no. It’s not a long-term commitment to say yes.
- After a few dates, define the relationship or move on.
- It’s OK to break up.

8. Involve community and mentors every step of the way.

- Proverbs 12:15, “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who listens to counsel is wise.”

9. Nobody is perfect. But don’t date unless you’re healthy and only date a healthy person.

- You don’t have to be perfect, but you need to be healthy, especially in the areas of mental health and habitual sin.
- Guard against codependency and instant intimacy.

10. Avoid sexual immorality at all costs.

- Sex is GOOD. But like all good gifts from God, sex can be MISUSED and perverted.
- Your sexual purity is ESSENTIAL to your walk with God.
- 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.
- The boundaries of all sexual activity are the boundaries of marriage. “If it’s sexual, it’s for marriage.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 – “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the Ten Commandments of Dating was most helpful to you? Why?
2. What is one idea you’re unsure about? Why?
3. What are one or two practical applications you want to make based on this message?