

Berean Covenant Church Council on Family Issues

Topic: Courtship / Dating

Questions to consider:

- What is involved in courtship / dating?
- How should the church support a couple in a courtship / dating relationship?
- How is courtship practically carried out?
- How do we distinguish between a friendship and courtship?
- Who initiates the courtship?
- What is an appropriate timeframe for a courtship / dating relationship?
- What role do parents play?
- At what age / position should one be seeking such a relationship?
- What environments are recommended for a courting couple?
- How does the couple honor their parents if they aren't giving spiritual advice in the decision-making process?

Doctrinal/Church Positions	Matters of Preference
<p>A believer considering courting or dating someone should involve others in the church in their decision making process. This provides wise counsel and helps prevent emotional decision making.</p> <p>Believers should not participate in 'casual' dating, or dating without the consideration of marriage. A believer should be intentional and view courting or dating another person as an opportunity to evaluate the potential for marriage.</p> <p>During courtship, a man should be looking for the qualities of the bride of Christ (the Church) in the woman, and the woman should be looking for the Christ-likeness in the man, since the wife is a picture of the bride of Christ and the husband is the picture of Christ.</p> <p>A couple in courtship must have accountability with others in the church. The church is obligated to provide counsel and safe opportunities for the couple to become familiar with one another in multiple circumstances.</p>	<p>The length of a courtship or engagement should be at the discretion of the couple, with counsel from believing family and friends.</p>

Discussion Points

Scripture References We Discussed

Ephesians 5:22-32; Col. 3:18 → as in marriage, the man should take the lead in the pre-marriage relationship
 1 Cor. 7 → serving the LORD needs to come before other relationships, including marriage