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Next to your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and next to your resolution to crown 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
perhaps nothing more normal and more natural than for young people of the opposite sex to be attracted to each other. Boys and girls have a Godgiven builtin attraction for each other. Boys and girls have a Godgiven builtin attraction for each other. Boys and girls have a Godgiven builtin attraction for each other.
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 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 a lifetime proposition, and the Bible encourages young people to consider marriage. We read in Proverbs 18:22,
Whose 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 joined the first man and the fi
practices. 2. The Commencement of CourtshipWhen we speak of a beginning. The high school commencement at the end of the 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 Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member, but a consecrated child of Godnot just a church member is a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church member in the child of Godnot just a church me
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. Second, pray that God will lead you to the right person for your companion through life.
The Bible teaches Gods people to pray about lifes affairs. We are 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 CourtshipThe 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 heathen nations about them (Deuteronomy 7:3). The New Testament very clearly commands the same thing (2 Corinthians 6:14).
Those who seek your hand in marriage may be generous, rich, well-trained, handsome, and industriousbut unless they are children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, you must not make them husbands and wives. Failure to observe this basic law of the Scriptures has caused shipwreck in thousands upon thousands of homes. When a Christian marries a
nonChristian, he transgresses the law of God, and remember that the way of the transgressor is hard. How will your children be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? Youll teach them one thing, and
their daddy will teach them the opposite. What are you going to do when you feel this opposition day after day? When you feel this opposition day after day.
encourages them to do the opposite. The Bible says, How can two walk together except they be agreed? And then too, it is never sound judgment to choose a mate merely because of a pretty face, or because of captivating brown eyes. The facial features of some girls might contradict all the laws of a beauty contest, and yet
many of those same girls have the graces of soul and spirit that will keep them attractive throughout their entire span of life. When a mans love for his wife is based merely on her youth and charm and beauty, that love doesnt last long because those gualities often soon fade away. There are a lot of things in life far worse than being single, and one of
the things which is worse than not finding a mate is to marry the wrong person. Never enter into the marriage relationship lightly. Always look for characteristics such as cheerfulness, patience, industry, and kindnessqualities that abide the test of time.4. The Confusions of CourtshipThere are many dangers and pitfalls for young people during the
years of courtship. The devil stands ready to lead you into sin and to spoil the happiness of your life. God has made the bodies of both boys and girls are certain natural sex functions. These are necessary for the reproduction of the human race, but sex experience is
right only within the bounds of true and honorable marriage. The Bible says, Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge (Hebrews 13:4). Sex indulgence outside the bounds of honorable and true marriage is naked, shameful, wicked sin. The sin of fornication (illicit sex relations among the
unmarried) never occurs between two ordinary decent young people who want to do right, except through the stages of kissing, necking, and petting. Kissing is the first act that payes the way and excites the passions to encourage the next step in the downward plunge that leads eventually to the sin of fornication. Necking (the act of embracing and
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fornication and adultery. And so for the sake of your future, and 
days. It is important to always have something definitely planned for each date. It is when young people have nothing to do that they begin habits that arouse evil desires. It is at such times when they begin kissing and necking and cuddling around in dark rooms and squirming in parked cars, and go far beyond their first intentions and plans. One of
the best safeguards to pure noble courtship is a wellplanned date.a) Attend the services of the church together. Why not agree to read a certain portion of the Bible at the same time each evening during the
week? Theres a special thrill that goes along with knowing that your Prince Charming is doing exactly the same thing you are doing at exactly the same thing you are doing at exactly the same time, even though you may be separated by many miles of space.c) Visit old folks and homes for the aging. It is really encouraging for older people to hear younger persons sing hymns and visit with
them. The time passes more quickly for the older person and the experience will be a real blessing for both of you also.d) Maintain hobbies together. Every young person ought to have a hobby. There is sewing, textile painting, gathering collections of various kinds, photography, woodworking, coin collecting, etc. Share each others interests in these
respective hobbies.e)Enjoy good music together. Not jazz and rock n roll and popular music, but everybody likes to sing hymns around a piano. Perhaps it is oldfashioned, but there is something especially wholesome about singing hymns around a piano.
