

# 10 Commandments of Dating

## 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment- Thou shalt CHOOSE WISELY

\* "If you date and then marry the WRONG person, you will have to live with the consequences of that decision the rest of your life"

\*After we have examined ourselves, set boundaries, etc., we need to be smart about who we look for in a mate.

### I. Things that blind us from seeing someone's CHARACTER

#### A. FIRST-AVAILABLE Syndrome

1. you are DESPERATE and starved for love
2. you COMPROMISE your standards settle for 2<sup>nd</sup> best
3. remember, the Bible tells us to WAIT on Him

**\*Psalm 27:14**

\* "Every DATE is your potential MATE"

#### B. COVER Lover

1. you only care about the EXTERNALS (beauty)
2. good looks don't last FOREVER

**\*Proverbs 31:30**

#### C. Go Go SPEED Racer

1. once you add in physical affection, you ignore everything else
2. you must build the FRIENDSHIP

\* "Dating is not a race to see who can get to the finish line in the shortest period of time. Dating should be a long-term process of discerning whether or not you are compatible with a person, and whether or not the two of you have what it takes to build a lasting relationship."

### II. What to look for when discerning CHARACTER

#### A. Are they FAITHFUL?

1. look at their previous relationships (also friends & family)
2. have they proven that they will be loyal to only you?

#### B. Are they HONEST?

1. are they real/genuine without deception?
2. are they trying to always "put on a show"?
3. can they be themselves around you?
4. are they true to their word?

#### C. Are they COMMITTED?

1. why are they in this relationship? (don't waste your time)
  - \*just to have someone
  - \*they like you
  - \*just because
  - \*you both see the possibility of being "the one"

D. Are they FORGIVING?

E. Are they GIVING?

1. is there focus on themselves or others?
2. will you always have to give and the other person take?

III. Important Things to Remember

- A. "Character is who you are when no one is LOOKING"
- B. "You can find someone's character by asking their FRIENDS"
- C. "Learn from both your and their previous RELATIONSHIPS"

\* "God gives the BEST to those who leave the choice with HIM"

\*God wants the best for YOU. All He asks is that you wait and trust HIM.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

**10<sup>th</sup> Commandment- Thou shalt TAKE ACTION**

**Ask Yourself.** Do I want God's blessing on my life, especially when it comes to who I will marry? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ask Yourself.** What do I want my "love story" to say?

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**Ask Yourself.** What changes need to be made in the way I look for a mate?

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**Ask Yourself.** What changes do I need to make in my life to be the man/woman I need to be for my future mate?

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**Ask Yourself.** Am I willing to make a serious COMMITMENT to God, myself, and my future mate to show him/her my true love by keeping myself pure from this moment until I am married? \_\_\_\_\_

*Lord, I want to follow and please You. I want to receive Your blessings, especially in the area of my future spouse. Please give me the strength to keep my self pure for him/her. Please keep me from temptations and anything that would hinder my walk with You. I also pray for the one I will someday marry. Please protect and keep him/her pure and allow us to honor You through our purity. Amen.*