

# Relational Intimacy

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*"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality."  
(Ephesians 5:3)*

## A Look at Dating

Leviticus 11:44 *"For I am the LORD your God: Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy."*

1 Peter 1:15 *"But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior."*

### 1. Definition of Dating

Having a special interest in a person of the opposite sex, and cultivating it through thoughts, looks, notes, talks, or events

### 2. Purpose of Dating

Pursuing a romantic relationship for momentary enjoyment

### 3. Reasons for Conflict in Dating

- a. The MOTIVE is wrong — getting vs. giving
- b. The GOAL is wrong — pleasure vs. commitment
- c. The IDEA is wrong — flesh vs. limitations
- d. The RESULTS are wrong — hurt vs. edification

## A Look at Courtship

*“That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”*  
(Ephesians 4:22-24)

### 1. Definition of Courtship

An authority agrees to work with a qualified man to win the woman's heart for marriage.

### 2. Purpose of Courtship

To provide *authority and protection* while seeking God's will regarding the pursuit of marriage

### 3. Blessings from Courtship

- a. New freedom in friendships
- b. Dedication to Christian service
- c. Moral purity and self-control
- d. Objective evaluation

### 4. Requirements for a Proper Courtship

1 Timothy 6:6 *“But godliness is actually a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.”*

- a. A life purpose bigger than marriage
- b. A one-person, one-partner commitment
- c. A limitation on physical affection

- d. A readiness for marriage responsibility
- e. A contentment with singleness

### 5. Ways to Encourage Courtship

- a. Read a book on the subject.
- b. Ask questions which bring motives to the surface:
  - *Why do you want to date?*
  - *Where do you think this relationship will go?*
  - *How is this relationship developing purity in your heart?*
- c. Pray.