

How To Address Unhealthy Dating Relationships

4 Unhealthy Dating Decisions

- Cohabitation - Living together before marriage
- Sex Outside of Marriage
- Dating an Unbeliever
- Dating while Divorcing

Cohabitation

6 reasons why those who are 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.
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

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. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20, (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
2. It's the wrong outlet for sexual desire (1 Corinthians 7:8-9)
3. It destroys trust and increases insecurity. (1 Corinthians 6, Ephesians 5)

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.

Approach

Our Goal: 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:
 - Observation
 - Interpretation
 - Clarification
5. Offer to be part of the solution.
6. Follow Up.
7. Celebrate progress.
8. Pray.