

Teens and Dating: what God has to say about their crush

I. The Three Biblical Relationships between Unrelated Men and Women

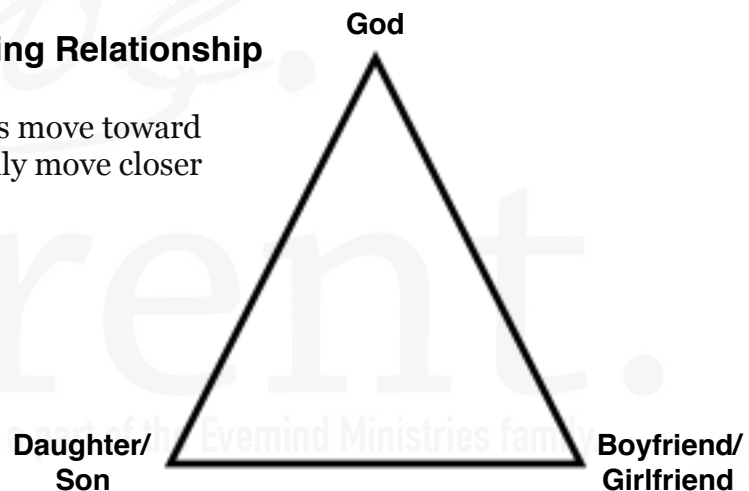
- Same - Husbands and Wives (Mark 10)
- Salt - the Saved with the Unsaved (II Corinthians 6:14)
- Siblings - the Saved the the Saved (I Timothy 5:2)

II. The Implications of the Relationships on our Kids' Dating

- Two Christians in a dating relationship are not married. Therefore, the spouse-specific commands about sex and submission *do not apply* to dating couples. Christian couples do not have the right to be sexually active because *"I know he's the one for me."* Also, though it might be helpful for the girlfriend to learn to trust the guy she's interested in, she has no biblical injunction to obey him. It's wise for a man to start becoming a Christ-honoring, marry-able man, and every young woman should strive to model the Proverbs 31 woman, but *there's no real-time dating advice to be gleaned from this category of biblical truth.*
- Christians should never become romantically involved with the unsaved. Evangelism should never be an excuse for dating an unsaved person. *There's absolutely no dating advice to be found here.*
- The final option for truth we can apply to our kids' relationships is the Siblings Category. This group of passages is the one men and women should be turning to to parent their children through dating. **I would go so far as to say that *all Christ-honoring dating relationships must be modeled after the Sibling Category.* And that goes for you and your kids.**

III. A Picture of a Biblical Dating Relationship

- The Triangle
 - As the two bottom points move toward God, they will intrinsically move closer to each other.



- The Application
 - They edify, deal patiently with, admonish, bear up, encourage, rebuke, serve, teach, disciple, and love each other the way God commands.
 - They don't think about physicality because they don't want to sin against God or tempt the other to do the same. They want to deal purely with each other.
 - They do nothing but try to help the other become more like their Savior (true love).

So, what does the Bible say about your kids dating?

Not much. At least, not about our culture's concepts of dating and courting. But it talks *a lot* about relating to each other.

We need to share God's truth with our kids. We need to help our children understand that they should help their brothers and sisters in Christ more like Him regardless of whether or not they feel romantically attracted to them. That kind of person will not only be well-liked by fellow believers who evermind God's Word, but they will also look very attractive in the swirling pool of self-promoting suitors.

IV. Takeaways

- Help your children realize that the verses about married couples should not be the guidelines for their dating relationships. Fornication and adultery are horrendous sins that scar and destroy. If your kids are preoccupied with physicality in their relationships, I can guarantee you their relationship is not pleasing the Lord. Something needs to be done.
- We all need to be reminded that the best and most loving thing we can do in every relationship in our lives is to point others to Christ. This vital part of one-anothering is often completely neglected in dating and is substituted for the tawdry, sinful physical pleasure.
- Our kids need to keep Christ first in all things. They need to be pure. And God will provide in their dating relationships the same way He does in their salvation.

Parent.

... a part of the Evermind Ministries family.