

4. How to choose to marry?

BUZZ GROUP: Picture the scene. You've got to know someone for 6 months, started going out with them and now you've been going out for a year. All seems to be going well. You are both Christians. How do you know whether this person is right to get married to or not?

Four tests:

a) The Exclusive test (2:16, 6:3, 7:10)

"My lover is mine and I am his" (2:16, 6:3, 7:10)

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24)

b) The Erotic test (7:7-8; 4:11)

"Your stature is like that of the palm, and your breasts like clusters of fruit. I said, I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit" (7:7-8)

"Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue" (4:11)

"It is better to marry than burn with passion" (1 Corinthians 7:9)

c) The Enduring test (8:6-7)

"Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death...Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away" (8:6-7)

d) The Example test (8:6b)

"Love burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame" (8:6b)

"Love burns like blazing fire, like the flame of God" (8:6b)

"For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25)

BUZZ GROUP: Discuss how your thoughts on dating have been changed as a result of this session. What has been an encouragement? What has been a challenge?

Conclusion:

Hitch up

Break up

Muck up

MINISTRY TIME:

Living a Wise Life

Six sessions applying Old Testament Wisdom Literature to 21st Century Living

Week 5: Wisdom about Romantic Relationships

(Song of Songs)

1. Why date?

2. Who to date?

“He is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend” (5:16)
Also see Mark 10:6-7, 1 Corinthians 7:39, 2 Corinthians 6:14

3. How to date?

“Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires” (2:7,3:5,8:4)

QUESTION TIME: