

## **CHAPTER 34**

### ***THE PURPOSE OF DATING***

#### **I. WHY ARE WE HERE?**

- A. Answer: To help the single people of God's Church to understand their role in this modern 20th century
- B. We are not here to harangue you about dating or to force you into marriage.
- C. Our main motive is to help you to understand how you can develop into a more complete and useful human being and to show you how meaningful relationships with the opposite sex play a vital role in attaining this goal.
- D. We will go into such questions as:
  - (1) What are the barriers or frictional points between the sexes.
  - (2) Why aren't the fellows dating more?
  - (3) What is this mystery that surrounds women that men don't understand?
  - (4) That constitutes a good date?
  - (5) How to approach the opposite sex if you become serious about that person.
  - (6) Many, many more.

#### **II. INTRODUCE THE ROSE BUD!**

- A. As you can see, the rose bud is curled up in itself.
- B. Its true beauty and potential is hidden from view.
- C. It takes the warmth of the sun's rays to unlock its petals and cause it to burst open in full splendor.

#### **III. THE ANALOGY HOLDS TRUE IN DATING.**

- A. Of and by ourselves, we are like a rose bud.
- B. We tend to be wrapped in ourselves — our world, our problems, our interests.
- C. Until we reflect concern for others, or allow the warmth of their personality to enter our lives, our inner worth, beauty and potential remain concealed.

#### **IV. DESCRIBE A MODEL YOUNG LEADER AMONG MEN AND WOMEN.**

- A. *A striking young man.*
  - (1) Confident
  - (2) Friend
  - (3) Popular
  - (4) Can meet and relate to people at all walks of life.
  - (5) Refined manners.
  - (6) Is approachable and has unique ability to disarm others and win their respect.
- B. *A charming and gracious young woman.*
  - (1) Reflects a submissive and respectful attitude.
  - (2) Kind and sympathetic.
  - (3) Self-assured and confident.
  - (4) Is held in high esteem for her cultural and moral values.
  - (5) Easily adjusts to any social situations.
  - (6) Shows class, good breeding and humility.
- C. *These two young people realize the intrinsic value in dating.*
  - (1) They realize that a part of their personality would deteriorate if they did not date and lead a balanced social life.
  - (2) They comprehend that there are greater benefits in dating than in just having fun.
  - (3) They see dating as a means to develop qualities in themselves and in others — the whole personality.

**V. THIS FACT IS SUBSTANTIATED BY THE BIBLE.**

- A. Genesis 2:18 — "...it is not good that the man should be alone."
  - (1) This concept embodies more than just marriage.
  - (2) It emphasizes the need for companionship between the sexes.
- B. Jeremiah 3:14 — "...for I am married unto you." Christ married Israel.
  - (1) The association of Christ with Israel was a form of dating, as it were, before He married her.
  - (2) Again this fact of Christ's dealing with Israel points out the need for a mature social relationship between the sexes.
- C. Rev. 19:5-9 — "*Marriage of the Lamb.*"
  - (1) Christ doesn't suddenly marry the Church without getting to know her first.
  - (2) Eph. 5:22-27 (A description of the kind of bride Christ is going to marry.)
- D. These points are made to prove that even Christ, Himself, stresses the value of total self-development which cannot be achieved without association of the sexes.

**VI. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MEN AND WOMEN CEASE TO SOCIALIZE WITH MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX?**

- A. They stow away in their apartments and curl up in their own beds.
- B. They become self-centered and selfish.
- C. They become hardened and desensitized to the needs and feelings of others.
- D. Sometimes grooming and personal appearance suffers.
- E. There is a growing tendency toward self-willed independence.
- F. Gradually their personality begins to erode and the quality of their lives begins to degenerate.
- G. Their ability to encourage and motivate others becomes a lost art.
- H. Bitterness toward the opposite sex sets in.

**VII. CAN WE NOW BEGIN TO SEE AND APPRECIATE THE REAL PURPOSE IN DATING.**

- A. It basically is two fold:
  - (1) To be a source of inspiration and encouragement to each other.
  - (2) To develop your total personality and character.
- B. A person who isolates himself for whatever selfish reasons from social concourse with others is dealing himself untold harm.
- C. We all need each other.
  - (1) Love
  - (2) Respect
  - (3) Building of mutual trust and loyalty.

**VIII. HOW GOD FIGURES IN.**

- A. Rev. 4:11 — "*God created all things for His pleasure.*"
  - (1) We as a Church are God's garden.
  - (2) He wants us all to blossom forth in full beauty and splendor.
  - (3) It is His supreme desire that we develop and grow into our highest potential.
- B. John 17:17-23 — "*Christ proved that we should be made perfect in one....*"
  - (1) This requires effort and self-sacrifice.
  - (2) We must realize this is Christ's great desire.
- C. John 1:3 — "*Our fellowship is with the Father and Christ.*"
  - (1) By having a right relationship with God, He will beget in us a mature love and respect for each other.
  - (2) If we truly love God, we will respond willingly and gratefully to His command.

**IX. RECENT SURVEYS INDICATE THAT ONLY 20% OF SINGLES ARE DATING ON A REGULAR BASIS.**

- A. Why? What's the problem?
- B. What hangups are standing in the way?

**X. WHY FELLOWS DON'T DATE:**

- A. Reasons:
  - (1) Fear of rejection.

- a. Causes.
  - (1) Bruised egos from past experiences.
  - (2) Fellow is afraid he will not measure up.
  - (3) Afraid the girl will discover his weak side and will not like his personality.
  - (4) The idea of being turned down can crush a man's feeling of self-worth and drive him into isolation.
- b. What the girl can do.
  - (1) Try to be understanding when a guy finds himself in an awkward situation.
  - (2) Smooth things over if he commits a *faux pas*.
  - (3) Help him to relax and loosen up by diverting your attention to matters he knows something about or has an interest in.
- (2) Lack of confidence.
  - a. Reasons.
    - (1) He may have come from a broken home where mother dominated or where there was a divorce and the children were given over to mother's care.
    - (2) He may have had little experience in dating, particularly if he came from a Church family of longstanding membership.
    - (3) He finds the dating experience to be painful because he doesn't know how to interpret the girl's feelings, attitudes, moods, etc,
    - (4) His nerves are raw from overwork because he doesn't know how to please a girl or conduct himself on a date.
  - b. How to overcome this problem?
    - (1) Courage.
    - (2) Realize you are failing to develop another side of your life essential to your overall total well-being and development.
- (3) Self-consciousness.
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) Due to a lack of experience and confidence, a fellow, thinks himself unable to carry on an intelligent conversation or to impress the girl the right way.
    - (2) His mind is negative because he has magnified his mistakes more than his successes.
    - (3) Girls in general scare him, because to be with them in an unfamiliar situation compounds his feeling of inferiority and insecurity.
    - (4) The root of self-consciousness predates to childhood or a lack of experience in dealing with people up to the present.
  - b. Solution.
    - (1) Come to grips with yourself and realize you'll make little if any progress until you step out and try.
    - (2) Understand ahead of time you'll flounder and fail.
    - (3) Don't allow a few embarrassing situations weaken your determination.
  - c. Again, the girls can help a lot by understanding the fellows' plight.
    - (1) Do your part to make the date go as well as possible.
    - (2) It is an opportunity for you to exude warmth in trying to open up his rose bud.
    - (3) Look on this as a challenge to help build up someone and to render a service in Christian love.
- (4) Hurt feelings and sour experiences.
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) Many fellows have been hurt — sometimes literally crushed — by the thoughtless actions of the girls.
    - (2) Depending on background and personality, some guys can't easily throw this off.
    - (3) Engaged to be married — she cancelled at the last minute.
    - (4) Developed a romantic feeling for a girl, she had to cool it after discovering his intentions.
    - (5) Some dates went sour because of a conflict in views and the experience turned out to be a verbal wrangle.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) The fellow may have brought some of these pains on himself through lack of wisdom.

