

# ***HOW TO ADDRESS UNHEALTHY DATING SITUATIONS***

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# **4 UNHEALTHY DATING DECISIONS**

- **COHABITATION - LIVING TOGETHER BEFORE MARRIAGE**
- **SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE**
- **DATING AN UNBELIEVER**
- **DATING WHILE DIVORCING**



***COHABITATION - LIVING  
TOGETHER BEFORE MARRIAGE***



# **COHABITATION**

- 1960 - 430,000 COUPLES
- TODAY - 8 MILLION COUPLES
- 50% OF AMERICANS COHABITATE PRIOR TO MARRIAGE



# **COHABITATION**

- **BY AGE 20 - 25% OF WOMEN HAVE COHABITED**
- **BY AGE 30 - 75% OF WOMEN HAVE COHABITED**
- **40% OF COHABITING RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVED CHILDREN**



# **6 REASONS WHY THOSE COHABITING SHOULD RECONSIDER THEIR LIVING SITUATION.**

- 1. IT INCREASES SEXUAL TEMPTATION**
- 2. YOU ARE AT HIGHER RISK OF DIVORCE  
AND SEPARATION**



"EVERY RESEARCH PROJECT THAT'S EVER LOOKED AT THE STABILITY OF MARRIAGES THAT WERE PRECEDED BY COHABITATION HAS FOUND THAT PEOPLE WHO LIVED TOGETHER BEFORE THEY GET MARRIED ARE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO DIVORCE LATER." - LINDA WAITE



# **6 REASONS WHY THOSE COHABITING SHOULD RECONSIDER THEIR LIVING SITUATION.**

- 1. IT INCREASES SEXUAL TEMPTATION**
- 2. YOU ARE AT HIGHER RISK OF DIVORCE AND SEPARATION**
- 3. YOU HAVE DIFFERING EXPECTATIONS**





# ***6 REASONS WHY THOSE COHABITING SHOULD RECONSIDER THEIR LIVING SITUATION.***

- 4. IT CAN BE MORE HARMFUL FOR WOMEN  
AND CHILDREN**
- 5. IT DEVELOPS UNHEALTHY PATTERNS OF  
SELF-WITHHOLDING**



"WHEN PEOPLE LIVE TOGETHER, AND SLEEP TOGETHER, WITHOUT MARRIAGE, THEY PUT THEMSELVES IN A POSITION THAT IS SIMILAR TO THE PERSON BEING ASKED TO GIVE A BLANK CHECK. THEY EITHER HOLD BACK ON THEIR PARTNER BY NOT GIVING THE FULL SELF IN THE SEXUAL ACT AND IN THEIR SHARED LIVES TOGETHER. OR, THEY FEEL SCARED A LOT OF THE TIME, WONDERING WHETHER THEIR PARTNER WILL SOMEHOW TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR VULNERABILITY...."



NO ONE CAN SIMULATE SELF-GIVING. HALF A COMMITMENT IS NO COMMITMENT. COHABITATING COUPLES ARE LIKELY TO HAVE ONE FOOT OUT THE DOOR, THROUGH THE RELATIONSHIP. THE MEMBERS OF A COHABITATING COUPLE PRACTICE HOLDING BACK ON ONE ANOTHER. THEY REHEARSE NOT TRUSTING."

- JENNIFER ROBACK MORSE



# **6 REASONS WHY THOSE COHABITING SHOULD RECONSIDER THEIR LIVING SITUATION.**

- 4. IT CAN BE MORE HARMFUL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**
- 5. IT DEVELOPS UNHEALTHY PATTERNS OF SELF-WITHHOLDING**
- 6. IT CONFLICTS WITH GOD'S GOOD DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE**



EACH MAN SHOULD HAVE SEXUAL RELATIONS  
WITH HIS OWN WIFE, AND EACH WOMAN WITH  
HER HUSBAND. - 1 CORINTHIANS 7:2



# ***DATING AN UNBELIEVER***



# UNEQUALLY YOKED



# **5 REASONS WE BELIEVE A CHRISTIAN SHOULD NOT DATE AN UNBELIEVER.**

- 1. UNBELIEVERS SHARE DIFFERENT FOUNDATIONAL WORLDVIEWS**
- 2. WE ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO MARRY BELIEVERS. 1 CORINTHIANS 7:39**
- 3. UNBELIEVERS MAY DRAW YOU AWAY FROM GOD.**
- 4. GOD WANTS THE BEST FOR YOU.**
- 5. YOU'RE NOT THEIR SAVIOR.**





