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your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and next to your resolution to crow Him the Lord of your life, comes the vital question of whom you shall marry. A wrong choice here can tragically wreck your entire life. On the other hand, the right choice here can promise that your future years will be a bit of heaven on earth. There is nothing more normal and more natural than for young people to be attracted to each other. Boys and girls have a Godgiven built-in attraction for one another. Girls, for example, should never be ashamed of their desire for a husband and a home and children. Marriage is a natural and God-blessed experience, and therefore we want to think through a program of courtship that will bring about a happy marriage... 1. The Character of Courtship

When we talk about courtship, we refer to that period during which a young man or a young woman finds a companion for life. Courtship affords two young people an opportunity to study at close range the attitudes and conduct and true worth of their friends. It would certainly be foolish for people suddenly to marry, without ever having paid any attention to each other, or without being mutually attracted and happy together. Marriage is Godordained; it is sacred; it is a lifetime proposition, and the Bible encourages young people to consider marriage. We read in Proverbs 18:22, "Who findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord. Surely God knows a few things about courtship, for it was God who established the institution of marriage, and it was God who joined the first man and the first woman in holy wedlock. And so we look into His Book for guidance and instruction concerning courtship practices. 2. The Commencement of Courtship

When we speak of commencement, we speak of a beginning. The high school commencement at the end of the school year is not called commencement because it marks the end of a grammar school training, but because it marks the beginning of new responsibilities in life. And so when we speak of the commencement of courtship, we want to speak of a few matters that need to be considered at the beginning of courtship. First, be a consecrated child of God; not just a church member, but a consecrated Christian. And by Christian we mean not merely one who attends church services, or one who treats his neighbors right, but one who has opened the door of his heart to the crucified Christ. A Christian is one who has come to know the miracle of regeneration and has become a new creation in Jesus Christ. Such a person has new aims and new ambitions in life. He knows that his body belongs to Jesus Christ. Second, pray that God will lead you to the right person for your companion through life. The Bible teaches Gods people to pray about life's affairs. He is commanded to pray for our daily bread and for our physical needs. Surely this second greatest step in life (selecting a life companion) should always be accompanied by much praying and waiting before God. Amazing as it may seem, God is not so busy managing the affairs of this vast universe that He has no time to be concerned about whom you shall marry. He wants for you the very best in life. He will guide your choice and insure your happiness if you will only ask Him. 3. The Choice of Courtship

The Bible is crystal clear in teaching that believers are never to even consider marriage with unbelievers under any circumstances. From the very beginning, the God-fearing family of Seth was forbidden to intermix by marriage with the irreligious family of Cain. When God established the law in Israel, care was taken to forbid intermarriage with the heathen nations about them (Deuteronomy 7:3). The New Testament very clearly commands the same thing (2 Corinthians 6:14). "Who shall marry?" He wants for you the very best in life. He will guide your choice and insure your happiness if you will only ask Him. 3. The Choice of Courtship

