

*New Hope Church Guide for Families  
pursuing God's best through His Word*

# **DATING, MARRIAGE AND SEX**

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This five part workshop is intended for the Christian who is looking to know the will of God in their lives, the power of sanctification and the divine design to marriage, sex and dating. Like all things in Christ, we can only pursue what God's word instructs us through faith and obedience. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life; it is His desire for all to come to the place of rest through His great love and perfect leadership. The notes and pages that follow outline the biblical perspective of dating, marriage, sex, gender, and social media projections. The application of these for each generation must be carefully and humbly derived from within the theological community.



## PROLOGUE -

THE CHURCH CAN AND MUST LOOK TO GOD'S WORD TO DETERMINE THE WAYS IN WHICH WE STAND AND LIVE. THE CHURCH IS BEING PREPARED AND SANCTIFIED AS WE AWAIT HIS RETURN.

*Only when marriage and family exist for God's glory and not to serve as replacement idols are we able to truly love and be loved. Remember, neither your child nor your husband (or wife) should be who you worship, but instead who you worship with. - Mark Driscoll*

*Christian marriage is that sacrament which builds up the community of the Church and of society. Marriage has been inscribed in creation's design by God, and, by his grace, countless Christian men and women have lived married life fully. - Pope Francis*

# SESSION 1

## IS MARRIAGE FOR ME?

### GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE



*2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;" NASB*

1. God's Word is the absolute objective standard (2 Tim. 3:14-16).
2. So, what is marriage? (Gen. 2:22-24)
3. God is love, the standard of human purpose and value.
4. We were made to love and understand God through marriage (Gen. 1:27). I am an "Image Bearer" of God.
5. Therefore my sexuality should reflect the character of God.
6. Ecclesiastes 9:9 = Marriage is a lifelong commitment (See also Proverbs 5:18). Ephesians 5:28, 33 = Husbands and wives are to love and respect each other. II Corinthians 6:14 = Husbands and wives should be bonded together with a similarity of beliefs, goals, and objectives (See also Deuteronomy 7:3, 4; Genesis 24:3, 4). Exodus 20:17 = Husbands and wives are to be

sexually faithful to each other in the marriage relationship (See also Leviticus 18:20). Matthew 5:32 = Adultery is the only biblically acceptable reason for divorce. Isaiah 62:5 = An ideal marriage relationship mirrors God's loving relationship with His people (See also Isaiah 54:5; Ephesians 5:25).

7. Paul the exception: He wishes all people were single (1 Cor. 7:6) and counsels widows to remain single if possible (1 Cor. 7:8). A single person can concentrate on pleasing the Lord (1 Cor. 7:32).

# SESSION 2

## PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE - BIBLICAL DATING



*Romans 12:1-2 "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." NASB*

8. Age appropriate, maturity not just physical capacity (Gen.2). Adam was created a man, God gave him capital, a calling, and some on the job training. Adam was instructed in worship, faith and had time alone to reflect prior to marriage.
9. Able to offer: capital; a plan for livelihood; ongoing relationship with God; knowledge of the Bible (especially men). The role of the husband in the Bible starts with leadership. Scripture makes it very clear that a husband must be a leader of his home and have healthy control of his life. 1 Timothy 3 gives instructions for men and women on the standards of Godliness. It is a good insight into "who" has the "right stuff".
10. Purpose of dating:

1. For the man to win the heart of the one he wants to marry.
  2. Evaluation of "who", is he ... or is she...see list above.
  3. Protection from sexual immorality . Initiate intimacy, with expectant later fulfillment.
  4. A chance to hear from God.
  5. Christian family evaluation and permission.
11. Boundaries for dating:
1. No physical sexuality, not yet.
    1. Defrauding (Mk. 10:19; 2 Cor. 7:2; 1 Thess. 4:3-6).
  2. It starts in the heart (Matt. 5:28).
  3. Father gives permission and approval (Eph. 6:1-3; Deut. 7:3; 1 Cor. 7:38).
  4. Don't marry unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14).

