

The Message Notes

Series: Dateology

Message: *The Dating Game – Part I*

Text: Genesis 2:18, 21-25



Genesis 2:18. Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.” **21.** So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man’s ribs and closed up the opening. **22.** Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man. **23.** “At last!” the man exclaimed. “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called ‘woman,’ because she was taken from man.” **24.** This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two were united into one. **25.** Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame. (NLT)

Talk: Introduction: How are we supposed to **couple** for marriage?

A. First recorded coupling for marriage:

- a) God’s decree: Genesis 2:18
- b) God the matchmaker – Genesis 2:22-23
- c) Institution of marriage – Genesis 2:24-25
- d) God is still the matchmaker – Proverbs 18:22

Wisdom: A man is **awakened** by the woman he wants to marry but a woman **approves** of the man she wants to marry. **PK**

B. Historical ways of coupling:

- Patriarch – polygamy, concubines, etc.
- Arranged – parental, Kings, etc.
- Dating – a man and a woman decision

“Dating is **not a biblical concept** but a **social construct** that came from the **Age of Enlightenment.**”

“Dating has become the **primary pathway** we use to **couple** for marriage in the American culture. I call it the **Dating Game.**”

C. The Dating Game: We date a **pool of people**. Out of this pool, we choose the one who we feel we’re most complete, compatible, and content with (happy). We “**fall in love**” with them and **commit** to a **monogamous** and **sexual** relationship that we **hope** will be **long-term** and will **eventually** lead to marriage.

“**Dating** is the **most important** relationship you’re ever going to have because dating is the **pathway** to marriage and marriage is the **continuation** of your dating relationship.” **PK**

God created us **sexual** beings, **male** and **female** with an **innate** desire mentally, physically, chemically, and emotionally to want to **mate** with one another. So, how do you **properly couple** to marry through dating?

Dateology

I recommend the following **three prescriptions** taken from **Dateology**, **lived out** every day to **vaccinate** yourself from being a **bad dater** and enable you to **promote** a healthy dating relationship.

Prescription #1. I recommend you know the _____ for dating **before** you start dating.

- “If you don’t know the **purpose** for a thing you will **misuse** or **mishandle** it.” Myles Munroe

Wisdom: If you don’t know *why* you’re dating, then mishandling the person you’re dating becomes **inevitable**. *Doesn’t that make sense?*

Purpose for Dating - A man and a woman meet for a **period of time** to **gather data about each other**, so they can make an **informed decision** if they’re a **match** for a **monogamous** relationship called **marriage**.

- “The **primary purpose** for dating is **coupling** for marriage.”

Most people have **two problems** when they date: 1) They date for **personal fulfillment** - to love, and to be loved, happiness, and sexual satisfaction. Marriage is a secondary cause, that may or may not happen. 2) They **do not** know how to properly gather the **correct data** to choose the **right person** to marry within an **appropriate** time.

- When dating someone **regularly** without a commitment to **marriage**, you should **refrain** from:
 - 1) Monogamy-Keep it open
 - 2) Sex-Keep it platonic (no kissing, hugging, rubbing, etc.)
 - 3) Love-Keep it a friendship (love is for a marriage proposal only)
 - 4) Unlimited Time-Keep it within an appropriate time

Wisdom: The **cost** of a **failed** long-term relationship is you **discover how long** someone can **live** in your **mind** after the relationship has **ended**.

Takeaway: To promote a healthy dating relationship, vaccinate yourself with **prescription #1**. I recommend you know the purpose for dating before you start dating. **Next Week:** Prescriptions #2 and #3