

Marriage and Family Study
Heritage Christian Fellowship

6.27.12

Relationships, dating and courtship,
and how to make sense of the whole thing.

Part One

I. Introduction:

II. Purpose:

Questions:

How would you answer the following questions in their relationship to the existence and practice of “dating”?

1. What is a date or dating?
2. What is the purpose of a date or dating?
3. Is there a difference between dating and courting?
4. What is courting?
5. If there is a difference between dating and courting what is it?
6. Why is it important to know the difference between dating and courting?
7. Is there an alternative to dating that is not courting, and what would it look like?
8. Does “dating” and “courting” presuppose a relationship already established?

III. A Comparison Between Courtship And Dating*:

COURTSHIP	DATING
1. Assumes & requires age-readiness for marriage	dating does not
2. Presupposes the possibility of an actual mature love relationship that will lead to marriage	dating makes no assumption
5. Is a personal & mutual commitment of two people willing to investigate the possibility of marriage	cultural dating often occurs largely because of peer pressure or to fulfill selfish wants and desires
6. Considers factors, such as parents, family, extended family, beliefs, values, and personal convictions	has a single focus, the activity of the date itself
5. Is a means to an end, which is engagement	is an end unto itself

Additional
Questions:

1. Am I old and mature enough to enter into this relationship?
2. Is he/she old and mature enough to enter into this relationship?
3. Is this the boy/man or girl/woman I would consider to be my husband/wife?
4. What is our relationship based on?
5. What do we know about each other beyond our attraction to each other?
6. Do my intentions and plans for this boy/man, girl/ woman include engagement and marriage?

* Comparison taken from: Reaching the Heart of Your Teen, by Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo