

Friendship with the Opposite Sex

The Gospel & Relationships – Talk #8

Friendships with the Opposite Sex

- No such thing as “biblical” dating – not practiced in ancient Israel.
- We are taking the Gospel, applying it to romance, and friendships with the opposite sex.
- Should I seek romantic relationships?
- Should I date?
- What does dating look like with Gospel-centered community?

Security in Christ results as I repeatedly repent and believe

Repent

Believe

Lie

God is not good
“If I don’t take what I want, no one will give it to me”

Worship

Self-worship
“I know best what I want and what will satisfy my needs/desires.”

Truth

God is good
“The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want”
“My God will supply all my needs”

Worship

Worship God
Ask, walk, wait with Him
Prov 19:14

I need
friendships
with the
opposite
sex, so
where and
around what
are such
friendships
best
discovered
and made?



Groups are best

– avoid “paring off.” Instead, get to know a number of friends in the context of healthy community

- Church
- Small groups
- Prayer meetings
- Ministry teams
- Social events
- Share life as “seeking first His kingdom”
- Discover friends who have same passion for Jesus and His purposes
- See same truth – what, you too!?



Ministry Teams

An excellent context where your gifts are demonstrated, confirmed by others, and your security in Christ can be grown and shown!

- Making decisions together as a team
- Talking about faith and applying it to the ministry context

The BIG Question: When and how should a friendship with someone of the opposite sex move from being “just friends” to a “dating friendship”?

Pair Off? Alone with each other = up the ante!

Expose each other to increased impact of either:

• **Deceitfulness of Sin**

- Emotional idolatry (I love how it feels “being in love”)
- Intellectual idolatry (talking about everything is so interesting)
- Sexual intimacy idolatry (it feels so good to hold hands, embrace, etc.)

• **Repentance and Faith (Gospel-centered friendship)**

- Emotional, intellectual and sexual self control -> love for God & His ways is our priority
- Union with Christ – rest in His love -> empowered to give, not take; serve, not be served
- Wise balance of urge to merge tendencies: submerge vs splurge