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marriage until their thirties and beyond. This exaltation of education and worldly position is turning the passions of youth away from marriage, and too often giving young people in their twenties a pass on sexual sin in order to finish college and other graduate degrees. As a culture, we too often tell young people that marriage and children should be avoided as a drag and hindrance toward achieving more important career goals. I am heartbroken over how often I hear of young people delaying marriage indefinitely for the purpose of completing a degree. They have been falsely convinced that higher education and marriage are incompatible. This unnecessary delay almost always involves some form of sexual sineither physical sexuality or pornography. Both of these sins will deeply trouble a later marriage. Also, once the degree is granted, the pursuit of the actual career for which the degree was earned can become just as all-consuming as the degree itselfcontinuing to delay marriage. Then the whole mess perpetuates itself, driven by the lust for wealth and worldly position. A Call to Dedication for the Purpose of Preparation Despite the increasing emphasis upon worldly success to the exclusion of marriage, and counter to the increasing immorality of our age, great numbers of young people still marry. There is an innate longing within the soul for companionship that is very difficult to stamp out. Young singles who still long for marriage should not lose heart. If you do not know Christ as your Savior, you must begin there. Christ stands ready to redeem and minister to you. You cannot walk in the ways of the Lord without calling upon Christ to lead you. I encourage you to first repent of your sins and accept the salvation of God. You will never be able to love as a spouse or parent as you should if you do not first have Gods love in your heart. Second, get serious about following Christ and walking in all his ways. Ask God to help you make up for lost years. Ask God to rapidly grow the character qualities that are lacking in your life. Start seriously reading and studying the Bible. Take seriously what it means to live a holy life, separated from the ways of the world. Learn to walk in purity at all levels of your thoughts and life. Run in the way of Gods commands and he will enlarge your heart (Psalm 119:32). After making the first step of becoming a Christian you must prepare for marriage before becoming engaged or marrying. If you are currently sexually involved with someone, or involved in a romantic relationship with someone who is not a Christian, you must stop and break off the relationship (2 Corinthians 6:14-16). There must be sufficient progress in both your lives, so that you can rightly approach marriage. If you will prepare and follow the design set forward by God, you will quickly find yourselves walking a path of blessing that will lead to marriage in Gods time. Its my desire for both parents and young singles to read the following chapters. Both must find their appropriate place in Gods plan. Courtship works best as a four-part harmony including the young man, the young woman, the young womans parents, and the young mans parents. Parents must exert their God-given authority with wisdom and love. Young adults must come under the authority of their parents with respect and patience. Parents must prepare and train their children and teens for marriage, and children must accept this instruction and apply themselves to wisdom. It is a mentoring process that, if carried out with wisdom, perpetuates a continuous family cycle. Table of Contents Brandon Taylor and Sheretta Noel By Andrea Jordan Updated October 27, 2020 By now, most of us are familiar with Christian courtships, thanks to the Duggars (from TLCs 19 Kids and Counting) and their unique way of handling romantic relationshipsno kissing, no holding hands and no dates without a chaperone, to name a few. Christian courtships are conservative Christian alternatives to dating with specific rules that allow couples to put God first in their relationship from the start. For some the rules might seem quite extreme. I get that. While I completely respected their way of life, at first I didnt believe this was the lifestyle for me. Little did I know, God would soon change my heart. After months and months of soul searching and growing in my spiritual walk, I made a big decisionmy next relationship will be a Christian courtship. A relationship where Jesus Christ is at the center and my future beau and I share a true purpose centered on faith. After my revelation, I searched high and low for other couples that had made the same decision looking for inspiration on my journey.I found so many beautiful, young couples that aimed to please God first in their romantic relationships. Among them, were newly engaged vloggers Sheretta Noel and Brandon Taylor. Their YouTube series Worth the Wait taught me how to better shape my idea of Christian courtship and what it looks like when its a success. They allowed God to write their love story and aim to share their love as an inspiration to other women on this journey with me. I sat down with them to talk about how it all began and how far theyve come together. Read on for inspiration.How did you two meet?We met while studying at Cornell University, but it was a very rushed first introduction. Over the next two years, we crossed paths, but exchanged very few words. During Brandons last semester of college we started chatting more frequently and soon simple conversations turned into extensive discussions about our belief in God, family life and goals. These in-depth conversations led Brandon to take interest in moving our friendship to the next level and the rest is Gods story.Define what a Christ-centered relationship means to you?A Christ-centered courtship is when a man and woman prayerfully and purposefully seek to determine if marriage is in Gods plan for them. They are rooted in purpose, spiritual growth and a desire to be with whom God has chosen for you. The couple is not trying each other out but rather courting their brother/sister in Christ to lead to a godly marriage. If the courtship does not lead to marriage, the couple is able to walk away from the relationship without any emotional baggage, having been spiritually edified and respectful of one another as followers of Christ.Why did you decide that a Christ-centered courtship was your best option? We believe that God is the author of romance and deeply cares about the matters of the heart. We learned to trust in His desires before our own and understand He knows us best. We have had our share of painful relationship experiences in the past where Christ was not at the center and we were led by selfish desires. It took time, patience and surrender, but God showed us the hole in our hearts could only be filled by Him alone. What boundaries did you bring into your relationship to help keep it focused on Christ? From the beginning, we were both committed to saving all sexual activities for marriage. (Including kissing.) In addition, we made a commitment to avoid entertaining certain subjects that may cause us to struggle with sexual thoughts. We made our spirituality our lifeline. We committed to sharing our individual walks with each other. This includes having weekly devotions together and daily prayer amongst other things. Also, we learned how to vocalize our emotions rather than physically expressing them. As our spiritual lives grow the intimacy in our relationship heightens.How would those interested in learning more about a Christ-based relationship get started?The first step we recommend is surrendering your love life to Christ. Pray and ask God to take hold of your romantic desires and lead you where He wants you to go. Next, we encourage you to study what the Bible has to say about relationships, marriage, marital roles and intimacy to understand what godly love looks like. This is the blueprint of what a Christ-centered relationship should look like.For more advice from Brandon and Sheretta and to learn more about their love story, visit their YouTube channel, Worth the Wait.

Christian courtship. Steps in christian courtship. How to start a christian courtship. Stages of christian courtship.