

# How To Address Unhealthy Dating Situations

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**WHO**   
CARES?

# 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 cohabit prior to marriage**

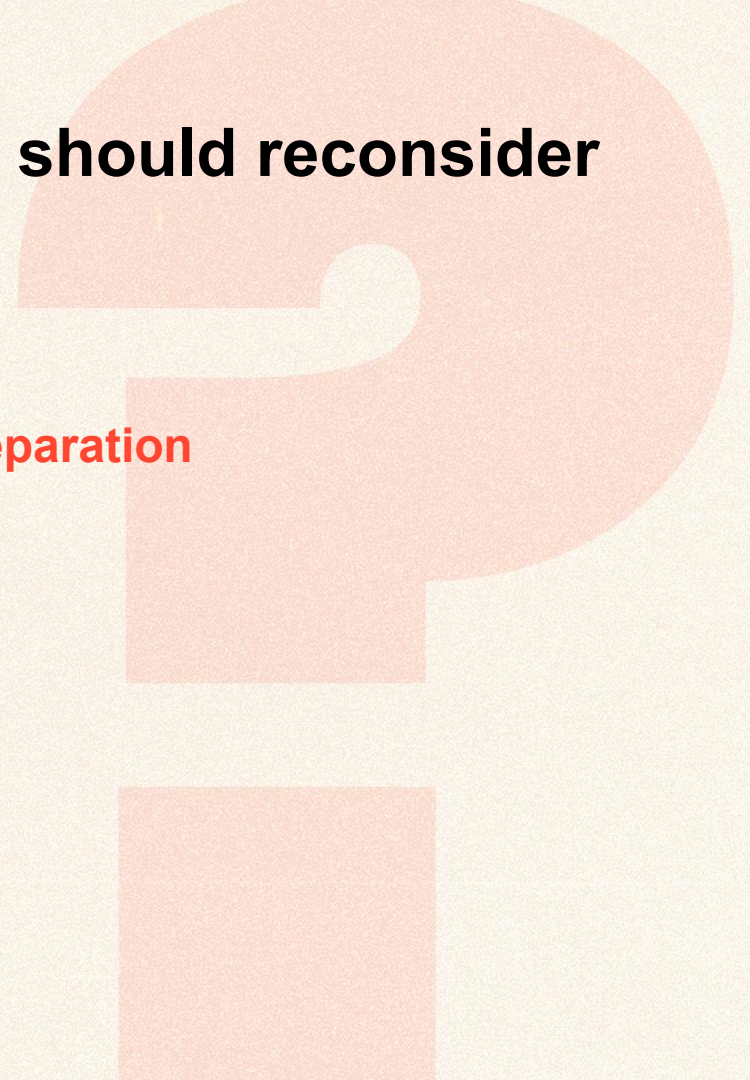


# Cohabitation

- **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.

