

## Dating in the disciple's life

1. So why don't we use the word "dating" among ourselves?  
Because nowadays this is a word that refers to a relationship between two young people that just want to "have fun". It's a relationship without any future commitment. Generally, dating couples practice sexual impurity. This is not a relationship that corresponds to God's standards.  
  
If two disciples wish, they can use this word, but they will have to explain every time that their relationship is a serious one leading up to marriage, and that they do not practice any type of sexual impurity.
2. What is true dating?  
It is a relationship between a young man and a young woman who are planning to marry. It is a special friendship. They know they love each other and want to marry. It is something pleasant and edifies both of them.
3. So does God permit a disciple to date?  
Of course, as long as they are mature enough to make this commitment. In this relationship there should be two fundamental characteristics: COMMITMENT AND PURITY.
4. What does God think about these two things?  
\*COMMITMENT: Matthew 5:7 "Let your yes be yes; your no be no." A disciple's word must be trustworthy. You cannot declare to someone that she is the woman of your life and after a few months, she's not anymore. Your word is at stake. Proverbs 26:18-19; Romans 1:31. \*PURITY: 1:Thess 4:3-7 "This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality, that in this way, no one offends or defrauds his brother or sister, because the Lord, against all these things is the avenger." A disciple of Jesus does not practice impurity. God does not permit any practice or thought involving sex among singles.
5. But why can't I date someone I like without making a commitment to marry?  
If you're not planning to marry a person, you should have a good friendship. Be friends, good friends. While you are still not sure what your plans are, wait until your feelings mature. Don't be in a hurry. Don't be careless. Don't hurt that person. During this time, you can be very good friends, without any commitment. Spend a lot of time together. Who knows if this feeling will not transform into something more solid? Who says that you can't be together if you're not boyfriend and girlfriend? Be friends.

6. Is it wrong to fall in love?

No! Love is a feeling, an emotion. To be in love is to like someone very much. Love is what makes your heart beat faster when you see a certain person. It makes you always want to be with him/her, think about him/her all the time, admire him/her, finally wanting him/her at your side forever. There's nothing wrong with liking someone, but you must put this feeling under God's will. Love can be something good that pleases God, or it can be something carnal and sinful. If you are in love with someone, seek help to direct this feeling appropriately.

7. Can I fall in love with anyone?

Yes. We can't prohibit anyone from liking another person. Everyone falls in love. It's normal to fall in love more than once in your life. But not all loves lead to marriages. The majority of passions, after some time, pass away. Almost everyone has fallen in love more than once, and it's perfectly normal. It is abnormal for you to be dominated by your passion. It is wrong for you to go about having a relationship with everyone you fall in love with.

8. Why can't I declare to someone that I like him/her?

A simple declaration of love manifests your intentions and may spark the interest of the other person. You can only declare your love if you are going to honor your word. To say, "I love you" makes a declaration that commits and speaks of intentions to marry. You do not have the right to make careless statements that end up hurting or misleading another person, just because you like to say it and another person likes to hear it. When we are young we fall in love frequently. I SHOULD ONLY DECLARE MYSELF AFTER HAVING CLEAR CERTAINTY OF GOD'S WILL AND HAVE REAL INTENTIONS TO MARRY. Before this, I can maintain a good, enjoyable friendship.

9. Is it expressly forbidden for a person to be aware that I am observing him/her?

No, but it should be made clear to that person that you are not sure of what you feel and it's not defined enough to make a commitment. Are the famous "come-ons" permissible then? No, declarations of love, flirting, and casual flings are not correct if you are not sure that you want to commit to that person.

10. But if I have a need for affection, why can't I date with purity without a commitment to marry?

It's selfish to involve another person just to satisfy yourself and then dispose of them. You would be using that person. It would cause great harm to a person to date her just to satisfy your needs and have fun, without thinking of the consequences, even if the dating were to be pure.

11. But what if I don't declare myself and another arrives ahead of me and leaves me behind?

First, you should remember that the right husband and wife come from the Lord (Prov 19:14). You shouldn't be anxious. If a man or woman that you like commits to another person, surely they were not the husband or wife that the Lord had prepared for you. Then see that the desire to guarantee that person for you, without having clear intentions, is a selfish attitude. After giving up on that person, you would hurt them and even take away from them another opportunity of another relationship during that time.

12. So, what should I do if I'm in love with someone?

You should be clear that this is not just an infatuation, because an infatuation is fleeting. Look for this feeling to develop into a true love and an intention to marry this person. Look for help. Get advice from your discipler. While your feelings mature and are confirmed, you should develop a good friendship with that person. You can go out, get to know each other, know each other's families. You should observe the qualities of that person well. BUT, UNTIL YOU ARE SURE OF WHAT YOU FEEL, DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD COMMIT YOURSELF. Seek to win his/her heart through friendship. Only the one who can be won over by a solid friendship is worthy of your love.

13. And what about after, when the feeling matures and I'm sure about that person?

Now is the time to invest everything. Go out and win his/her heart.

14. How can I invest everything?

Invest everything to win their heart. The only one who can invest everything is the one whose feelings, having matured, will be able to assume the commitment of marriage. From this point you can begin to declare yourself because your declarations are true and you can honor them with your word.

Get closer. Men, start "courting" the woman, take care of her, demonstrate an interest in her, send cards, compliment her, declare how much you like to be with her, write her poetry, use your imagination to win her heart. And ladies, this is not just a privilege of the guys. Use your artillery and creativity to win him over. It's important to point out that it is not permissible, and not even necessary, to use sensuality for this purpose.

So when you feel the "lucky one" is softened up, apply the final blow. But don't be too hasty; don't make a hurried decision.