we did not include activities such as dancing, attending the commercial movies, and frequenting the public bathing beaches. These enterprises are geared to appeal to those who walk after the Spirit of God. When two people stand before God and promise to cherish each other until death separates them, it is not hard to believe
that the angels in heaven hush their songs and grow silent in wonder as they listen to the holy vows, when two hearts and let Jesus come in. Surrender completely to His will for your life. Next to your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your
Saviour, and next to your resolution to crown Him the Lord of your life, comes the vital question of whom you shall marry. A wrong choice here can promise that your future years will be a bit of heaven on earth. There is perhaps nothing more normal and more natural than
for young people of the opposite sex to be attracted to each other. Boys and girls have a Godgiven builtin attraction 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 people an opportunity to study at close range the attitudes and conduct and true worth of their friends. It would certainly be
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Petting (handling erotic parts of the body) is the final step of fornication. Step by step (if you start) you will push back the barriers of what you permit, until it is almost impossible to avoid the final step of fornication. Step by step (if you start) you will push back the barriers of what you permit, until it is almost impossible to avoid the final step of fornication.
passions often take control. Remember that this is as true about girls as it is about boys. It is just as true about good enough to keep from necking and petting), may not be good enough to keep from fornication and adultery. And so for the sake of your Creator, for the
sake of your health, for the sake of your future, and for the sake of your soulmake a pledge early in life never to practice habits that will lead to illicit sex relations. The Comradeship of Courtship days. It is important to always have something definitely planned for
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wonder as they listen to the holy vows, when two hearts and lives are joined in wedlock. Whatever your situation in life, we urge you to open the door of your heart and let Jesus come in. Surrender completely to His will for your life. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix,
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necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. by Rev & Mrs Jack Sin Introduction If you seem to have an interest to know someone of the opposite gender, I have an announcement to make - you are perfectly normal! Do not be surprised or ashamed, but
caution is required here as well. Courtship may be defined as a mutual commitment made between a man and a woman to meet regularly for the purpose of knowing each other better and seeking God's will with the aim of marriage one day if it is His divine will. We should include here that there should be a clear understanding that if the courtship
criteria: One who is mentally, spiritually and emotionally mature Who recognize their gift for marriage (I Cor 7:7) or do not have the gift of celibacy, Who is praying and seeking God's will for marriage And is ready about commitment in a serious relationship. In Singapore, the
average age for marriage is between 27-30 years old. Hence, someone in his/her mid-teens who start dating will have to expect a long courtship of a decade or more, which may not be healthy. Be patient and wait for the seasons for life to naturally develop as God intends them to be. (Psa 27:14) Dangers of Worldly Practices of Dating/Courtship The
worldly practices of dating often have the following elements: Leads to physical intimacy but not necessarily to marital commitment. Often mistakes a physical relationship for love. Often isolates a couple from other vital relationship for love. Often isolates a couple from other vital relationship for love.
the future. Develops a self-centered, feeling-oriented concept of love. Teaches people to break off relationships, creating dissatisfaction within marriage. Promotes lust and immoral habits, opening the door for sin. Creates a false
standard of comparison by which mates may be chosen and then rejected later after marriage. Lacks the protections and guidance afforded by godly principles from the biblical concept of courtship. Devalues the biblical concept of sex and marriage A vital principle in
the Bible is that physical intimacy is a privilege of covenant of love sanctioned by God in marriage as the Bible defines it, brings many
responsibilities with it - a life-long commitment of a marital bond committed to God in the first place. Can courting couples kiss, hug or hold hands? Boundaries for restraint are important and necessary as the commitment in the relationship is not certain yet. Stay out of heavy petting and let things develop progressively with time (e.g. holding hands
is fine). Ask yourself objectively, How long have you been dating and how long will it have to continue? Stay out of things designed by God only for a husband and his wife! The only way to be sure is to sign the marriage certificate and say I do! Until then, wait upon the Lord patiently. If you have given yourself totally to one who is not your spouse, you
have a lifetime to regret and you surely do not want that hanging over your mind for the rest of your life. Here are some practical rules to consider that may be helpful: Make a commitment to each otherbeforethe emotions start rolling. Keep to it. Treat this lady/gentleman the same way you expect someone to treat your spouse! If you are in a room
alone together, keep the door open! Always be in a place where you can be easily interrupted and seen. Never be alone in a room behind closed doors or quiet dark obscure commit to marriage. Only engage the romanceafteryour commitment
You will have the pleasure of learning romance with the one person you love in the Lord whom you will be blessed by it for the rest of your life with him or her! Do not accentuate on the physical but build up each other intellectually and spiritually in the Lord. A Good and Edifying Relationship A good and edifying relationship is one where you love