# ***SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE***

**HEROES**

# **4 BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ABOUT SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE**

- 1. YOUR BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SO FLEE FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY.**



"FLEE FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY. ALL OTHER SINS A PERSON COMMITS ARE OUTSIDE THE BODY, BUT WHOEVER SINS SEXUALLY, SINS AGAINST THEIR OWN BODY. DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT YOUR BODIES ARE TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO IS IN YOU, WHOM YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOD? YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN; YOU WERE BOUGHT AT A PRICE. THEREFORE HONOR GOD WITH YOUR BODIES."

- 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20



# **4 BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ABOUT SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE**

**2. TO HONOR GOD AND GROW MORE LIKE HIM  
WE MUST AVOID SEXUAL IMMORALITY.**



"IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT YOU SHOULD BE  
SANCTIFIED: THAT YOU SHOULD AVOID SEXUAL  
IMMORALITY; THAT EACH OF YOU SHOULD LEARN  
TO CONTROL YOUR OWN BODY IN A WAY THAT  
IS HOLY AND HONORABLE" - 1 THESSALONIANS  
4:3-4



# **4 BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ABOUT SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE**

**3. IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOURSELF  
SEXUALLY, GET MARRIED.**



"NOW TO THE UNMARRIED AND THE WIDOWS I SAY: IT IS GOOD FOR THEM TO STAY UNMARRIED, AS I DO. BUT IF THEY CANNOT CONTROL THEMSELVES, THEY SHOULD MARRY, FOR IT IS BETTER TO MARRY THAN TO BURN WITH PASSION." - 1 CORINTHIANS 7:8-9



# ***4 BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ABOUT SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE***

**4. PREMARITAL SEX DESTROYS TRUST AND  
INCREASES INSECURITY**





# ***DATING WHILE DIVORCING***



**4 REASONS WE BELIEVE DATING  
WHILE IN THE PROCESS OF DIVORCE  
IS DISOBEDIENT TO GOD.**

- 1. YOU ARE BREAKING YOUR VOW TO THEM  
AND GOD**
- 2. IT REMOVES THE POSSIBILITY OF  
RECONCILIATION**



**4 REASONS WE BELIEVE DATING  
WHILE IN THE PROCESS OF DIVORCE  
IS DISOBEDIENT TO GOD.**

- 3. YOU NEED A SEASON OF HEALING TO  
WORK THROUGH YOUR OWN STRUGGLES**
- 4. IT DISHONORS MARRIAGE.**



"MARRIAGE SHOULD BE HONORED BY ALL, AND THE MARRIAGE BED KEPT PURE, FOR GOD WILL JUDGE THE ADULTERER AND ALL THE SEXUALLY IMMORAL." - HEBREWS 13:4



***ADDRESSING UNHEALTHY  
DATING SITUATIONS***



# ***OUR APPROACH***

**OUR GOAL SHOULD BE TO PROVIDE A  
BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE IN THE  
CONTEXT OF CARE AND SUPPORT  
WHILE PRAYING THEY WILL CHOOSE TO  
FOLLOW GOD.**



# ***OUR APPROACH***



# **5 PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER BEFORE CONFRONTING**

- 1. APPROACH TRUMPS CONTENT**
- 2. SHOW GRACE AND TRUTH**
- 3. SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE RELATIONSHIP**
- 4. THINK CAREFRONTATION, NOT  
CONFRONTATION**
- 5. BE FOR THEM**





# **8 STEPS TO CAREFULLY CONFRONT THE PERSON**

**1. PRAY**

**2. INVITE TO MEET OUTSIDE OF GROUP**

**3. ASK PERMISSION**

**4. FOLLOW THE OIC PRINCIPLE**



# ***OIC PRINCIPLE***

- **OBSERVATION**
- **INTERPRETATION**
- **CLARIFICATION**



# **8 STEPS TO CAREFULLY CONFRONT THE PERSON**

5. OFFER TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION
6. FOLLOW UP
7. CELEBRATE PROGRESS
8. PRAY



**Q&A**