## SESSION 3

### HONORING GOD THROUGH SEX



*1 Corinthians 6:20 " For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." NASB*

12. Sex in marriage exists for God's glory, not your fancy (1 Cor. 6:20).
13. Sex is forbidden outside of marriage (1 Cor. 6:9-20).
14. Sexual sins and the problem of self governance: A wrong foundation leads to shaky walls and the roof always falls in (Matt. 7:24-27).
15. What do we do once we have crossed lines?
  1. Loss of virginity... (Romans 12:1-2).
  2. Confess, repent, start fresh (1 Jn. 1:9).
16. Sex in marriage should be regular and reflect the character of God (1 Cor. 7:5-7).
17. What is forbidden?
  1. Anything that violates the love relationship between husband and wife.
  2. Submission is not permission (Eph. 5:22-33).

## 18.Problem: Abuse/misuse and rejection

- 1.Pornography
- 2.Violence/control
- 3.Withholding from an offense
- 4.“False other” places to express sexual plurality; masturbation; fantasy; flirtations with others; titillations from media or books. (Prov.28:26; Jer. 17:9)
5. Sex in Marriage should be as holy as our worship on Sunday Mornings. Portraying a heart of kindness, safety and desire to be together.

# SESSION 4

## A TESTIMONY TO THE WORLD

### THE ONLINE STAGE



*1 Timothy 2:9-10 I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, 10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. NASB*

19. How we dress, project our sexuality matters. Why?

Because it says something about our "godliness".

20. Scripture keeps the physical and spiritual as mirrors of each other. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

1. The body is a temple

2. What is the purpose of the temple?

3. Glorify God with your body!

21. We need to value internal beauty. (1 Peter 3:3-4)

1. The heart is more valuable than the hair! (1 Sam. 16:7)

22. Charm is deceitful

1. Draws in those who are looking for a false version of you.

2. Character matters, what we say and project about ourselves to others. The real you is attractive, and those who desire the right things will be wooed.
23. Women: don't lead men into sin. (Matthew 5:28)
  1. Your desire to be noticed does not leave you blameless.
  2. Men must guard their eyes, women must guard their bodies. Both have a responsibility.
24. God created us to use our imagination as we draw out a suitable spouse. (Song of Solomon 7)
  1. Desire builds through anticipation, not temptation.

# SESSION 5

## GENDER- DESIGN AND PURPOSE



*Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

*NASB*

25. Origin story: Male and Female were created by God in His image. Only recent human history debates the number of genders.
  1. God alone determines what the Genders are.
  2. Human rebellion will always challenge this. (Gen. 3)
26. Human mandate from God: be fruitful and multiply.
  1. Only Male/ Female relationships can obey God.
  2. Worldly wisdom will never replace God's best for humanity. (Colossians 2:8; Eph. 4:14-15)
27. God defines what love is. (1 Cor. 13:4-8)
  1. "does not insist on its own way" v.4
28. Every person in Christ is to surrender their identity to Him. (Galatians 2:20) The weight of that is different for each, But God's grace is sufficient!
29. Anything that brings gender confusion, in our dress or declarations, separates us from God's best for our lives. (Deuteronomy 22:5)

1. Male/ Female Distinctness matters to God.
2. God's "Order" is not to be toyed with. Chaos brings unintended suffering to individuals and cultures.
3. Rejection of God leads to rejection from God.

*A good **marriage** isn't something you find; it's something you make. When I have learnt to love **God** better than my earthly dearest, I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now. Unfaithfulness in **marriage** is indicative of unfaithful hearts toward **God**. **Marriage** is such a beautiful relationship and a gift from **God**. - Unknown Author*

A Prayer for Marriage:

Heavenly Father, we ask you today, to strengthen the bonds of both physical and spiritual intimacy in our marriage. We are thankful that you have called husband and wife to intimacy with you first, and intimacy with one another.

Please show us any behavior we have been committing that has been preventing us from entering into a deeper intimate relationship with you and one another.

Once trust is broken it can be nearly impossible to regain on our own, however, we know that all things are possible with you God. Heal our hearts, Father, of past hurts and help us to trust in you and one another again.

We thank you right now for increased intimacy in our marriage as we seek to honor you and one another through our marriage covenant.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” (Ephesians 5:31 NIV)*