**Last Week: Dating is from Hell**

1. Friends destroyed (JV, Kevin, JP)
   1. Pr. 4:23 (p.443)
2. Once involved physically = break off (90 days)
   1. Foundation of mistrust BEFORE marriage!
   2. Selfish = not highest best for other
3. If you defrauded, apologize. Keep short.
4. Sin = single if God wants married
5. NOT A SIN TO BE ATTRACTED!
   1. GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE LOTS OF GREAT SEX…FOR FUN!!
      1. Not against sex; against breaking your heart!
      2. God didn’t say, “I’ll give them powerful sex drive and then forbid them to use it!”
      3. Logical, loving limits
   2. Lasciviousness - Do not awaken love before it’s time
      1. Unnatural—I want supernatural!
      2. Romance clouds = drives > WORD
      3. Philosophy BEFORE stupid
      4. Never kissed = ASSET
      5. FAR = too far & not be saved

Ex) husband

* If dating is from hell, then what???
* Courtship is from heaven ☺
  + Courtship = one way to apply principles
  + Dean Sherman book

PRAY

Basic Principles:

* 1. You will meet mate in midst of serving/obeying God
  2. Everything we do should:
     1. Glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31)
     2. Maintain our testimony—follow me as I follow Christ
     3. Love neighbor –want God’s best for another
  3. You can never err in going too slow! But you can err in going too fast

**Courtship**

1. No rules in Scripture
   1. Every relationship different
   2. Principles
2. Principles = spirit of law
   1. 1 Tim. 5:1-2

**1**Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, **2**older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

1. Purpose:
   1. Discern the will of God for a covenant marriage that will benefit the world
   2. Protection of the emotions of those involved until the time when it is clearly God’s will to proceed into marriage.

**Ten Steps of Courtship**

1. Friendship first
   1. Marry your best friend (sex = season)
   2. Don’t ask for heart w/o purpose to commit
2. Get counsel
   1. We get counsel in every other area – job, major, car
   2. Marriage = blood covenant!!
      1. Tell your parents!
         1. Proverbs 21:1
         2. Pastor Nan: “ I've determined that the real problem with "dating" as we know it today is the worldliness that comes with it.  Years ago, when the family unit was still mostly intact, social activity was a part of the family structure....dinner w/ friends at your home, Sunday church socials, picnics in the great outdoors with neighbors, even community sponsored dances  - where the dancing was clean and it was socially uplifting. Getting to know someone of the opposite sex never implied you have a completely separate 'social life' away from your parents.”
         3. Family involvement // XA
      2. Spiritual authority - speak into your life
         1. Are you ready for marriage?
         2. What are you attracted to?
         3. What is God saying?
   3. Relationship progression = spirit, soul, body (1 Th. 5:23)
   4. Questions to ask yourself:
      * 1. Is it God’s will for me to marry?
        2. If heartbroken, time to heal?
        3. Am I ready for marriage?
           1. Not satisfied as single = discontent married (IDOL)
        4. Who am I in Christ, and what am I looking for in mate?
           1. Other person = compliment who I am in Christ, not become my life!
           2. Are you looking forward to b/c other person is there, not because of Jesus?
        5. Do I understand my calling and who would be a good fit for me? (ministry)
        6. Ultimate motive = more effective than alone
           1. Need for human affection NEVER met @ EXPENSE of another!
           2. Don’t get married b/c sex (self-control not birth control)
   5. Q’s to ask about them before considering marriage: (FRIENDSHIP)
3. Daily quiet time?
4. Does he engraft Word in heart? (He’s supposed to cleanse wife w/washing Word)
5. Faithful?
6. Submitted to authority?
7. How do they treat parents? (mom = you)
8. How do they respond to the hurting/isolated?
9. Are they courteous/gentlemen to everyone?
10. Are they willing to serve, or do they want to be served?
11. Is he/she financially responsible? (credit card debt)
12. Do they have a good work ethic?
13. Are they harboring bitterness/unforgiveness towards someone? (can’t leave & cleave)
14. What is their calling in life? (attraction /=/ have to date!)
15. Are they walking in moral purity and victory over lust/porn/mb?
16. Kill it!
    1. Attraction does not = will of God
       1. You can be chemically and emotionally attracted to > one person!
       2. Emotions get in way of hearing God
       3. Learn self-control: can NEVER ERR going too slow
    2. Offer it to God and desire best for other person first
    3. Marriage = blood covenant (“Sex Talk”) = you better know it’s God!
    4. Don’t feed the emotions or push the “fast forward” button!
    5. If it’s God, He will resurrect it w/o YOU doing anything (Abraham)
17. If resurrected, get counsel, then… humbly share with other person when timing is right
    1. Keep in light – ask for prayer
    2. Seek God for timing!
    3. HUMBLY APPROACH /=/ God told me to marry you = not fair
       1. Share WHY you value them as friend (character, spirit, not body)
       2. Will you pray about our relationship going beyond friendship?
       3. Give other person opportunity to hear from God
    4. PRAY! (Don’t damage his heart)
       1. “The one” may not be packaged like you thought!
       2. No
          1. No peace but like you as friend
          2. Guy not crushed
       3. You could still both be wrong!
          1. Could happen later, or not the one!
          2. Trust in sovereignty of God, not manipulation!
18. Guy expresses intentions to her father
    1. “I’d like permission to court your daughter w/intention of marriage”
       1. Person
       2. Phone (overseas)
    2. Parent should not be surprised if you are sharing with them!
    3. Dad asks questions: (mom, spiritual father)
       1. Who’s your pastor? If I call right now, he know you?
       2. What’s your goal in life?
       3. How will you provide financially? (PRACTICAL)
    4. Submit: maybe Dad says no
       1. Test character – watch you
       2. Not ready to let go yet (give time)
       3. International
          1. Mini & Bob 🡪 Sam
          2. Greg & Susan
    5. No parental blessing = CURSE
    6. Boy = bring her home to Mom & Dad!
    7. IT’S GOD’S RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK IT OUT IF HE CALLS YOU TO MARRIAGE – TRUST HIM!

