

Women For Truth Workshop
Sex and the City: The Truth about Waiting, Dating and Mating
Kacey Luvi Pearson

In order to *know* what God desires for us while we wait for a mate, we must answer 3 questions:

- 1) Is God really *that* serious about purity?
- 2) What does that look like for me in my pursuit of marriage through dating or courtship?
- 3) How do I keep myself pure in a world that isn't?

Let's be specific:

1) So, really... is God *that* serious about purity?

"To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."
(Romans 8:6, ESV)

Definition of "the flesh": Dictionary.com says, "the physical or carnal nature of humankind; Sensual appetites."

Paul, when writing to the Galatians depicts the flesh and it's obvious evidence this way:

"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21, ESV)

"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap **corruption**, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." Galatians 6:7-8, ESV, bold added)

Definition of "corruption": dishonesty. Synonyms: breach of trust, bribery, bribing, crime, crookedness, demoralization, exploitation, extortion, fiddling, fraud, fraudulency, graft, malfeasance (wrongdoing), misrepresentation, nepotism (showing favoritism or one-sidedness), shadiness.

"But among you there ***must not be even a hint*** of sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Ephesians 5:3, NIV, bold and italics added)

2) What does that look like for me in my pursuit of marriage through dating or courtship?

1) BE HOLY! (SET APART)

God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from ***all*** sexual sin." 1 Thessalonians 4:3, NLT, bold and italics added)

In order that we may understand the actual context of this verse, here are the surrounding verses:

1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. **2** For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. **3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4** that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, **5** not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6** and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. **7** For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. **8** So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. 1Thessalonians 4:1-8

Okay... I get how this applies to my sexual life, but how does it apply to dating? Let's go back to 1 Thess. 4:1-8.

When you see words and phrases like *transgress* and *defraud his brother*, we are forced to look deeper into these meanings and what they actually mean for us.

John MacArthur says it this way: "The word *transgress* means 'to sin against', which includes the concept of stepping over the line and exceeding the lawful limits... *Defraud* means to selfishly, greedily take something for personal gain and pleasure at someone else's expense... Whenever believers seek to satisfy their physical desires and gain sexual pleasure at the expense of another, they have violated this command."

2) BE HONEST IN THE ACCOUNT OF YOURSELF!

Nancy Leigh DeMoss and Tim Grissom in their Seeking Him study write, "Regardless of how spiritual we may claim (or pretend) to be, the *truth* is that we are no more spiritual than our sexual conduct and thought life."

Joshua Harris says, "A little lust is not okay. That's why God calls us to the daunting standard of *not even a hint*. This means there's no place for lust to exist peacefully in our lives. We're to fight it on every front."

3) BE PRACTICAL!

"*Run* from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts." 2 Timothy 2:22, italics added

Find groups of friends or family that are willing to hang out *with you* to offer support in your choice to remain pure AND more eyes and ears on the potential prospect and his lifestyle!

Fill in your believing AND non-believing friends and family on your convictions and the reasons you want to remain pure so they can hold you accountable--and be challenged by your desire and passion to be set apart!

Actively avoid (“run from”) situations that make you want to live out your sinful desires.

By putting these practical applications in motion, your “dating” or “courting” life will look dramatically different from others... which is the point. **MAKE SURE YOUR HEART WANTS TO PLEASE GOD, NOT OTHERS, FOR THE SAKE OF MORALITY AND SELF-PRAISE.**

3) How do I keep myself pure in a world that isn't?

1) FIND A TITUS 2 WOMAN and LISTEN TO HER.

- "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14
- "A wise man is strong, yes, a man of knowledge increases strength; for by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety." Proverbs 24:5
- "Every purpose is established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war." Proverbs 20:18
- "Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established." Proverbs 15:22
- "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days." Proverbs 19:20
- "Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge." Proverbs 19:27

2) PREPARE to be pure in your preparation for a lifetime of marriage, rather than planning the satisfaction of your flesh for the moment.

“Therefore preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.” 1 Peter 1:13-15

1) EXCHANGE A LACK OF WISDOM FOR WISDOM

A LACK OF WISDOM vs. WISDOM

Unwise: *If it feels good, do it.*

Wise: “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.”
Colossians 3:5-6

Unwise: You *must* spend time alone with someone in order to see if you really have physical “chemistry”.... I mean, like, what if he’s a bad kisser??

Wise: God will allow you to see the true character of someone and give you the heart to love deeper than what is just physical. Finding someone with integrity and a mature, developed heart for the Lord and His truth is far greater than the physical “bond” you may want to make first. Once physical passion is introduced to a relationship, it becomes harder to be satisfied with the pure and spiritual “getting to know each other” conversations.

Unwise: *A reasonable age to start dating is about 16.*

Wise: A reasonable age to start dating is when you are at an appropriate age, willingness and eligibility for marriage. That very well MAY BE 16, but starting to date too young provides a way for us to hook up and break up, take what’s not ours, gratify our flesh, and just “practice” commitment without a true covenant. Though God’s Word is not specific about “dating” and when to start, we should avoid the allowance of such opportunities to sin in relationships with the opposite sex.

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Colossians 3:1-2

“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” Romans 13:14)

“How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. Psalm 119:9, NLT

Randy Alcorn sums it up by saying, “If we would rehearse in advance the devastating consequences of immorality, we would be far less prone to admit it.”