

No Person is an Island, part 2 – Series: No matter how you view dating, finding the right mate can be tricky. What should you be looking for in a potential spouse? How can you know that this is God's best for you? Though the Bible is silent about dating per se, it says a lot about how we are to treat one another and what our priorities ought to be. These principles play a major factor in the success of dating relationships—and marriages. Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 22:37-40 for guidance in playing the sometimes challenging dating game.

No Person is an Island, part 2
Friends with Godly Benefits
Matthew 22:37-40

1. Be a God Digger, Not a Gold Digger. V.37,38

A. Foundation of relationship: Adoration for God. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

B. Guidelines for dating:

- a. Shouldn't date unless they are marriage material.
- b. To date without the possibility of marriage is set up for falling into sin.
- c. Shouldn't date unless marriage is in sight.
- d. Whoever you date should be a believer who has evidence of God's work in their life and who adores God.

2. Love is not finding the right person. Love is being the right person. v.39

A. Ask your fiancé:

- a. How much are you willing to change?
- b. How much are you will to give to make this relationship the best?

3. True love begins after the wedding, not before!

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

A. Takes time for a relationship to grow: Spend time together.

4. Never give up on something that God has not given up on.

Mark 10:2-9

A. Leaving – Reprioritizing

B. Cleaving – Permanent Bond

C. Weaving – Keep strengthening the threads

LifeGroup Questions:

BEGIN IT (5min) – One praise song to the Lord & open in prayer.

OPEN IT (10min) – What was the best advice your mother or father ever gave you about dating?

EXPLORE IT (60min) – Read Matthew 22:34-40 and review Sunday's sermon outline together answering questions and sharing contributing thoughts.

1. Why do so many people date the wrong way?
2. Do poor patterns of date cause the high divorce rate in America? Why?
3. Do benefits of a godly relationship outweigh the benefits of a worldly one? Why?
4. Is it possible to be close friends with godly benefits—not the kind of benefits the world offers? How?
5. Society says sexual attraction and money are most important . . . so, how do those areas motivate you?
6. What does it mean to show respect to someone you like?
7. **Keeping it real.** Which of the “Eligible Eight” would you say makes someone eligible to date? Why?
 1. Do they adore God?
 2. Do they respect you?
 3. Do they honor boundaries?
 4. Do they respect convictions?
 5. Adore God with their lips and their lives?
 6. Don't love things of darkness, but love the light.
 7. Not perfect, but growing and changing.
 8. Evidence of belief in Jesus.

APPLY IT (15min) – Which of the “Eligible Eight” do you need to apply personally in your life? Thanks for being honest. . . *Pastor Paul*