

On Dating, Marriage and Parenting

By

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Teaching Notes are Bible studies we taught before GraceLife Ministries began publishing articles online in 1995. Some were presented as sermons, others as group studies.

Our hope is that these older studies will be a blessing to you in your life and ministry. Please use them in any way God leads you.

These teaching notes are the first part of a series about dating, marriage and parenting. We will publish the other parts of the series soon.

[These notes are from a Bible study taught more than 40 years ago. The notes are in outline form.]

On Dating and Marriage

I. The first step to dating and marriage is achieving moral purity

There are five basic steps to moral purity:

A. Learn to hate evil

- 1 magnify sin's consequences
- 2 minimize sin's pleasures

B. Learn to repent completely

- 1 identify your sin
- 2 confess your sin

C. Learn to walk in the Spirit

- 1 surrender your "rights"
- 2 claim His power

D. Learn to transform sensual pleasure

- 1 resist Satan through the Word
- 2 resist Satan through prayer

E. Learn to increase spiritual sensitivity

- 1 through prayer
- 2 through fasting

II. Dating

A. When is a person old enough to date?

- 1 when he or she understands God's purpose for dating
- 2 when he or she discovers God's standards for dating
- 3 when he or she accepts God's standards for dating, purposing not to break or compromise them (even if it means losing dates)

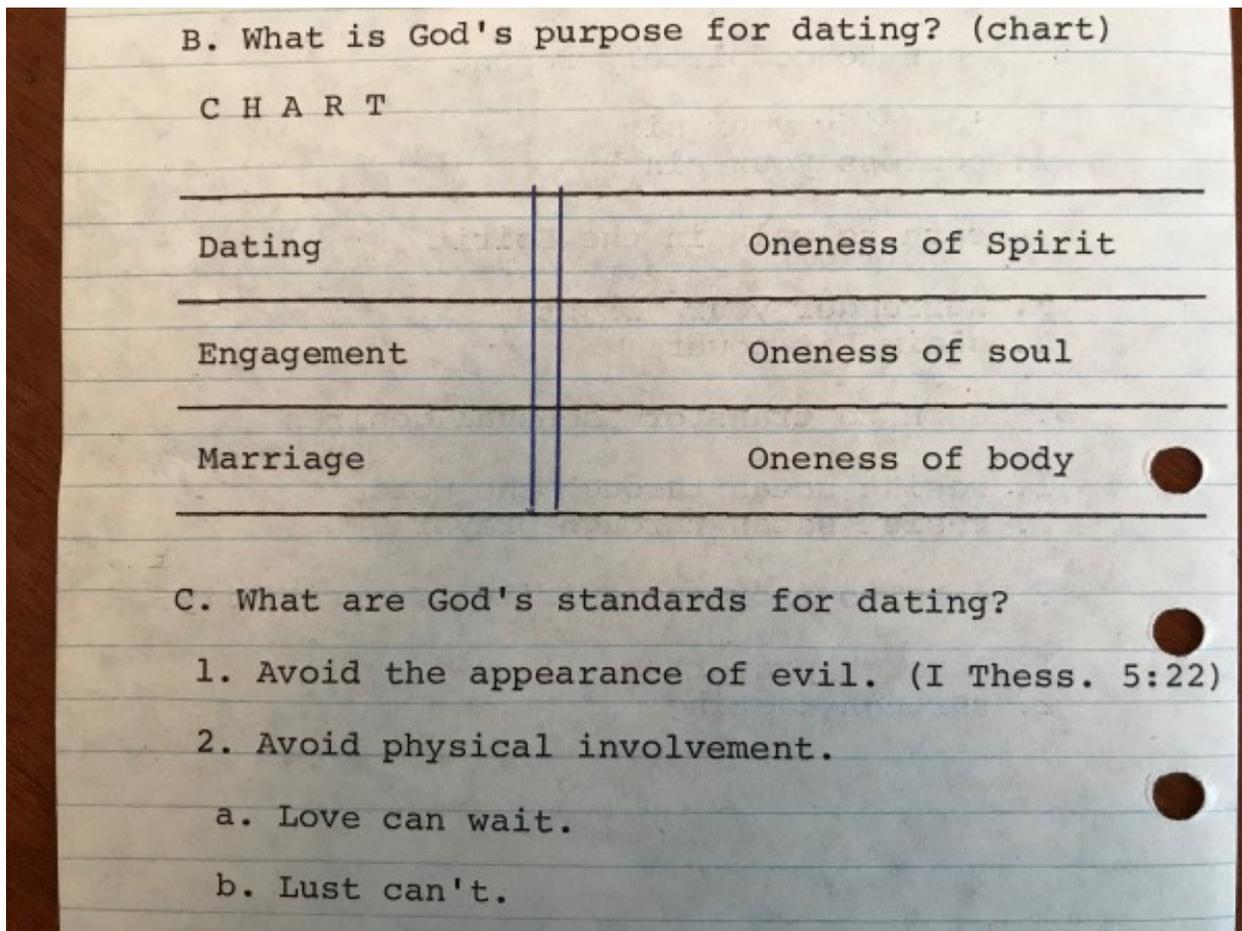
B. What is God's purpose for dating?

