

Bible Principles for Dating

A. Your relationship to God

1. Love God with all of your heart (Duet. 6:5).
2. Seek God for contentment, satisfaction, and happiness (Ps. 34:8-10, 119:1-2 / Lam. 3:24-25 / Heb. 13:5).
3. Make God's Word your delight (Ps. 119:14-16, 20, 36-37, 40, 47-48, 113, 143, 162, 174).
4. Set your affection on things above—God, His Word, and souls (Col. 3:1-2 / Mt. 6:33).
5. Choose to love Christ's return above all else (Phil. 3:20-21 / II Tim. 4:8 / Titus 2:13 / II Peter 3:12).
6. Trust God's wisdom, timing, and ability to provide a godly person for you (Ps. 84:11 / Prov. 3:5-6).
examples: Isaac and Rebecca / Boaz and Ruth
7. Yield all of your desires to the Lord continuously (Jesus did this—Luke 22:42 / Rom. 12:1-2).

B. Your relationship to others around you

1. Submit 100% to your parents (Eph. 6:1-3). Don't argue; obey happily; seek their counsel; get their permission to do things before you make plans or start into them.
2. Submit to other authorities (Rom. 13:1-3 / I Peter 2:13). Be respectful and obedient to the Pastor and his wife, adults in the church, youth leaders, school teachers, and others. Seek their counsel.
3. Meet the needs of other people--family, friends, church people, strangers (Phil. 2:2-4 / Acts 20:35).
4. Confess wrongs to people and forgive wrongs of others (Matt. 5:23-24 & 6:14-15 / Eph. 4:32).
5. "Be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Tim. 4:12).

C. Your relationship with the person you are dating

1. Focus on helping them be more like Christ (Prov. 15:23,28,30; 16:24 / Eph. 4:29 / Heb. 10:25).
2. Be a good listener (Prov. 15:31-33; 16:32; 19:11 / James 1:19).
3. "Make not provision for the flesh" (Rom. 13:14). Don't be alone; don't be immodest; don't feed your mind on the wrong things.
4. Only date a person who is worth marrying (II Cor. 6:14-7:1 / Eph. 5:1-11 / II Tim. 2:22 / Prov. 4:13-15, 13:20, 24:1)
5. Work on becoming and being the kind of person you want to marry.
6. Write out standards (positive and negative) and discuss them with parents, pastor, and youth leaders.
7. Only go on planned dates and with other people.
8. Strive for holiness (I Peter 1:14-16). Don't ask, "How far can I go?" Rather, "How pure can I be?"