



Would You Care
to Dance?

THE QUEST FOR
RELATIONSHIPS

*In your 'quest' for relationship
we issue an invitation to connectedness...*

*we value you and your circumstances,
no matter how messy they are...*

*because we believe that God
can do redemptive work everywhere.*



The image features a hand-drawn illustration of a vacuum cleaner. The main body of the vacuum is a large, irregular shape filled with a solid orange color. It has a dashed black outline. Inside this orange shape, there is a smaller, irregular shape filled with a light peach or pinkish color, also outlined with a dashed black line. This inner shape is designed to look like a vacuum dust canister. The entire illustration is set against a background of a repeating pattern of small, multi-colored circles (pink, blue, grey) on a light greenish-blue background. The text "a God shaped vacuum" is written in a black, hand-drawn, slightly irregular font across the upper portion of the orange vacuum body.

a God shaped vacuum



a God shaped vacuum

a human
shaped vacuum



Would You Care
to Dance?

MARRIAGE



Would You Care
to Dance?

FRIENDSHIP

A circular inset on the left side of the image shows a dark silhouette of a man and a child dancing together. The man is on the left, holding the child's hand, and the child is on the right, with their arms raised. The background of the circle is a solid green color. The overall background of the image is a colorful pattern of overlapping circles in shades of yellow, green, blue, and red.

Would You Care
to Dance?

PARENT/STUDENT



Would You Care
to Dance?

SINGLE/SINGLE AGAIN



Would You Care
to Dance?

AUTHORITY



Would You Care
to Dance?

DATING

Where is dating mentioned in the Bible?

Where is dating mentioned in the Bible?

***Do you really think it has anything to offer
us in the 21st century concerning the way
we 'date' today?***

Where is dating mentioned in the Bible?

*Do you really think it has anything to offer
us in the 21st century concerning the way
we 'date' today?*

*Don't you think that whatever it has to say
might be a little outdated?*

From Genesis chapter 3
to the very end in Revelation
the Bible is simply a description of
***God's handiwork of reestablishing
life giving relationships...***
between Him and mankind
and between you and me...
that includes '***dating***'!

The Bible is not only ***'inerrant'***
but it is also ***'sufficient'***,
and ***'efficient'***,
and ***'effective'***

- in showing us the path of life,
- showing us when we get off that path,
- showing us how to get back on the path,
- showing us how to stay on track!

Judging from the evidence
our present day process of the way we
establish,
maintain
and ***sustain***
romantic relationships,
our culture is profoundly 'messed up'!

Biblical Principles for Dating

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1. The man establishes credibility in the woman's world.
2. The relationship is entrusted to God and in part to credible people in each of their lives (accountability).
3. Both the man and the woman agree on Biblical moral standards.
4. **At an appropriate time the relationship takes on direction and a conclusion.**

Cultures Principles for Dating

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Cultures Principles for Dating

1. The strongest personality initiates with the other one.
2. There is little or no accountability or involvement from credible people around them.
3. The moral standards are often left to be “situational”, “experiential”, and “non-committal”.
4. **The relationship often has no clear direction or conclusion...it is often purely “recreational” or “educational”.**

Leon Kass, professor of sociology at the University of Chicago

"...nowadays for the great majority, the way to the altar is uncharted territory:

It's every couple on its own bottom,
without a compass,
often without a goal.

Those who reach the altar seem to have stumbled
on it by accident."



Love

Love

Attraction

'Soul-mate'

Love Connection





Shrek



Sleeping Beauty



Once Upon a Time



Cinderella

Love

Attraction

'Soul-mate'

Love Connection

Chance

Need

Desire



Love



Love

Trust



Love

Trust

Truth

Romans 12:1-2

- 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
- 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect**.

I Thessalonians 4:1-8

- 1 Finally, the, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.
- 2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.
- 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

- 4 that each of you know how to control his won body in holiness and honor,
- 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;
- 6 that no one transgress and wrong (*defraud*) his brother in this matter, because the the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.
- 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.
- 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who give His Holy Spirit to you.