C H A R T

Dating — Oneness of Spirit

Engagement — Oneness of soul

Marriage — Oneness of body



C. What are God's standards for dating?

- 1 Avoid the appearance of evil (1 These. 5:22)
- 2 Avoid physical involvement (love can wait, lust can't)

III. Engagement – (same chart)

IV. Marriage – (same chart)

In view of God's desire that you date only those who could be potential life partners, what should you determine to do?

A. Determine that you will only date Christians (1 Cor. 6:14-18).

B. Determine that you will center your dating, engagement and marriage around God's purposes (Matt. 6:33).

C. Determine that you will not defraud the one you date (1 Cor. 7:1-2).

D. Determine that both you and the one you marry will be in harmony at home.

E. Determine that you will wait for God's timing.

- 1 Have the whole-hearted consent of both parents.
- 2 Have adequate financial provision.
- 3 Have a clear understanding of God's purpose for your life.

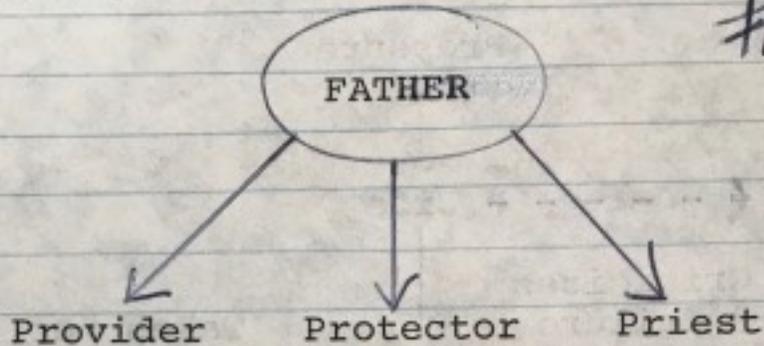
F. Determine that you will yield the right-of-way to God in the area of dating and marriage.

On Principles of Marital Communications

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.”
Ephesians 5:25-28

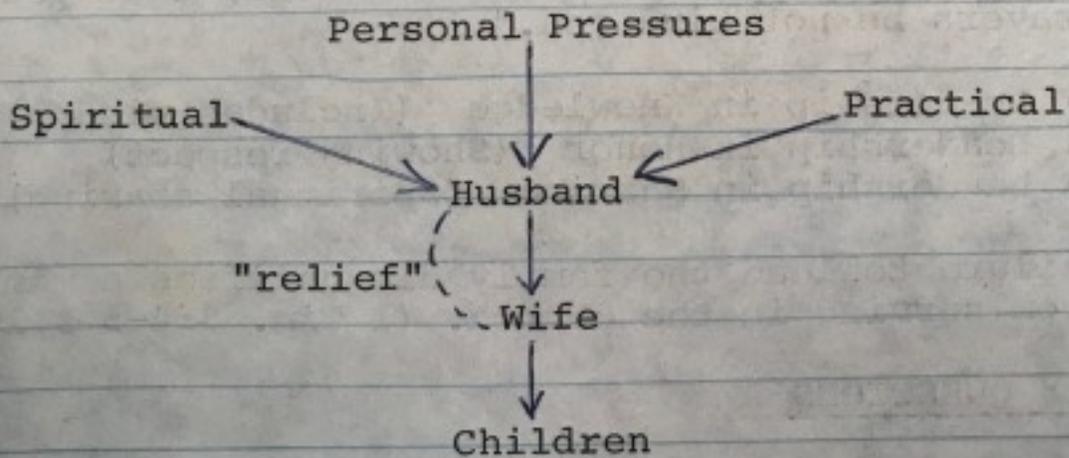
"PRINCIPLES OF MARITAL COMMUNICATION"

Eph. 5:25-28



The firm and loving leadership of the father builds a "canopy of protection" over his wife and children.

LOVING LEADERSHIP



Father —> provider, protector, priest

The firm and loving leadership of the father builds a 'canopy' of protection over his wife

Loving Leadership —> Father handles personal pressures – practical and spiritual – and protects wife and children

#12

NEGLECTFUL LEADERSHIP

Pressure

↓

Husband ← - - - - - Wife

Criticizes his failure ↓ Takes her frustration out on the children

Children

I Peter 3:7, "Likewise ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

Neglectful Leadership → Father does not handle personal pressures – practical and spiritual – and does not protect his wife and children ... pressures fall on wife/mother .. she may criticize his failure and take her frustration out on their children

“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

1 Peter 3:7

- 1 Leadership in knowledge (includes wisdom)
- 2 Leadership in honor (showing respect)
- 3 Leadership in sharing (spiritual sharing)

Failure to lead the family disqualifies a man from serving in the church (1 Tim. 3:4-5, 12).