that person enough to be honest; honest about who you are, honest about what you plan to do and be, and honest about him/her and what he/she does and says. Love includes the important ingredient in relationships, which is open and honest communication that is so vital to a healthy marital relationship one day. Literally, say it
with love and mean it and edify each other. It is important that one develops in this area of honest and godly communication (Eph 4:29). We tend to be shallow in our relationships i.e. comfortable talking about hobbies and the weather, but rarely talking about our struggles, dreams, feelings, spiritual and moral values and beliefs, vulnerabilities and
insecurities. This is unhelpful. Remember to deepen relationships by purposeful and edifying interactions. If one is preparing for marriage and not able to communication is a crucial foundation to every marriage. Open and God honouring communication
(Jas 1:19) is necessary in order to understand what is truly motivating each other when you have differing points of view (Col 4:2). There are two key relationships you should establish with the one you are seriously dating with a view to marry; that of a spiritual mentor and an accountability partner to each other. A mentor is someone who guides,
leads and shares with you along lifes way with Christian principles. He should be someone you respect and who holds similar views and religious convictions as you in vital areas of your life. An accountability partner is a trustworthy friend you are responsible to and will be answerable to all the time. The closer you get to Christ, the closer you get to
each other. Consider this prayerfully. Have a godly companion who will one day influence your children when you are marriage one day but they will also serve you to keep your marriage well established and growing healthily. God is a witness of your marriage and
relationship with your spouse-to-be (Mal 2:14). In the context of courtship, there are two things that we should note; the heart condition and a clear conscience (Acts 24:16). Keeping his/her best interests at heart would affect areas such as saving your emotional purity for him/her, developing your character and preparing resources for a stable
marriage. Having a good and clear conscience before God and man is important for your future as husband and wife. Unless you are already married, you should treat every friend as though they will be someone else's spouse one day. Treat that person as a brother or sister-in-Christ, not defrauding their emotions or their purity but investing in them
interact with godly married couples and observe their Christian marriage lifestyle and family life. 2. Ask good questions, values, aspirations about each other in areas of communication, spiritual convictions, working life, church ministry and
family background. 4. Pray often together for loved ones and the church. Consider going on organized mission trips to grow and serve together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together for loved ones and the church. Consider going on organized mission trips to grow and serve together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together. Share what you have learnt from the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together. Share what you have learnt from the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together in the Lords work. 5. Have regular Bible study together Bible st
other's personal likes, differences and preferences and preferences and preferences and preferences. Be clear about the character and interests of him/her. 7. Serve God as a married couple one day. Learn to complement each other as a ministry team. 8. Equip
yourselves with adequate understanding of Christian courtship & marriage through reading the Bible and other wholesome Christian literature. 9. Be willing to relate and fellowship with others in group setting; bearing in mind that you are to set a positive example as a Christian courtship & marriage through reading the Bible and other wholesome Christian literature. 9. Be willing to relate and fellowship with others in group setting; bearing in mind that you are to set a positive example as a Christian courtship & marriage through reading the Bible and other wholesome Christian literature. 9. Be willing to relate and fellowship with others in group setting; bearing in mind that you are to set a positive example as a Christian courtship & marriage through reading the Bible and other wholesome Christian literature. 9. Be willing to relate and fellowship with others in group setting; bearing in mind that you are to set a positive example as a Christian courtship & marriage through reading the Bible and other wholesome Christian literature. 9. Be willing the set a positive example as a Christian courtship & marriage through reading the Bible and other wholesome Christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a Christian court wholesome Christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a Christian court wholesome christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a Christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a Christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a Christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a Christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a Christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a Christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a Christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a positive example as a christian literature. 9. Be will not be a set a 
towards each other; be determined to keep yourselves pure for marriage (Heb 13:4). 11. Meet the siblings and parents of the other always: A. I Cor 6:19&20 (your bodies is the temple of God) B. Rom 12:1 &2 (be transformed by
your renewed mind, an example to others )C. Jer 17:7&10 (you will reap what you sow) Courtship is a pathway to marriage. It is a set of biblical principles applied to our present day to help guide young singles into marriage. It is a set of biblical principles applied to our present day to help guide young singles into marriage. It is a set of biblical principles applied to our present day to help guide young singles into marriage.