- (2) Scrap past hurts and feelings, and turn over a new leaf.
- (3) You're punishing yourself through self-pity and being resentful and unforgiving.
- (5) Initial contact and the fear of being turned down.
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) For a girl to refuse a date can be traumatic and ego — crushing to a man.
    - (2) Yet she may have good reasons — not because she doesn't like you.
    - (3) In college it's easier because there's more opportunity.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) To get started, don't try to date the knock-out sex bomb.
    - (2) Ask the girls who have more things in common with you.
    - (3) Break into dating with someone you can feel compatible with and who will not give you a feeling of condemnation if you fail to meet her standards.
    - (4) With some experience behind you, you can with reasonable confidence venture out.
- (6) Dating is too expensive.
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) To take a girl out to a fancy restaurant can wipe out a week's budget.
    - (2) He feels cheap to take her to a second-rate hamburger joint.
    - (3) High level dating as seen on TV and in the movies is more than his salary can stand.
    - (4) The easy way out — DON'T DATE.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Do more group dating so expenses can be equally shared.
    - (2) Have girls over for Sabbath brunch.
    - (3) Go for drives, to parks, beaches, casual walks, etc.
    - (4) There are dozens of things to do that will cost little if anything — if you will do them.
- (7) Dating is just "so much trouble and a bother."
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) I'll have to go out of my way to pick up a date and bring her to Church and back home.
    - (2) It's much easier to just look after my personal needs — to break my pattern is irksome and unpleasant.
    - (3) Besides, I won't enjoy services because I'll feel uptight and nervous in trying to make a good impression.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Think of the girl's feelings and her need for companionship.
    - (2) She may not have transportation and would appreciate a ride.
    - (3) She may be handicapped in ways that limit her lifestyle.
      - (a) No transportation.
      - (b) Less money.
      - (c) Locked into an apartment.
- (8) Turned off with marriage.
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) The fellow may have become disenchanted with marriage during childhood due to the rotten, hate-filled example of parents,
    - (2) The resent collapse of young marriages in the Church and resultant "I don't want this to happen to me" attitude.
    - (3) The experience of being hurt by someone he loved.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Think beyond marriage.
    - (2) Think of your reason for being — think eternity.
    - (3) Think from a framework of love for all mankind — including the opposite sex.
    - (4) Consider your role in helping others to be happy and their eventual entrance into God's Kingdom.
- (9) Why should I waste my time dating a girl I could never marry?
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) There are a number of girls who may not romantically appeal to you and you could not marry because there's no attraction.

- (2) Why bother dating her, because it, would never work out
- (3) She's a little overweight, self-conscious, has no sex appeal.
- (4) There's no basis for a relationship.
- b. Solutions.
  - (1) Think of her as a human being made in God's image.
  - (2) Out of love and concern, develop a sense of care for her feelings and well-being.
- (10) Lack of real masculinity and aggressive leadership.
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) Men are not what they used to be.
    - (2) Are not the real, rugged personalities they were in past years.
    - (3) In the days of the frontier, men were faced with more challenges and decisions — tended to make them aggressive and decisive.
    - (4) Poor diet figures in:
      - (a) Foods not what they used to be either.
      - (b) Meats lack the natural hormones men need.
      - (c) Fruits and vegetables are harvested too soon and they lack natural minerals and vitamins.
    - (5) Insufficient exercise.
      - (a) Causes listlessness and loss of energy.
      - (b) No real drive and initiative.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Nobody can really help you until you motivate yourself.
    - (2) Suggestion: Isolate yourself from all obstructions and think it through.
    - (3) You can correct this problem — if you really want to.
- (11) If a girl is not physically attractive, some guys won't date her.
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) Some girls are overweight and don't have the best figure.
    - (2) Others have a shy personality.
    - (3) Some fellows have commented they have no interest in dating — unless she is physically appealing.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) They can't help how they look.
    - (2) Your inviting them out such as on a group outing may encourage them to work on their problems.
- (12) Selfishness.
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) Not close enough to God in prayer.
    - (2) Failure to practice God's Word in everyday life and inculcating His laws of love.
    - (3) Thinking only of one's comforts, interests, pleasures.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Take another look into the mirror.
    - (2) As a Christian striving to follow Christ, am I blocking the flow of His Spirit in my mind?
    - (3) Am I failing to warm up others so as to release their rose petals?

