

Boy Meets Girl

Teenage Dating, Relationships, & Sexuality

Initial Parental Response:

"I'm not prepared for this phase of parenting..."

Discussion Questions:

What is the point of teen dating?

Who should we allow our teenagers to go out with?

When should we allow them to date?

Where should we allow them to go or what should we allow them to do together?

Teenage Dating Issues:

Casual, recreational dating

Relaxed male/female relationships

Dating people they hardly know anything about

Emotional intimacy

Shipwrecks – emotionally, physically, spiritually

Ex-factor (ex-boyfriend/girlfriend)(hurt/bitterness/scars)

"Am I better off for having known them?"

"Can I look them in the eye and truly respect them?"

Youth group train wrecks (switch churches)

Emotional promiscuity (emotional closeness w/o commitment)

Misplaced affections, affairs of the heart

Focus on the physical (holding hands/hugs/kissing) and the romance rather than building a mature friendship

Immorality (oral sex, heavy petting, extended kissing)

Ezekiel 20:43; 23:5,6,8,16-19,21,29,30,35,43-45,48,49

Loss of virginity or teen pregnancy

Principles:

- **Guard your heart.**

Proverbs 4:23 "Above all, guard your heart, for from it flows the springs of life."

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

- **The last person you date is the person you marry.**

Christians should date & marry only another believer.

Christian teenagers should only date those who potentially have the qualities they desire in a future mate.
2 Corinthians 6:14,15 "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers, for what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?"

1 Corinthians 7:39; 9:5 "...She is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord." "Don't we have the right to take a believing wife?"

Deuteronomy 7:3,4,6 "Don't intermarry with them. Don't give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods..."

- Christian group events or around family/friends
- Define the relationship (just friends or pursuing courtship)

- **Protect emotional and physical purity**

Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

1 Thessalonians 4:4-7 "Each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust... and no one should defraud his brother or take advantage of him... for God did not call us to impurity, but to live a holy life."

2 Corinthians 10:5 "...Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."

- **Things to promote:**

Virginity

Isaiah 62:5; Gen. 24:16; Deut. 22:21,23,24; Lev. 21:13,14

Abstinence (see below)

Proverbs 5:15-20

Song of Solomon 2:7; 3:5; 8:4

Exodus 22:16

Self Control

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

1 Corinthians 7:1,2,9

Titus 2:12

- **Things to resist:**

-Exclusiveness (a steady relationships as a youth)
(intense, unbalanced time, all consuming)

-Seclusiveness (private, isolated time together)

-False intimacy (emotional promiscuity)

Text messages, Facebook/Myspace questionnaires,
extended hugs, chat rooms, deep emotional
conversation without lifelong commitment

- * Avoid early intimacy with someone not your spouse.
- * Intimacy is defined as “close acquaintance or familiarity, very personal or private, a close friend or confidant.”
- * Emotional intimacy would involve a close, private relationship with strong feelings, passions, and personal revelation which stir up deep feelings.
 - hearts being connected, sharing a deep bond
 - an affair of the heart
 - when a relationship is not clearly defined, it leaves one who has been intimate confused.
“Are we ‘just friends’?”
 - bumper sticker: “He may be with you, but he is thinking about me...”

- * Emotional intimacy will bring physical intimacy.
“If a young person starts ‘falling in love’ at 13 or 14, emotional commitments are made and inevitably broken. Pieces of one’s heart are given away. Emotional entanglements lead to physical activities...which get more and more intimate. After one has been dating for several years, the natural physical response to romantic love – sexual intercourse – is tantamount to inevitable.”
Mike Farris in Crosswalk.com

- * Marriage is the place for emotional/physical intimacy
Genesis 2:18-25 (Matt. 19:4-6)

Marriage is the place of true companionship.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

The danger with unfulfilled desire of being single
There is a temptation to sexual immorality for those not married.

Hebrews 13:4 Honor marriage above anything.

- * Intimacy comes after commitment.

- * If you’re not ready to be married, don’t be intimate.