possible harmony and blessing. The goal is for the early years of marriage to be spent in happiness rather than strained conflict. Throughout America many of the old cultural mechanisms that used to usher young people into marriage have broken down. Christian parents and young people need a new set of guidelines, based upon the Bible, to help
young singles move from singleness to marriage in a joyful, pure, and Christ-honoring way. These principles are most applicable to youths transitioning from their twenties the period most natural to prepare for and form marriages. Clearly there are many who will marry outside this window of being young adults. They will have to
evaluate for themselves in their particular situation which of these principles are helpful and applicable. What is Courtship? Courtship? Courtship is distinct from typical dating practices. The current dating scene can be summed up in five basic ways. First, dating encourages physical intimacy before marriage. This includes everything up to, and including, sex.
Young people pair up into dating couples to create opportunity for physical intimacy. Dating is unnecessary for the typical aspects of friendship which form the foundation of courtship and then marriage. Today its well known that youths are become sexually active at younger and younger ages, and are being encouraged to express their sexuality by
parents and mentoring adults. The Centers for Disease Control reports in its most recent Adolescent Fact Sheet that of the 26 million sexually transmitted diseases reported in the most recent year of complete most recent year of complete most recent year.
statistics) that one out of every four sexually active adolescent females had a sexually transmitted disease. I state this only to make sure parents and youths understand how seriously off-track American youth culture has gotten. If Christian young people are going to form happy, healthy, wise, and pure marriages, they will have to follow a course of
action that is dramatically different than the world around them. [[NOTE: Do all dating relationships result in sinful physical conduct? No, but Christian youths are called to the highest standard of purity, not the lowest. The Proverbs are clear that if we try to hold the fires of passion too close, we will be burned by them (Proverbs 6:27). One of the
central goals of Christian living is holy purity. Those who remain pure in heart will see the Lord (Matthew 5:8) and will one day be welcomed into His kingdom (those known for lives of sexual sin will not enter heaven Revelation 22:15). All in all, young adults have the same calling as all other Christians, which is to live blameless lives worthy of the
calling which they have received in Christ (Philippians 1:27). May Christian youths rise to the call of holiness and purity, rather than always longing to run after the wicked. Remember Proverbs 23:17, Do not let your heart envy sinners, but live in the fear of the Lord always.]] Second, dating does not have marriage as its stated end. Generally dating
couples find themselves in an unbiblical relational twilight zone. The two arent single anymore, but they do not (1 Corinthians 7:1-2). Dating relationships among young adults often give the illusion that the pair is
moving toward some good end, when they usually are only rapidly moving down the dead-end road of sexual temptation. If a couple is of age, prepared, and are seeking marriage, then they usually are not dating but courting in a basic way. Another popular step beyond dating that many young adults use to justify a sexual relationship is engagement.
Communities across the country are filled with couples living together, even having children together, who are engaged and planning to eventually get marriage vows made before God and witnesses. In reality, engagement
carries with it no more rights (1 Corinthians 7:3-5), it is merely a more intentional time focused more intensely on preparing for a soon approaching wedding day. Third, a mindset of dating creates an expectation that all young singles should be paired up. Teens and college students that remain single during these years can face ridicule or feel that
they are failures for not pairing off in dating relationships. Many parents with an ingrained understanding for the need to date, or ever kissed a girl. At the worst, older teens and college students who do not enter the traditional dating scene can be persecuted for
their virginity and commitment to physical purity. A mindset of dating during the teen years also robs the young person from freely using their energetic youthful years of singleness to serve the Lord. No teen or college student should be hindered from serving Christ in every possible way by a dead-end dating relationship. This means that a young
person in a typical dating relationship should not pass on opportunities for sacrificial missionary and Christian service to maintain a premature dating relationship. Once a person marries, the opportunity to spend a summer abroad in sacrificial mission service is no longer be possible. Those who fill their single years with service to Christ, will find
their love of God greatly increased and two things will happen. First, they will find themselves gladly obeying the will food concerning physical purity (1 John 5:3). Second, their increased love for God will teach them the true nature of love, later making them a better spouse and parent. As will be discussed later, once a young person has matured
and is prepared for marriage, the situation will change. In this new season of life, the deepening friendship with another godly person will strengthen each individuals godliness. This will become an indicator that they are a good marriage match. But this season comes after a significant degree of maturity. Fourth, the hook up / break up cycle of dating
is a great way to train young hearts in relational discontent. Should anyone really be surprised when young adults who have been dating, sleeping together, and breaking up with lots of people for years, get married and are soon divorced? No surprise here. It would be surprising if these couples remained faithful after being schooled in unfaithfulness
for years. The way of Christ is a way of faithfulness. Fifth, typical dating couples do not heed the wisdom of the Proverbs which calls for the heart to be guarded. Proverb 4:23 says that the heart should be guarded with all diligence. This means that passions should be carefully revealed and only in the proper setting. Young people must especially hear
this wisdom, for often they are too quick to give away their hearts and speak words of love that are premature. When dating is the typical pattern of a young person after another that they are loved, only to be dumped for the
next love, this important and precious word loses its powerful meaning. Through this common but needless cycle, hearts become hardened toward the reality of true Christian love. When a guy paints grand visions of a future together only to walk out unexpectedly, abandonment deeply scares the heart. Many people have been relationally hurt so
many times that they become jaded and hopeless as early as their late twenties. Today an expectation of failure seems to pervade most relationships, even marriages. But the Christian is to be one filled with hope for the future! Those who are wise and guard their hearts, and who place their hope in Christ, will have a greater capacity to show true
love when the right time comes. In summary, modern dating does not have marriage in mind as the intended end goal. Young dating can rob teens of potential years of service to Christ in singleness. The dating and dumping process
develops a mindset of discontent and distrust rather than the virtues of faithfulness and hope. Finally, dating fails to emotionally quard the heart. COURTSHIP Courtship is God-centered rather than self-seeking. Courtship revolves around a mindset of
purity, service, and marriage. Parents who raise their children with a mindset of courtship involves young people growing in godliness under the discipleship of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their youth to serve the Lord rather than rebel against Him. This is a steppe against Him. This is a steppe growing in godliness under the discipleship of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of their parents and seeking to use the strength of the strength o
of faith by all involved. It is a choice to live counter to the strong current of rebellion and sexual sin that dominates our time. But it must be a choice entered into with gladness and hope firmly set upon Christ our hope. First, courtship recognizes that marriage is a norm, a basic and biblically expected relationship among adults. A mindset of marriage is a norm, a basic and biblically expected relationship among adults.
takes seriously Gods requirement that all people live before Him in sexual purity (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). A courtship mindset does not treat marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits, but views marriage as an elective relationship that may or may not carry positive benefits.
rather than dating, raise their children with the assumption that when they reach adulthood they will marry. Therefore, part of the parents role is to equip their young person to assume the role he or she will eventually take on in marriage. There should be a direction and intentionality to the later teen years, as a time when training concerning biblical
manhood and womanhood coalesces around the purpose of marriage. The later teen years are in part so difficult to navigate because it is a time when older children become young adults, and each teen must decide what kind of an adult they will be. One of the most important decisions for every teen will be whether they will personally resolve to live
lives of self-controlled purity. However, the desire for purity must rise from within the heart of each young adult, because of their personal love for Christ and desire to serve Him. Stemming from a desire to honor God with a pure life and to save oneself in purity for a future spouse, physical sexual purity becomes a serious matter within courtship.