Walter Trobisch

I Loved a Girl: A Private Correspondence

Walter Trobisch

I Loved a Girl: A Private Correspondence

Let me try to tell you what it really means if a fellow says to a girl, “I love you.” It means, “You, you, you. You alone. You shall reign in my heart. You are the one for whom I have longed; without you I am incomplete. I will give everything for you and I will give up everything for you, myself as well as all that I possess. I will live for you alone, and I will work for you alone. And I will wait for you— it doesn’t matter how long.

(continued)

I will always be patient with you. I will never force you, not even with words. I want to guard you, protect you, and keep you from all evil. *In it's right time* I want to share with you my thoughts, my heart and my body– all I possess. I want to listen to what you have to say. There is nothing I want to undertake without your blessing. I want to remain always at your side.”



Walter Trobisch

Love is a Feeling to be Learned

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Love is a Feeling to be Learned

Have we learned how to love? Do we appreciate the beauty of the in-between? The joy of the preliminary?

Did you hear? Pain and suffering! The hit songs and movies lie to us when they try to tell us that happiness can be had without suffering.

(continued)

Just here is the reason for the failure of many a relationship, for the frustrations and torture, yes, even for the shallowness and shipwreck of many a marriage: to think that love can grow and live without suffering.

Love and suffering do not exclude each other. Rather they condition each other.

I Corinthians 13 tells us that ***love*** is ***long-suffering***.

Be intimate physically

Be familiar

Be responsible

Be acquainted

Be intimate emotionally

Arranged Marriage

Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become intimate physically

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

The Fling- one night stand

Become acquainted

Become intimate physically

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become responsible

The Fling- one night stand

Become acquainted

Become intimate physically

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become responsible



Friends with benefits

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate physically

Become intimate emotionally

Become responsible

Friends with benefits

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate physically

Become intimate emotionally

Become responsible



Barna Group *(California based Research Company)*

Government statistics and a wealth of other research data have shown that cohabitation increases the likelihood of divorce, yet cohabiting is growing in popularity. Studies showing the importance and value of preparing for marriage seem to fall on deaf ears. America has become an experimental, experience-driven culture.

Rather than learn from objective information and teaching based on that information, people prefer to follow their instincts and let the chips fall where they may. Given that tendency, we can expect America to retain the highest divorce rate among all developed nations of the world.

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If you have lived with someone other than your eventual spouse you are twice as likely to divorce than someone who has never cohabitated.



Become responsible

Become responsible

Grow up

Become responsible

Grow up

Emotionally and spiritually healthy...
...boundaries with the ability to attach...
...separate but connected...



Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become responsible

Become acquainted

Get to know someone's name



Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

**Get to know someone's name
and all that it means**

Frozen clip



Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Commit to protect their heart above yours!

Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become intimate physically

Be responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become intimate physically



Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become intimate physically

Biblical Dating

Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become intimate physically

Biblical Dating

Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become intimate physically

Biblical Dating

**Build a base
of truth and
trust...**

Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become intimate physically

Biblical Dating

**Build a base
of truth and
trust...**

**as a foundation
for a mutual and
mature love**

Become responsible

Become acquainted

Become familiar

Become intimate emotionally

Become intimate physically

Walter Trobisch

I Loved a Girl: A Private Correspondence

“True love involves responsibility– the one for the other and both before God. Where love is, you no longer say “I” but “you”;

“I am responsible for you. You are responsible for me.” Together then you stand before God where you do not say “you and I” but rather “we”.

- Start with the end in mind... ask,
“What do I really want out of this?”

- **Start with the end in mind... ask,**
“What does God want out of this?”

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- Value dating as a rich opportunity to bless someone else and grow relationally but not to get your own needs and desires met.

- Start with the end in mind... ask,
“What does God want out of this?”
- Value dating as a rich opportunity to bless someone else and grow relationally but not to get your own needs and desires met.
- **Remember: A flawed process inevitably produces a flawed product.**



Would You Care
to Dance?

DATING

**Dating is a place to practice the skills
of building a base of truth and trust...**

**...that someday will be
the foundation for a marriage
of mutual and mature love.**

*In your 'quest' for relationship
we issue an invitation to connectedness...*

*we value you and your circumstances,
no matter how messy they are...*

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