- * If you are... then come a courting...

- Flirting or defrauding (playing games with people’s hearts)
Leading someone to believe something that is not true.
Teasing someone with something you cannot righteously satisfy. (1 Thess. 4:3-7; Mk. 10:19)

To gain an advantage over (misuse selfishly/cheat)
 Selfishly motivated in a non-committal relationship
 - because you like the attention/popularity
 "Who are you going to prom with...?"
 - because you like to feel pursued or the pursuit
 (the conquest)(being a heart-breaker)
 Giving special attention to someone you have no
 intention of pursuing toward marriage and who
 you have not clearly communicated your true
 intentions. (emotionally leading them along)
 Be very careful how you treat a coed. Hearts are
 fragile. Do your actions convey how you truly
 feel about the relationship?
 Be careful with flattery, praise or special treatment.
 Back away emotionally from any undefined
 relationships. Guard your heart. Ask where you
 stand. What are their intentions?
 Ask yourself, "What did I do to create this problem?"
 Set boundaries for your own heart.

- **Encourage the guys to take the lead (initiate)**
 Proverbs 18:22 "HE WHO FINDS A WIFE, finds a good thing
 and obtains favor from the LORD."
 spiritual leadership
 financial provision
 physical and emotional protection
 Ephesians 5:23,25,28,29,33
 1 Corinthians 11:3
 1 Peter 3:7
 - problem: aggressive girls leading, initiating, controlling and
 guys just hanging around with nothing to do
- **Include parents in boy/girl relationships.**
 Deuteronomy 7:4,6 "Don't give your daughters to their sons
 or take their daughters for your sons..."
 Genesis 28:2,8,9 Esau disregarded his parent's desires.
 Proverbs 23:26; Malachi 4:6
 - Totally involve parents in the process towards marriage.
 - Teens, what do your parents think of your dating choices?
 - Dads, ask the guy what his intentions are toward your
 daughter.
 - The guy should ask the father for permission to pursue the
 relationship with marriage in mind.

- **Goals in dating:**
 - Be the best of friends until you are ready to pursue marriage. Stop pursuing the romance and put the physical on hold till you are ready to say I Do.
 - Treat single men/women as brothers or sisters in Christ.
 - 1 Timothy 5:2
 - * in how you dress
 - * in how you act
 - * by what you say (no confusing messages)
 - Be very careful to not just say "I love you".
 - Strive to be a good wife/husband (not good boyfriend/girlfriend)
 - Save everything for your future marriage/spouse first kiss, whole-heart devotion, first sexual experience, deep emotional communication
 - Treat the person you are with now the same way you would want someone else to treat your future mate.

- **Biblical warnings against sexual immorality:**
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7
 - Hebrews 13:4
 - 2 Timothy 2:22
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11,18-20
 - Galatians 5:13,19,20
 - Ephesians 4:19,20; 5:3-5
 - Colossians 3:5
 - Romans 13:13,14

- **Marriage is for life** (till death do us part). Divorce is not an option. Choose wisely whom you date. Resolve conflict. Work through differences.
 - Romans 7:2,3
 - 1 Corinthians 7:39
 - Malachi 2:14-16
 - Matthew 19:5,6

- **Top 10 questions** every dad should ask and every young man should be prepared to answer before engagement.
 1. Why do you want to marry my daughter?
 2. What are you doing to prepare for and confirm the marriage decision?
 3. What are your passions in life and how do you plan to encourage those of my daughter?
 4. What does the Scripture mean when it says, 'the husband is the head of the wife'?

5. What does it mean for you to love my daughter as Christ loves the Church?
6. How do you plan to provide for her financially?
7. How are you honoring my daughter sexually and how will you honor her after marriage?
8. How will you encourage my daughter to grow spiritually?
9. What are the absolutes that drive your decisions?
10. What if marriage doesn't turn out to be what you imagined?

- **What qualities teens should desire in a future mate?**

- Questions to evaluate a potential marriage partner?**

- (How much do you really know them?)

