

“Finding ‘the One,’ and Keeping Them”

Song of Solomon 1:9; 2:4; Matthew 22:37-40

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June 9, 2019

connect groups

PATH

It's easy to find relationship advice in pop culture, but how does that measure up to God's standards? While the Bible doesn't specifically address dating, it does establish expectations for how we should treat one another and what qualities are worthy of our admiration. Nate Heitzig encourages believers to maintain godly standards in dating relationships as he gives us three principles for finding and keeping “the one.”

I. Be a God Digger, Not a Gold Digger (Matthew 22:37-40)

II. Act Like Royalty, Not Rap Stars (Song of Solomon 1:9)

III. You've Got Game—Use It! (Song of Solomon 2:4)

POINTS

Be a God Digger, Not a Gold Digger

- Many members of our society approach relationships focusing on how it can please them instantly, rather than ultimately. Christian singles should seek the highest in the other person, not the lowest.
- The Bible does not give explicit guidelines for dating, but we can glean principles.
- Jesus commanded us to “love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (v. 37).
- Relationships should be rooted in our love for God. The foundation of any relationship should be a personal relationship with Christ.
- Christians should only date Christians (see 2 Corinthians 6:14).
- Our first question in a relationship should be, “Are you a believer?” The second question should be, “What do you believe about Jesus?” Look for someone whose faith is real to them—not a cultural Christian. Find out if they love God both with their lips (what they say) and lives (what they do).

- True love is only found in Christ. Love is a constant devotion, not a passing emotion.
- We must love God first, then the other person.

Act Like Royalty, Not Rap Stars

- The text reveals the next principle for a good relationship: respect.
- Does the person you're considering respect you, treat you well, and understand the biblical boundaries?
- Solomon said his love was worth pursuing and protecting.
- One way to show respect is by asking what the person's parents think about your relationship. When we seek insight from godly parents, we honor our father and mother.
- The male should take the leadership role in the relationship. It is his responsibility to call the woman's parents to ask permission to move forward with the relationship.
- A word to parents: be approachable, so that your children are comfortable asking questions about relationships.

You've Got Game—Use It!

- The text shows a third principle: continual love.
- We must continually seek love and cultivate the relationship. It takes time for a relationship to grow. In the text, we find a couple spending time with one another to nurture the relationship.
- One thing defines a Christian relationship—commitment to Christ and to each other. True commitment comes through quality time spent with God and one another. Commitment needs to be constantly affirmed.
- To cultivate a relationship, you must first cultivate friendship. Invest in one another through quality time spent together. Ultimately, it doesn't matter what you're doing, but who you are with.
- Finally, refine the relationship emotionally and spiritually. We need to build one another up in the Lord.

PRACTICE

Connect Up: God is the author of human relationships. He created the first human relationship in Genesis 2, therefore, He has the right to give the guidelines. As Pastor Nate said, relationships begin with a love for God and grow into a love for others. Look up the following texts and discuss how God views human relationships:

- Genesis 2:18; Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 17:17; 31:10-11; John 15:13; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; 16:14; Ephesians 4:2-3; 5:25-33; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:8

Connect In: Nate gave three points to help cultivate Christian relationships:

put God first, respect others, and cultivate love. In addition to these, the Gospel Coalition suggests the following:ⁱ

- Be reflective
- Replace lies with truth
- Attach your feelings to truth
- Embrace your season of life
- Set good goals
- Take one step forward
- Be the invitation
- Be content with little-by-little progress

• Persevere and remember
Discuss the various aspects of cultivating Christian relationships. Using your own relationship and the

list above, in what ways do you excel and what might you spend more time cultivating?

Connect Out: Nate shared some celebrities' opinions of relationships. For example, Richard Gere stated, “Relationships that are totally honest don't exist.” How would you explain to an unbeliever that true relationship can exist in Christ? How could you then move from discussing a human relationship (the need for love and respect) and apply it to a divine relationship (that person's need for Christ)?