This is why inappropriate relationships that may lead to physical intimacy before marriage are to be intentionally avoided since they only hold the potential for harm. However, there is a significant difference between courtship and an unrealistic rejection of sexuality. Often teenagers are urged to commit themselves to remain pure in their sexuality
until marriage, but they are not given a pathway to enter marriageonly the command to remain celibate. This is an unrealistic situation that has proven to ultimately fail. The sexuality ingrained into humanity by God is not meant to be indefinitely suppressed, but rightly expressed within a healthy marriage. Courtship is a call to continual purity,
mate. Courtship is not a matter of hunting for someone to marry or pining away in solitude waiting for love to find you. God does not work this way. Gods will for each of our lives unfolds as we pursue His will at the time. As young people actively serve the Lord in their churches, their local communities, abroad, and in every other way they may be led
they are also interacting along the way with other godly young people and relationships are formedmany of which result in marriage. I will discuss our story more in depth later, but this is how Maria and I met. During high school we both felt led to serve the Lord as summer missionaries with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). It was at the North
was working in Marias heart, and thankfully we were both obedient! We didnt serve with CEF having marriage in mind, but God honored our service and had a greater plan in mind! Third, courtship also works to guard the heart from premature
relationships, and by directing single years toward serving Christ, courtship trends toward the heart remains unbroken and uncorrupted, so that it can be given away in fullness and without regret on the wedding day. The opposite of this is found among young singles that are continually
pairing off, becoming intimate with each other, and breaking up in a constant downward cycle. The more of your wedding day ever comes. The final distinguishing element of courtship is that of parental authority. Yes, I did say authority. The
authority of parents over their children has been greatly diminished, to where many parents are not even comfortable exerting their authority over young childrenmuch less teenagers. For many, authority in general is seen as a negative concept, and the best parent is understood to be one who can nurture without authority. However, the Bible
 assigns to parents a position of authority because they will need it to effectively shape and discipline the character of their children. Parental authority must be recognized by young people as a blessing, and a part of Gods good design and structure. There are two general commands given in the Bible concerning
20:12 children are commanded to honor your father and your mother. This general command forbids rebellion against proper parental authority and has no age limit. Second, there is the age limit. Second, there is the age limit. Second, there is the age limit authority and has no age limit. Second, there is the age limit authority and has no age limit.
from God for the good of the child. A child needs the authority of loving and godly parents to teach them right from wrong, and to discipline their talents and energies for good. An older child also needs a parent to help them make very significant decisions that will have lifely good of the child. A child needs the authority of loving and godly parents to teach them right from wrong, and to discipline their talents and energies for good. An older child also needs a parent to help them make very significant decisions that will have lifely good of the child. A child needs the authority of loving and godly parents to teach them right from wrong, and to discipline their talents and energies for good. An older child also needs a parent to help them make very significant decisions that will have lifely good of the child.
under the proper authority of a godly parent as a child will have an easier time accepting the authority to bless or withhold blessing from a potential courtship. The last act of authority by a father toward his child is giving
his permission for marriage. Once marriage takes place a new household has been established with its own structure of authority. This is opposite of the typical scenario where a young man and a young woman decide to marry and come home to announce to their parents what they have decided to downether anyone approves of it or not. The godly
young person must recognize their continued place under the authority of parents, especially the father of the young man and the father of the young woman) should be considered an act of rebellion, which God will not bless. This is usually the most controversial aspect of courtship, but it
is an important aspect of Gods design. As will be outlined in detail later, courtship begins with a young man seeking the permission of the girls father to court her. In a courtship the young womans father is
the gatekeeper for the relationship. This is for the purpose of protecting his daughter from predatory men and from foolish decisions that she may not foresee because of a lack of experience or perspective. If the courtship progresses in love and compatibility, then the young man must return to the father to ask for the young womans hand in marriage
before asking her. If her father agrees, then he may ask her. If she agrees then they may marry. This is courtship in a nutshell. Some of you might close the book right now, but I would ask you to consider what advantages this progression has? This progression is the best possible way to get all the significant information about two people and their
families out in the open before they are married. It nearly eliminates negative surprises and cultivates strength of character and family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his household and the spiritual leader of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his household and the spiritual leader of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his household and the spiritual leader of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his household and the spiritual leader of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his family bonding. Scripture mandates that the husband must be the head of his family bonding.
because of this that the young man initiate the courtship relationship. This means that he is the one who formally initiates movement toward marriage when it becomes clear that the girl he is interested in remains under the authority and protection of her father, and he
would do well to express his intentions to her father and seek his permission. This step will reveal two things. First, it will allow the young man to understand what kind of family he is getting involved with. One of the most common
mistakes that young people make in pursuing marriage is to misunderstand that when they marry a person, they are also marrying into that persons family. Its a package deal. If you cant stand his/her family, it is going to cause serious problems later. However, if the young man is approved by the father, and the young man approves of the young
womans family, then a serious step in the right direction has been made. The couple is spending time together with family, with friends, in ministry, but with an eye toward marriage. This relationship should not be allowed by the
father of the young woman, or sought by a young man, until both the young man and th
family) confidence and love can grow quickly. Many young people do not understand their parents may not have approved of a past boyfriend or suitor, that they really do not want them to marry. This is usually not the case. Christian parents want their children to marry, but they want them to
marry a godly and prepared person. They understand the gravity of this step in a way that a young person cannot grasp. Usually, the first person that comes along will not be the right one. The wise parent will express their hope for the happiness of their child, but also ask their child to trust them to hold authority over this hugely important decision.