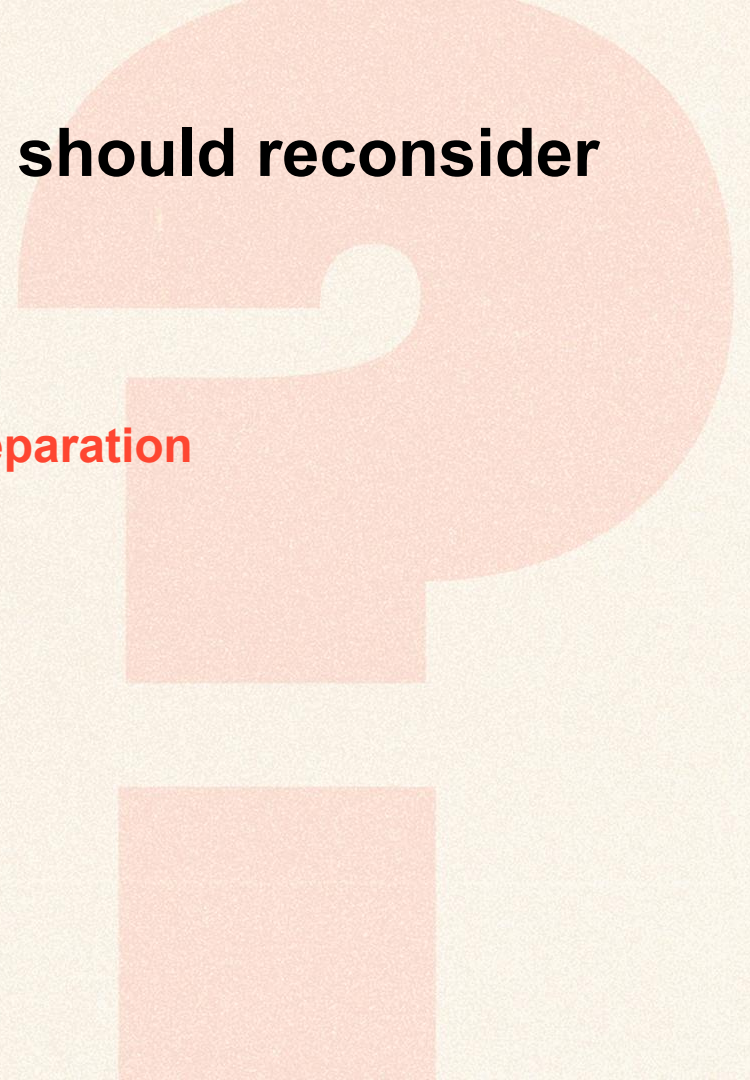
1. It Increases **Sexual** Temptation
2. You are at Higher Risk of **Divorce** and **Separation**



**"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**

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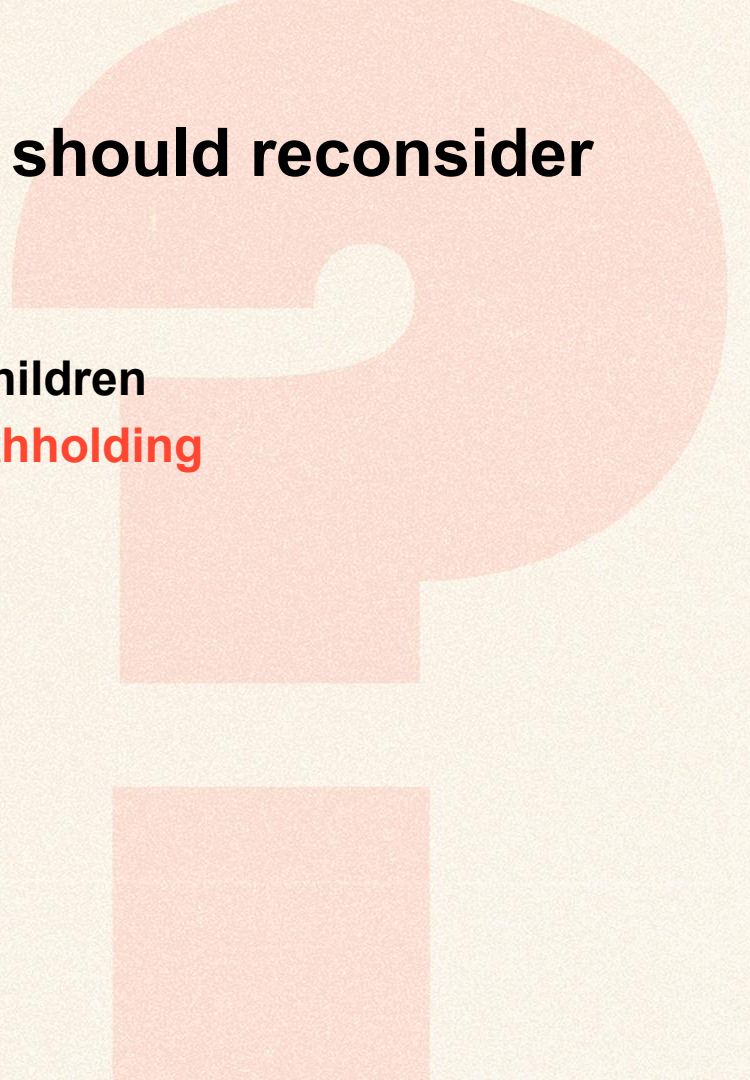
1. It Increases **Sexual** Temptation
2. You are at Higher Risk of **Divorce** and **Separation**
3. You Have Differing **Expectations**





## 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. Cohabiting couples are likely to have one foot out the door, through the relationship. The members of a cohabiting 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**

# Dating an Unbeliever

A young man with a red beanie and white t-shirt is speaking in a recording studio. The background is dark with vertical wood paneling and two overhead lights. A keyboard is visible in the lower right background.