🡪 so important to die to it!!

1. Courtship begins – NOT ISOLATED DATING, BUT CONTEXT OF FAMILY OF GOD
   1. Submit relationship to your spiritual covering
   2. Invite accountability questions
   3. Determine boundaries (maturity = spirit of Truth > emotions/physical drives)
2. Agree on boundaries
   1. Physical = treat as sister (Timothy), NO ROMANCE!, lasciviousness
   2. Social = nonexclusive
      1. Same sex friends
      2. Don’t have to sit next to each other
      3. Family involved in process
   3. Time = this much per week, not late at night
      1. If up too late talking, can’t seek Jesus
      2. Don’t study Word together and pray – emotional bond
      3. Don’t call/text daily like married people – no lifelong commitment
3. Get to know each other through LOTS OF TALKING!
   1. Questions to ask:
      1. What’s God speaking to you in the Word?
      2. What do you do in your devotional life?
      3. What’s a God moment you’ll always remember?
      4. Are you a morning person?
      5. What books have you read?
      6. What climate do you like?
      7. How do you feel about (doctrinal issues)? NOW!
      8. How do you feel about family/kids?
      9. What are your goals/dreams in life?
      10. What do you see as God’s calling on your life?
      11. If you can’t talk as best friends, not compatible
      12. Can’t talk about spiritual stuff = unequally yoked
   2. If they NEVER change, can you stay with them?
      1. His passion for God
      2. Her submission to authority
   3. Purposeful time period: 60-90 days
      1. Short = ALREADY FRIENDS!
      2. Not brain surgery, YOU HEAR FROM HOLY SPIRIT!
   4. Cut off as quickly as possible if no peace
      1. Never err too slow
      2. Guard heart
4. Engagement!
   1. Plan wedding (6 months – 1 year)
   2. Not ready to marry in 12 months, not ready to date! (court)
   3. Premarital counseling
   4. Prepare home (apt., job, friends, etc.)
   5. Save money
   6. Romance (but still not spouse)
5. Marriage that lasts forever!!
6. TONIGHT = couple that courted successfully!
7. If you are offended, come talk to me!

**Altar Call: Jesus cares more about your heart than anyone!**