## **XI. WHY GIRLS DON'T DATE OR REFUSE SOME DATES WHEN ASKED.**

### **A. Reasons.**

- (1) Many girls aren't asked in the first place.
  - a. Causes.
    - (1) She may reflect a negative or unfriendly attitude.
    - (2) She may turn a guy off because of being bland, uninteresting, or discourteous.
    - (3) She may be careless in appearance & grooming.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Show an interest in the things guys like to do.
    - (2) If there's a particular fellow you'd like to date, find out what his goals and ambitions are.
    - (3) Evaluate yourself in these areas, at least enough to be able to converse on the subject.

- (4) if you are continually missing out on dates, ask a minister or friend.
- (2) Health reasons or other natural circumstances.
- a. Causes.
- (1) Ill health.
  - (2) Tired, overworked, exhausted, under a lot of pressure.
  - (3) Behind on sleep — not physically up to going out.
- b. Solutions.
- (1) Be kind and tactful, realizing it's a natural tendency for guys to misread your intentions because of their sensitive egos.
  - (2) If expedient, explain your reasons.
  - (3) Thank him for asking and hope that he will call you again in the near future.
- (3) Have other plans.
- a. Causes.
- (1) The girl may already have another date planned for the time the fellow asks her out.
  - (2) Don't assume she's putting you off or making excuses, nor is it protocol for you to ask her who she's dating or where she's going.
- b. Solutions.
- (1) Don't respond to the fellow with a flat "NO."
  - (2) Kindly explain you had previously made other plans for the evening.
  - (3) Again thank him for calling and express a desire to go with him in the future — if they have that desire!
- (4) Most girls are reluctant to accept phone dates from fellows they have never met, let alone seen in person.
- a. Causes.
- (1) It's unfair to put a girl on the spot in this kind of situation.
  - (2) It's especially cruel to say you've been "watching" her and would like to take her out.
- b. Solution.
- (1) Stay around after Church to meet her and chat for a while.
  - (2) Try to make her acquaintance at Church socials or parties.
  - (3) Become at least partially acquainted or exposed, so she will know who the voice is on the other end of the line.
- (5) After 2 or 3 dates a girl may break off future relations with fellow when he discovers he is not her type and doesn't want to lead him on.
- a. Causes.
- (1) She senses his beginning to get involved.
  - (2) She feels to continue the relationship would be unfair and hurt him deeply.
  - (3) She has nothing against his character, but the relationship would never work out because of personality differences and values.
- b. Solutions.
- (1) Level with the guy,
  - (2) Be honest about your feelings.
  - (3) Point out the good things you appreciate in him, but that it's unfair and cruel to lead him to think you are interested.
  - (4) Be firm, yet sincerely respectful.
- (6) Some fellows may be physically, repulsive to her.
- a. Causes.
- (1) He doesn't have neat, clean appearance.
  - (2) Bad breath, uncouth habits, unmannerly.
  - (3) He doesn't know how to coordinate colors or match his clothing.
  - (4) Neatness and appearance mean a lot to a girl.
  - (5) He's terribly shy and she has to carry the conversation.
- b. Solutions.
- (1) If a guy is continually turned down, he should seek counsel to see if he has a problem he's not aware of.
  - (2) Have the courage to ask a friend for help.