- * What is the visible evidence they know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?
 - * How did they come to know Christ as Savior?
 - * Do they fear God? Desire to please God?
 - * How are they deepening their relationship with Christ on a daily basis?
 - * How do they submit to authority? Do they obey the law?
 - * How do they treat their parents?
 - * Do they finish what they start?
 - * Are they good stewards with their money?
 - * What is really important to them?
 - * How self-disciplined are they? Can they say no to themselves?
 - * How do they respond when they are angry?
 - * How do they respond when they are tired?
 - * Are they a person of integrity? Are they truthful?
 - * What does their room look like? How is that a reflection of their life or their heart?
 - * What comes out of their mouth? How would you rate their speech?
 - * Do they have a quiet spirit?
 - * Do they have a clean conscience before God?
 - * Are they content with who they are/what they have?
 - * Do they have a heart of humility?
 - * Are they a servant? Are they able to put others first before themselves?
 - * Do they have a desire to share Christ with others?
 - * What do they really want out of life? Where do they want to be 10 years from now?
 - * Are they willing to yield their rights for the good or needs of someone else?
 - * What motivates them to do what they do?
 - * What do you wish you could change about them?
 - * How have they demonstrated sensitivity to someone other than themselves?
 - * How have they demonstrated good discernment or wisdom in decisions?
 - * How do they see themselves? Are they proud?
 - * What are their character strengths? Weaknesses?
 - * Are they gentle? Sincere? Honest? Patient? Transparent? Compassionate? Self-Controlled?
 - * Do they keep their word? Are they on time? Do they follow through?
 - * How are they a leader or a follower?

- * How concerned are they with what people might think about them?
- * Are they lazy or do they work hard?
- * What is their greatest fear? Accomplishment?
- * How do they deal with difficult circumstances?
- * What were the results of other relationships they have been involved with before you?
- * How do you see the love of Christ evident?
- * How are they with young children? How have they been a good example to their younger brothers or sisters? Would they be a good mom/dad?
- * Do they spend time reading God's Word daily?
- * Do they talk about their relationship with God?
- * How actively are they involved in church/ministry?
- * Can you trust them with something valuable?
- * Are they in bondage to anything? What type of movies or magazines do they consume?
- * Do they take care of their physical body?
- * How do they honor God with their body?
- * Are they a good steward of their possessions?
- * How do they spend their free time?
- * Are they under any financial strain? What debt would become yours if you married them?
- * What is the ultimate goal of their life?

• **Dealing with broken relationships in a God-honoring way.**

Not in anger and bitterness but with forgiveness

Hebrews 12:15

Ephesians 4:26,27

James 1:20

Ephesians 4:31,32

Matthew 18:21,22,35

Colossians 3:8,12,13

Not with revenge but with resolution

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Romans 12:17-21

1 Peter 3:8-12

Not in conflict but seeking peace

Romans 12:18; 14:19

Facing the truth about past relationships is freeing

John 8:32

Ephesians 4:15

* Make a clean break and limit contact.

- What should be the ultimate goal of your teens dating life?

1 Corinthians 10:31 To bring God glory

Hebrews 13:4 Protect and honor your future marriage

Resources On Teenage Dating:

When God Writes Your Love Story, by Eric and Leslie Ludy

I Kissed Dating Goodbye, by Joshua Harris

Boy Meets Girl, by Joshua Harris

Emotional Purity, by Heather Paulsen

Eyes Wide Open: Avoiding The Heartbreak Of Emotional Promiscuity

By Brienne Murk <[wwwmyrrh.org](http://www.myrrh.org)>

So You Want To Marry My Daughter? By Dr. Paul A. Friesen

Letters To My Daughters, by Paul Friesen

What He Must Be... if he wants to marry my daughter, by Voddie Baugham Jr.

Discussion On Talking With Teens About Sexuality:

Ideas:

Resources:

Family Life: "Passport 2 Purity" by Dennis and Barbara Rainey