KEY QUESTIONS

- Does my wife continually ask me questions that I am not really answering?
- Am I genuinely meeting her need for the security of my knowledge?
- In what ways do I wish she would improve her communication with me? (e.g. talking, sharing, spiritually, sexually)
- Where must I first be willing to improve my communication with her? (e.g. talking, sharing, spiritually, sexually)

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The formula for successful marital relationship:

Love Given = Love Received

- 1 Relationship of Counsel — the wife has a basic need for direction in life
- 2 Relationship in Prayer — wife has a basic need for prayer with her husband and from her husband.
- 3 Relationship of Protection — husband should protect his wife from pressures, fear and insecurity. He should teach his children to respect their mother.
- 4 Relationship of Common Sense — wife concentrates on the qualities her husband praises.
- 5 Relationship of Time — husband should provide time for intimacy and togetherness with his wife.
- 6 Relationship of Satisfaction — God gave sexual expression to satisfy a legitimate physical desire.

“Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a

time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.” 1 Corinthians 7:2-5

Principle #1 – “Give 100% Love” (v. 3)

Principle #2 – “Your body belongs to your mate” (v. 4)

Principle #3 – “Do not defraud by abstaining” (v. 5)

KEY QUESTIONS

Am I really “ministering” to the personal sexual needs of my mate?

_____ very well _____ fair _____ insufficient _____ poor

How is my mate’s sexual response to me?

_____ very well _____ fair _____ insufficient _____ poor

Is this causing problems in other areas of your marriage? What areas?

In what ways may I improve my contribution to our personal relationship?

SUBMISSION

“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.” Ephesians 5:21-24

KEY QUESTIONS

How would you rate your husband’s leadership?

_____ excellent _____ very good _____ adequate _____ poor

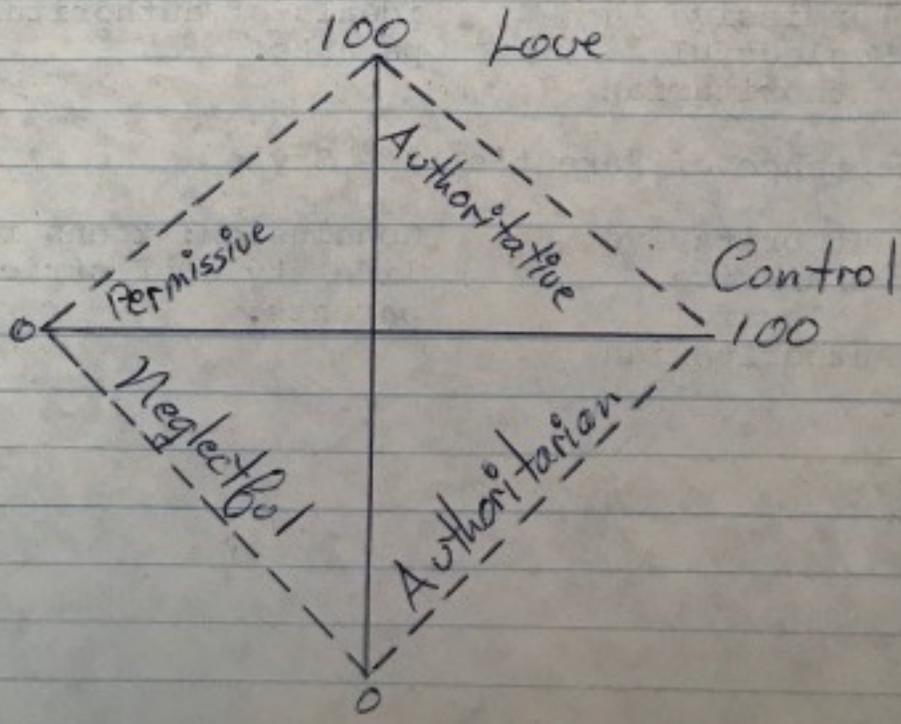
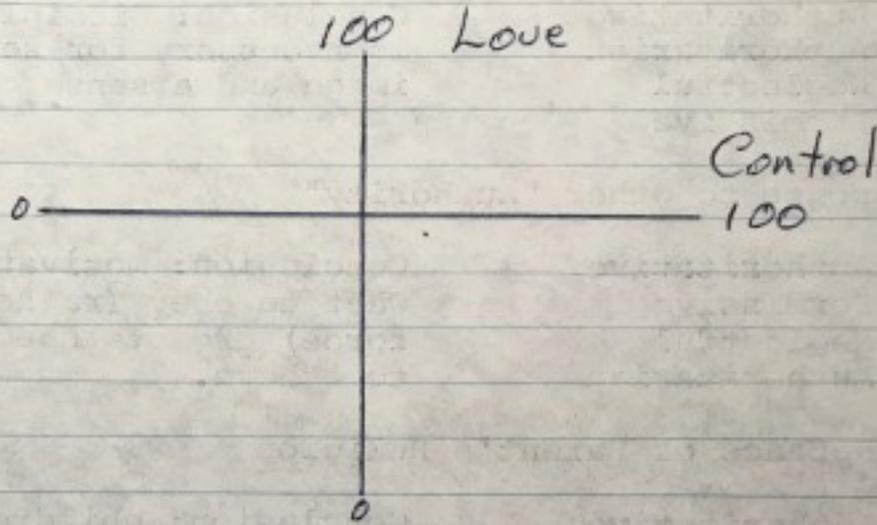
How would you rate your submission to his leadership?