15. What's the final blow like?

The moment has arrived! Prepare that dinner, the card, the present, candle light (not too dark!), soft music, and then....pop the question. Do you know you have all

the qualities I would like for... then the answer. If this feeling is mutual, THEN THIS DECLARATION IS ALREADY A COMMITMENT BETWEEN THE TWO.

16. What is a commitment?

It is a simple declaration that two people make to each other that they love each other, confirming their real intentions to marry each other. THIS IS THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT IN ALL DATING. When two people commit to each other on this level, this fact should be communicated to the church, so that everyone knows and the other candidates can "cool their hearts".

17. What do I do if I've observed the other person, and I'm sure, but I don't know if the person likes me?

You will have to take a certain risk. You have to be mature enough to deal with a "strike-out". But if the man or woman is worthy, the risk is worth it. A "strike-out" doesn't belittle anyone. Be brave. Attempt the conquest.

18. What do I do if the feeling isn't mutual?

You are not obligated to give up, as long as that person isn't committed to anyone. You can still win them over, but be careful! You must be ready to "strike-out" without getting discouraged or shaking your faith.

19. Is there an age limit to commit?

No. Age is not a complete evaluation of maturity. A young person of eighteen could be just as mature as a twenty-five year old. But there is a minimum of maturity demanded for someone to assume a commitment like this. After all, you are choosing the person with whom you will spend the rest of your life.

20. Who can commit, then?

All who have the necessary maturity level. Each one should be evaluated by the following criteria: commitment to God, submission to authorities, meekness, responsibility, having a solid foundation, not being involved in any sinful practices, having a good relationship with parents, etc.

21. What are the qualities that I should observe in the person to whom I wish to commit?

The man should observe that the woman is meek, submissive, ready to help, cheerful, always grateful to God, not a complainer, hardworking, responsible, has a good relationship with parents, organized, clean, discreet and feminine.

The woman should observe that the man is loving, not selfish, not easily angered, a decision maker, has initiative, hard working, responsible, faithful, follows through, firm and secure, courageous, full of faith to confront difficulties, serving God with fervor.

The qualities of one also serve for the other. Yes, the door is narrow, but all those who passed through the door to the kingdom can pass through this door.

22. What do I do if I perceive that someone likes me but I'm not interested?

You should make it clear from the beginning your lack of interest. Don't deceive the other person. Don't play with another's feelings. Don't lead them on just to gratify your ego. Also, you shouldn't completely cut off all ties with that person. Don't hurt and ignore. Treat all honorably, particularly those that like you. You can be friends, as long as you make it clear that you don't feel anything more for that person.

23. Is it wrong to observe someone if I know that they are being observed already by someone else?

No, as long as they are not committed. You should be mature and prepared to "lose the dispute" without getting upset or discouraged.

24. Can I call the person I am to marry girlfriend/boyfriend?

You can. However, it's not the best expression. As we already said, nowadays, this word is used to refer to an irresponsible, careless, and impure relationship. It's better to use the word "fiancé".

25. What should happen in the relationship between two committed people?

Above all, the two committed people are brother and sister. This relationship should be the most pleasant joint and ligament of all. There should be mutual edification and grace. It should contribute to the growth of both partners. There should be strong friendship, affection, and mutual service. What should you do together? Have profound, sincere conversations, pray, and build each other up, help shape each others' character, prepare for marriage, participate in leisure activities, spend time with relatives, etc.

26. What physical contact can committed singles have?

Until they marry the committed individuals are still single. They can not practice any caresses that stimulate sensuality. You should remember that she is your sister and he is your brother. So you should only treat them in the same way you would treat your father, mother, brother, and sister. Be careful not to defraud each other; that is, don't rob each other's honor and holiness.

27. What parts of the body can I touch?

Rules cannot be established, but God sees your heart. Therefore, don't permit your fiancé to do anything to you that excites sensuality. If he or she does something that causes this, ask him/her to stop. If he/she insists, run away! Don't allow yourself to be defrauded. If you resist, the other person can get upset for a moment, but he/she will trust that you are a person faithful to God. If you give in, this will bring bitter consequences and distrust to your relationship.

Although there are no rules, no one could say that you can caress legs and intimate body parts without being overly inflamed with sensuality and sin. Be sincere with yourselves, with God and your brothers and sisters.

28. Can we kiss on the mouth?

There are two types of mouth kisses. One involves great sensuality and another involves just a small touch of the lips. The first type is clearly sensual and not permissible for singles. The second type, just on the lips, is also highly risky. The mouth is a very sensitive place. It could be that one time there is not sensuality, but other times there could be. Would you pull the trigger of a revolver with a few bullets held to your head? For this, we do not recommend even a kiss on the lips.

29. What about when we are talking alone?

We advise singles not to talk alone in closed in or private places. They should seek to be in public places or to be accompanied. If the man is going to bring the woman home, they should not stay alone talking outside the house. They should go in and stay with the family or roommates. If everyone is asleep, the man should go home. **YOU SHOULD BE HOLY AND CAUTIOUS!**

30. If we already have a wedding date set, are a few intimate caresses wrong?

Of course it's sinful. Until the wedding you are single. Any practice or thought involving sensuality is sinful.

31. What do I do if after committing, I realize that I made the wrong choice for marriage?

Don't make a hasty decision. You can be just emotionally confused. Seek your discipler's advice. If you come to the conclusion that you shouldn't marry, you can undo your commitment. Better this happen now, than a failed marriage. This decision should be communicated to the whole church, so that they know the two are no longer committed and are free for a new relationship. If the commitment was undone because one of the two people took the commitment lightly, the leaders of that person should correct him/her accordingly.