In courtship parents are not around simply for advice, but for consent and blessing. I understand there are exceptions to this basic norm. The older a person is, the less relevant these ideas of permission become an adult living fully independent, the permission of a parent moves more to the consent of a parent.
However, all the principles still hold. I also understand that parents can be so selfish or ungodly that they act in a truly wrong way, forbidding a good union. However, I have found these circumstances to be the exception, and the rule for meeting and marrying should not be formed by the exception. When is a young adult ready for courtship? Young
Man: Spiritually mature: Growing in godliness and ready to lead a household with godliness, wisdom, and love. Sufficient development of the Spirit. Purity: Self-controlled in aspects of personal purity, including being pornography free. Can support a simple
household without the income of the wife. Positive outlook on fatherhood: Few are really prepared for their first child, but no one should marry who, Does not want children! Finance: Prepared to be a servant: Lives a life of everyday service toward
others (Philippians 2:3,4) Young Woman: Spiritually mature: Growing in godliness, wisdom, and kindness. Sufficient development of the fruits of the Spirit. Purity: Self-controlled in aspects of personal purity, and dresses with Christian modesty. Can manage a household: Can manage a simple home,
prepare meals, and live within a budget. Positive outlook on motherhood: Few are really prepared for their first child, but no one should marry who, Does not want children! Career: Does not have career goals that will inhibit her ability to manage the home and nurture children. Prepared to be a servant: Lives a life of everyday service toward others
(Philippians 2:3,4). This may seem like an overwhelming list, but that is only because the standards of preparedness. These aspects of preparedness a general preparation of spirit, emotion, and finance. Which of
these can be left out and still produce a healthy marriage? What if a young man has it all together, but he cant quit with pornography? He is not ready to marry, because he is unfaithful with his mind. What if a young woman has it all together, but spends money without self-control to keep up with all the latest trends? She is not ready to marry,
because she will wreck the finances of a home. The only aspect of these minimum requirements that can remain outstanding while still allowing a healthy courtship to go forward has to do with the provision of the husband and the ability of the wife to operate a household. These factors are important, but they often come into full strength during the
courtship. For instance, a young man who is on track to achieve trade licensure, etc), and has a strong track record of success up to that point, may not be able to fully support a family at the moment he initiates a courtship, but should not necessarily be turned away for this reason alone. He is working toward the
ability to support a family on a defined timeline that will very soon be reached. Once that future milestone is passed, he will jump from ineligible to eligible almost immediately. I am not advocating that courtship should be delayed if the fulfillment of this requirement is close at hand. This same situation can be true of a young women who is making
strong progress toward home management, and shows every sign that by the point of needing to manage her own home she will be explained more fully in chapters three and four. Young people who do not meet these aspects of preparation should
not allow themselves to enter romantic relationships and their parents should not allow them to enter a courtship. To do so only allows for the cultivation of powerful emotions before they can be given a righteous outlet. Young people must be patient and allow the desire for marriage to press them toward disciplined godliness. Chapter seven will
explain the courtship process step-by-step, but in summary courtship recognizes that young people should be off-limits and high school relationships should be delayed and carefully guarded. It is not feasible that anyone from those age groups
could be prepared spiritually, emotionally, or financially for marriage. Courtship also, calls for strict physical purity between non-married couples, and the emphasis is instead placed on growing a friendship will serve
the couple well in marriage. A courtship relationship can begin only when both young people are at, or nearly arrived at, a position in life where they are ready to marry. Adopting a mindset of marriage Courtship does not begin in ones early twenties. Courtship begins with parents raising their children to love the Lord and with a desire to obey His
will. Courtship begins with parents raising their children to become husbands and wives. This may sound unusual, but children who are ready to live as godly adults in the real world. A major part of this preparation is preparation is preparation is preparation to be godly husbands and
preparing our daughters to be godly wives. It is right to recognize that it will be Gods will for almost all of our sons and daughters to marry, for this is Gods design. This preparation begins with training of character, evangelism of the soul, and prayer to see children and youths come to personal faith in Christ as their Savior. Attempting to direct a
non-Christian child in the pure ways of the Lord will fail. After conversion, the parent enters a discipleship role, training their child up in the ways of the Lord. One aspect of discipleship is preparation for manhood or womanhood. These aspects of preparation are different, as will be explained. Children who are raised to love the Lord and with an