_____ excellent _____ very good _____ adequate _____ poor

Is there a similarity between your submission and his leadership?

PRINCIPLES OF PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Four Types of Parents



On Principles of Parental Communications

Four Types of Parents

Permissive — high love, low control

Neglectful — low love, low control

Authoritarian — low love, high control

Authoritative — high love, high control

Results of Survey

Self-Worth

- 1 Authoritative
- 2 Authoritarian
- 3 Neglectful
- 4 Permissive

Conclusion: discipline is necessary for self-image and a sense of value.

Response to Other “Authority”

- 1 Authoritative
- 2 Permissive
- 3 Neglectful
- 4 Authoritarian

Conclusion: motivation to want to obey (rather than force) prompts obedience to others.

Acceptance of Parent's Religion

- 1 Authoritative
- 2 Permissive
- 3 Neglectful
- 4 Authoritarian

Conclusion: children reject ideals of authoritarian parents.

Acceptance of Parent's Life Style

- 1 Authoritative
- 2 Permissive
- 3 Neglectful
- 4 Authoritarian

Conclusion: teens reject life style of strict (only) parents.

General Conclusions

- 1 Discipline is essential, but without the balance of love it is dangerous
- 2 Love (without discipline) produces insecurity and poor self-image
- 3 Both love and discipline are necessary in a proper balance to produce the best results

Key Questions

- 1 To which do I tend more easily? Love _____ Discipline _____
- 2 Which do I need to work on more? Love _____ Discipline _____
- 3 Which did my parents tend toward? Father _____ Mother _____
- 4 Am I like them or am I reacting to what they were like?

Raising Your Children

” And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Ephesians 6:4

- 1 “nurture” (discipline)
- 2 “admonition” (instruction)

How to Discipline Your Children

- 1 Instruct them in what's right and wrong.
- 2 Reinforce what you've taught them.
- 3 Restitution should be made for the wrong actions.
- 4 Reassure them of your love. (the one who is disciplining)

How to Instruct (Teach) Your Children

I. By saying what is right – “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Deuteronomy. 6:6-7

A. Teach truth diligently to your children (John 17:17)

B. Talk of spiritual things when sitting in your house.

C. Talk of spiritual things when walking together in daily activities

D. Talk of spiritual things before bedtime.

Talk of spiritual things upon arising in the morning.

(Devotions)

- A. Set a definite time.
- B. Involve everyone.
- C. Be consistent.
- D. Develop a meaningful atmosphere.
- E. Develop better Bible study.
- F. Develop a more powerful prayer time.

Devotions will build stability and security into your family.

II. By doing what is right – “And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” Deuteronomy. 6:8-9

(Note: it is foolish to tell our children not to do something that we are doing.)

A. Bind them on the hands (Prov. 6:21-22). Be a constant example to them – do right.

B. Keep spiritual truth always in your vision. Have good books, biographies, etc.

C. Keep spiritual true always in your house – doorposts, Scripture plaques, sayings, slogans, music, etc.

We teach MORE BY EXAMPLE THAN WORDS. What we do indicates what we believe.

- 1 If we do not attend church faithfully, we are teaching our children that church and spiritual training are not important.
- 2 If we do not pray and have family Bible readings, we teach our children that these things are not important.
- 3 If we do not witness and share the Gospel with others, we teach our children that the Bible is not true, souls are not lost, hell is not real and preachers who teach this are liars.
- 4 If we do not tithe our income, we teach our children to be selfish. We also teach them not to give to God even though He has been gracious to provide for us.
- 5 If we don't attend missionary conferences at church, we teach our children that missions are not important.

How much Bible truth are our children learning from our life?

[Thank you for reading these teaching notes from more than 40 years ago. My prayer is they will be a blessing to you, your family and your ministry.]