

Week 3 - #DatingGoals

So many times, marriages end up in trouble, not because either spouse is a bad person, but because the couple had a poor foundation from the beginning. Hence, we need GOD'S Dating Goals!!

God's Purpose for Dating:

- **Isaiah 55:8, 9 (MSG)** – *I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work. God's Decree. 9 For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think.*
- God's thoughts and ways about **EVERYTHING** are better than ours.
- **QUOTE (Myles Munroe)** – *“If you don't understand the purpose of a thing, then abuse is inevitable”*
- *The purpose for Christian Dating is to discover whether or not it is wise and the will of God to move forward to the next level of relationship - marriage.*
- **READ:** Another way to say it is that the Purpose of Christian Dating is to learn. Prior to marriage, we all need experience in order to learn what we want in a partner, what we don't want, how to communicate our needs, how to serve the other's needs without disrespecting ourselves, and what it feels like to love, be loved, and even how to be strong enough to part when we know it's time. All too often, however, people get involved and immediately try to force the other person into being their image of what a partner is supposed to be. They ignore red flags, bad behavior, incompatibilities, and try to *change the person* instead of considering that this may not be the right person for them. Dating is a selection process. The problem is that most people don't have a clear idea of what they're looking for. That's why it is important to make a list of qualities that you are looking for. Then, if you recognize that a person you are interested in requires you to significantly compromise what you're looking for, it's important to love yourself and them enough to say, “Time to Move On.” It doesn't mean that either of you are bad or unlovable; it simply means that you are not right for each other.
- **I Corinthians 6:18 (NLT)** – *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.*

God's Process for Dating:

- We need to be SINGLE before we pursue MARRIAGE
- *Single (dictionary.com)* – *Consisting of one part, aspect, or section; not divided; UNBROKEN; separate from others; individual and distinct; honest and undisguised.*
- **I Corinthians 11:3 (NLT)** - *But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*
- **NOTE:** A man or woman needs to be submitted to God **for themselves**, before they can ever be of any lasting value to someone else. The relationship must be vertical before it can be horizontal.
- **Genesis 2:7 – 17 (NKJV)**
- God gave Adam a place, some food, some gold, a job & boundaries before he was ready for a woman.
- **QUOTE (George Davis):** *LADIES... Give God space to finish him up and you won't spend the rest of your life trying to grow him up.*
- **NOTE:** Having it all together may not look like your favorite TV character or your best friend's social media. Don't scare a good man off, because you're comparing him to someone else's sizzle reel.

God's Standard for Dating:

- **II Corinthians 6:14, 15 (MSG)** - *Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? 15 Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands?*
- Key thought – don't be unequally yoked (with an unbeliever or someone wired totally different).
- **QUOTE** (George Davis): *Opposites attract, but commonality keeps relationships together. So, don't let "love" cause you to ignore incompatibility. Reality hits every relationship.*

ARE WE COMPATIBLE??

1. **Spiritual Compatibility**
2. **Social Compatibility** (Education, Intellect, Age Difference, Cultural Differences)
3. **Family & Friends.**
4. **Emotional Soundness** (are they bitter/hurt, can they control their temper and express their love)
 - **Hebrews 12:14, 15 (NKJV)** – *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.*
 - Most people don't **CHANGE** after marriage. They just finally get comfortable being themselves.
5. **Visual Compatibility** (Do they look good TO YOU??)