expectation of marriage will more joyfully and seamlessly make the transition from singleness to marriage. Those who have not been raised in these ways will have more struggle. It is also vital that every parent understand that a church ministries
in general, do not exist to replace the ministry of parents, and certainly do not exist to raise children. Parents must ask God for the courage, wisdom, patience, and love necessary to shepherd their children. Far too many parents
have raised up college as the great and often all-consuming end to which they raise their children. The thinking often goes that if a child can excel in high paying job. If they can get a high paying or prestigious job then the parents will think they have succeeded
in raising their child. This type of thinking is not godly and does not place an emphasis on the soul or godliness which must be preeminent for all Christian parents. Since this mindset of parenting does not place an emphasis on the soul or godliness and character building, it turns out young adults that are worldly, self-centered, and not prepared for marriage. Some years
back, my wife and I had the chance to go on a two-week mission trip to China to visit missionary friends of ours. The trip was eye-opening in many ways, but one particular aspect of Chinese culture should stand out to us as a warning. China was still enforcing its one-child policy. This national mandate required that Chinese married couples have only
one child. The enforcement of this policy over decades had led to many serious cultural imbalances, one of which related to priorities. Most modern Chinese families were hanging their hopes for the future on one child, and that hope often took the form of material advancement. Similar to many western families, modern Chinese parents longed to see
their child succeed and the Chinese definition of success also revolved around wealth and notoriety stemming from job placement. In order to achieve this success countless Chinese parents sacrifice deeply to give their parents have
become known as little emperors. During the childs teenage years of schooling, many families completely revolve around the education is much greater than in America since there are far fewer university openings than students applying. Those students who do not
achieve entrance into universities must enter the laboring classwhich translates into lower wages and less family honor. When success is defined according to earning power and position, work as a laborer is understood as failure. The nature of this situation is further aggravated by the Chinese system for entering a university. At the end of high
school, in early June, Chinese students aspiring to enter the university system must take the National College Entrance Examination. In Chinese it is called the GaoKao, which means most high test. A similar US standardized test would be the SAT or ACT. Students taking the NCEE prepare feverishly because only the highest scoring students will
receive university placement opportunities. The Chinese themselves describe this test process like, 1000 horses converging on a one-horse bridge. Only a few will make it across. Sadly, a great many who do not make the cut leave that test
with success and honor, that failure seems to be the end of hope. This is a radical, yet real, example of what it means to exalt material gain and worldly position as the highest measure of success. Without Christ, these young people and their families have nothing to live for beyond earthly achievement, and when that achievement becomes impossible
despair often overwhelms them. The more that we exalt university education for the purpose of earning power and worldly fame as the end goal of raising children here in America, the closer we drift to the radically dysfunctional situation currently unfolding in China. Neither university education, nor wealth, nor title should stand as the top priorities
of Christian parents or Christian young people. Christian young people. Christian parents must have the priorities of Christian parents must have the priorities
the world. When we raise our children with affections set upon the world we should not be surprised when as adults they love the world. May parents and youth alike remember that, If anyone loves the world we should not be surprised when as adults they love the world. May parents and youth alike remember that, If anyone loves the world we should not be surprised when as adults they love the world.
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preparing for the NCEE. [[Qoute]] www.psychologytoday.com/rss/pto-20080623-000004.html Parents who truly love the Lord will instill in their children a love for the Lord. Young people who love Jesus Christ will not reject His plan for living. An over-emphasis on university education is already causing an entire generation to significantly delay

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 woman, the young woman woman woman including the young man, the young woman woman woman including the young man, the young woman wom 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 must exert their God-given authority with wisdom and love. Young adults must come under the authority of their parents must exert their God-given authority with wisdom and love. Young adults must exert their God-given authority of their parents must exert their god-given authority of their god-given authority of their god-given authority of their god-given authority o 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 relationships no 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 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 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, m 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.