Do not be unequally yoked  
with unbelievers. For what  
partnership has righteousness  
with lawlessness? Or what  
fellowship has light  
with darkness?  
2 Corinthians 6:14



# 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



# 3 Biblical Principles about Sex Outside of Marriage

1. It **dishonors** God and your body



**“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

“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

# 3 Biblical Principles about Sex Outside of Marriage

1. It **dishonors** God and your body
2. It's the **wrong** outlet for sexual desire



“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

# 3 Biblical Principles about Sex Outside of Marriage

1. It **dishonors** God and your body
2. It's the **wrong** outlet for sexual desire
3. It 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**
3. You Need a season of **healing** to work through your own struggles
4. It **dishonors** marriage.

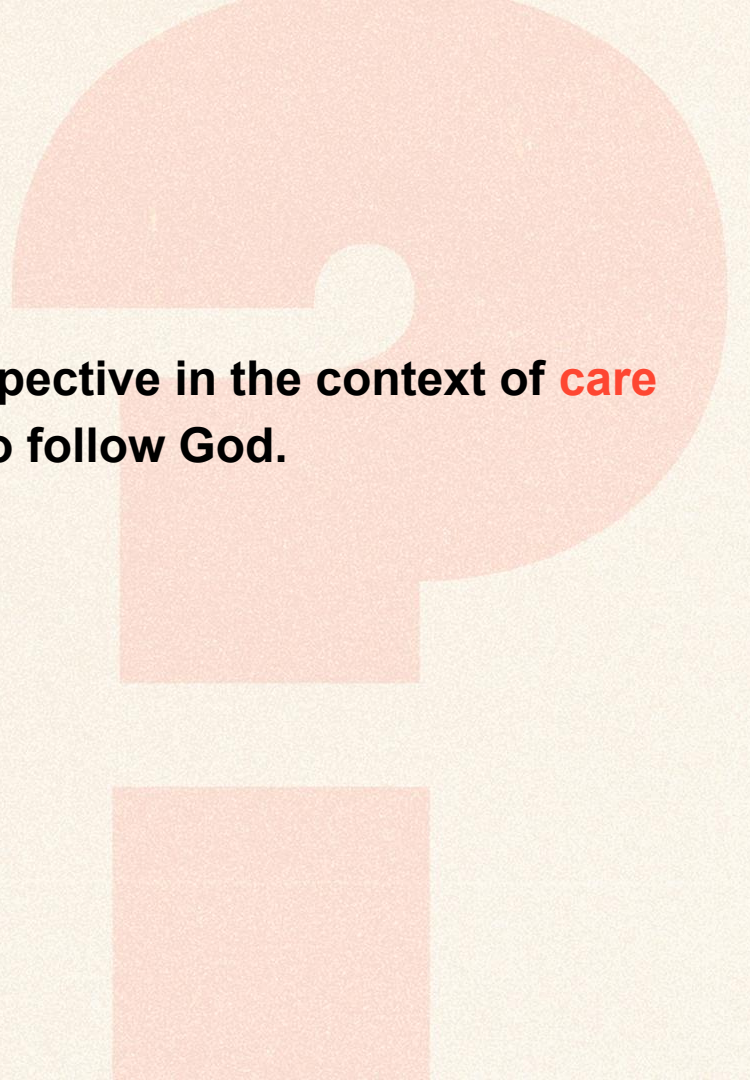
**“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” - Hebrews 13:4**



# 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.



# 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



# Questions

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