

DATEABLE – WEEK THREE – How do I know I’m ready to date?

Verses used in lesson:

1 John 4:7-8

Proverbs 31 (a composite of a woman)

Ephesians 5:25

Main points of lesson:

- Potential fears not to date: rejected, alone, not knowing who ‘the one’ is, losing a good friend, status.
- 4 kinds of dating: non-Christian dating, arranged marriage, courtship, and Christian dating
 - o non-Christian: (casual – hooking up, non-exclusive, open relationship) (committed – living together)
 - o Arranged marriage: parents help select a spouse for their child with the ability to speak into the process.
 - o Courtship: a young man displays an interest in a young woman by getting to know her family, especially her father. Girl’s family’s responsibility is to evaluate the guy.
 - o Christian dating: dating with biblical principles understanding dating is for evaluating one another with a movement towards marriage.
- How do I know I’m ready to date?
 - o Is my character increasingly reflecting the character of Christ?
 - o Is my love for God & God’s people expanding?
- How to evaluate a potential dating partner before dating:
 - o Evaluate their character. Do they love God?
 - o Does the person mesh well with me (theology, politics, family etc..)?
 - o Does the vision of your lives align?
 - o Are there older Christians that can speak into the relationship?
 - o Is Christian peers/community in place to help keep me accountable?
 - o Am I attracted to him/her?
- Application: 1) focus on developing your character 2) look to older couples at different stages to serve as a model/template. 3) consider setting certain standards for yourself in how you would like to begin dating.

Discussion Questions for students from week three:

- 1) According to your parents, what criteria would they expect for you to meet before you could begin dating?
- 2) What qualities comprise of a Proverbs 31 woman?
- 3) What singular quality defines an Ephesians 5:25 man?
- 4) Do you believe you’re ready to date? What’s one reason driving your current state?

Questions for parents:

- 1) If any, what criteria have you told your child you desire for them before they start dating? Why?
- 2) Do you believe your child is ready to date? Why or why not?
- 3) What are you doing to help prepare him/her?
- 4) Have you shared your dating/marriage story with your child?
- 5) Have you shared with your child what you appreciate and how you look up to your wife/husband?
- 6) What criteria do you have for your child when before they can start dating? If you know what criteria you have, 1) is it biblical rooted and Gospel-centered and 2) have you shared your criteria with your child? If you haven’t determined what criteria to have, what criteria do you aspire for them and is it Gospel-centered?