- (7) A fellow may come on too strong.
- a. Causes.
    - (1) His manner is overbearing, vulgar and lecherous.
    - (2) He over compliments, gets too physical, and makes her feel uncomfortable.
    - (3) He's anxious to hear your views on sex and morality.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Check up to see if your motives are right.
    - (2) For a girl to have to refuse a guy on these grounds is a disgrace.
- (8) She feel she's getting too serious.
- a. Causes.
    - (1) He tells her she's the kind of girl he's been looking for and would like to marry.
    - (2) He suggests future plans — without really knowing her feelings.
    - (3) He begins to get too possessive and starts to dominate her life.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Confront the issue head-on.
    - (2) Explain your feelings and state that you are not ready for this kind of involvement.
    - (3) To one who takes this possessive viewpoint, you may have to be firmer than with one who is suddenly caught up in an aura of romance.
- (9) Some fellows turn girls off because they whine and talk mostly of their aches, pains, problems and bad breaks in life.
- a. Causes.
    - (1) Their whole bent toward life is negative and critical.
    - (2) Their are primarily wrapped up in their own bud and are oblivious to other human creatures around them.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Ask a trusted friend who knows you intimately to give you a heart-to-heart evaluation.
    - (2) Are you obeying the Golden Rule?
- (10) Some girls are egotistical and vain and refuse to date fellows who do not measure up to their social standards.
- a. Causes.
    - (1) They have their own circle of friends.
    - (2) They are selfish and have little concern for others of lower rank or substance.
    - (3) It is beneath their dignity to date anyone who may cast a dark shadow on their standing in the higher social order.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) At least be friendly and courteous.
    - (2) Make it a point to serve or encourage anyone regardless of his station in life.
    - (3) The Bible says, "Honor all men."
- (11) Some girls date only for looks and appearance.
- a. Causes.
    - (1) This is a selfish attitude and shows a lack of true Christian love, if not conversion.
    - (2) It's all an exercise in vanity — wanting to be seen with the most dashing, debonair and handsome men the Church has to offer.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Think how you would feel if the situation were reversed.
    - (2) If you really want to be popular and loved God's way, let your admiration and respect filter down.
- (12) Some men boast and brag about their exploits and manifest an attitude of superiority.
- a. Causes.
    - (1) Such men at heart are starving for recognition because they feel a deep sense of inferiority.
    - (2) These attitudes are repugnant to a girl and she finds herself wanting to avoid this type of personality.
  - b. Solutions.
    - (1) Check up to see how often you are the subject of the conversation.

- (2) How often does the word, "I," "Me," "Mine," etc. appear in your daily vocabulary.
- (3) Direct your attention more to the interests of the girls and you will probably have more dates.

## **XII. BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.**

### A. What motivates men and women?

- (1) Quote article from *Success Magazine* entitled: "Understanding Your Fears," page 95.

### B. Seven Basic Needs.

#### (1) Survival.

- a. Food, clothing, shelter.
- b. Self-preservation is man's greatest need.
- c. Recognizing this fact should enable both sexes to better understand each other.
- d. Knowing this fact should also provide an array of topics to talk about.

#### (2) Security.

- a. Money.
- b. Job.
- c. More than just basic necessities for comfort.

- (1) Car

- (2) TV

- (3) Clothing, material things, etc.

#### (3) Companionship.

- a. The desire to be loved is one of man's most powerful motivations.
- b. We need someone with whom we can communicate and share our lives, our ups and downs, successes and triumphs.
- c. In helping to fill this need, we are fulfilling the law of love.

#### (4) The need to achieve.

- a. Man is a miniaturized creator.
- b. He was endowed with an active mind and creative powers.
- c. He cannot be happy with life unless he is achieving.
- d. To block his creative outlets leaves him anxious and frustrated.
- e. Understanding this point should aid both sexes to interact with each other in a true spirit of concern and respect.

#### (5) The need for recognition.

- a. Quote from *Success Magazine*, page 106.
- b. When dating keep this point in mind and be aware of ways you can encourage each other.

#### (6) The need for identity.

- a. This point has to do with building a positive self-image.
- b. It has to do with finding your niche in life that makes you unique and different.
- c. Famous people like movie stars, artists, clothing designers, etc., have found themselves and their true identity in the world.
- d. Basically it all boils down to what you do well through personal development of your talents.
- e. Knowing this fact should help in interacting with others.

#### (7) The need for self-acceptance.

- a. Without self-acceptance there can be no satisfaction.
- b. The more you like yourself (this comes through building self-esteem through maintaining high standards), the happier you will be, for success is the satisfaction of basic needs which culminate in self-acceptance.
- c. How much you like yourself determines how successful you are.
- d. Learn to fill this need in human life and you will become popular.

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