

Courtship Part I



Many things in life are not as simple as they first seem. Dating is one of them. On the surface, it may look like a simple dance or soda with a friend. It seems to be first an innocent pleasure. But dating goes a bit deeper.

The first question one might ask, could be, "What is the point or goal of dating?" What really is the goal of dating after all? The purpose seems to be to have fun. Dating is simply a part of life, one of the parts of life which are meant to be enjoyed. Dating is almost a game played by two people, they are both out there playing it to enjoy and satisfy themselves. Sometimes, people who are older are actually dating in hopes of finding a spouse. Though, this might be the case with adults; it does not seem likely that teenagers at thirteen or fourteen years old are searching for Mr. or Miss Right. These teenagers are desiring fun and enjoyment for themselves.

This answer can lead to a second question, "Is dating and its goal beneficial?" This question requires much thought. Is the enjoyment long-lasting or short-lived? If they are out for themselves then the very

selfishness can lead to eventual disappointment, for example, when the best date doesn't want them; instead of gratification. If, however, they are out to serve the other person, it could lead to great character building and a lasting friendship. This, sadly, is not always the case. Dating can also sometimes lead to well-matched marriages. It can help a person discover what they do or do not want in a spouse. There can be benefits to dating, depending on the "dater."

Asking, "Can dating be harmful?" would be a good next step. And the answer would be yes. Though dating can certainly not all the time be harmful, some of these harms are major and some are minor. Dating can lead to heartbreak and if based on selfishness, can definitely lead to misunderstandings and hurt. At times, it can result in compromise when the desire to retain one's boyfriend or girlfriend forces a person to sacrifice his morals or principles.

Do the benefits outweigh the harms? This question can only be answered by one person, yourself. As a Bible-believing Christian, I, personally, couldn't answer, "Yes." If there would be the slightest chance of damage to me and my relationship with God, I would have to denounce it. It is indeed true that some people can make it through this little game safe and sound without a sign of damage. But, the ones who can make it through the journey without a few bumps and bruises, sadly, are few.