

Waiting for a Prince . . .

In the movie version of *Snow White*, the beautiful young woman sings what is longed for in every girl's heart.

Some day my prince will come,
Some day I'll find my love,
And how thrilling that moment will be,
When the prince of my dreams comes to me¹

But how does she find the love of her life? And how does a prince of a man find his love? In the fairy tale, it's a waiting game for both of them. If you are playing the waiting game right now, be patient. Wait for God's choice of a date who—by God's design—might become your mate.

*"For you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you,
O Lord my God, who will answer."
(Psalm 38:15)*

Q: "If we truly love each other, why should it make a difference if I date and marry someone not of my same faith?"

Since emotions come and go, passionate love may be here today and gone tomorrow. The divorce courts are full of statistics to verify the impermanence of romantic love. However, unity in marriage is built on common grounds such as . . .

- The same religious traditions
- The same moral values
- The same system of ethics
- The same spiritual foundation

A new house has the best opportunity to endure if it is built on one solid foundation. When you are "equally yoked" with someone of the same faith, you will have a greater sense of unity, cohesiveness, and oneness on which you can build your lives together.

*"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.
For what partnership has righteousness
with lawlessness? Or what fellowship
has light with darkness?"
(2 Corinthians 6:14)*

Do's and Don'ts for Dating

- **Don't** focus on romance but rather on friendship. (Proverbs 17:17)

Do . . . Be aware of the benefits and dangers in dating. (Proverbs 15:21)

- **Don't** lie if you don't want to accept a date. (Proverbs 12:19)

Do . . . Be under the authority of your parents (if living at home). (Proverbs 19:20)

- **Don't** confuse lust for love. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Do . . . Reflect Christian values when you date. (Philippians 1:27)

- **Don't** date non-Christians. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

Do . . . Trust God's plan for your life. (Jeremiah 29:11)

- **Don't** wait to determine your standards. (Hebrews 13:1)

Do . . . Become a good and honorable date. (1 Corinthians 10:23-24)

*"Listen to advice and accept instruction,
that you may gain wisdom in the future."
(Proverbs 19:20)*

Destructive Dating Patterns

- **Dating** for the wrong reasons
- **Deferring** to peer pressure
- **Deceiving** masks
- **Deserting** personal standards
- **Distorting** the concept of love
- **Developing** sexual activity
- **Differing** moral standards
- **Disobeying** authority structures
- **Detouring** from God's progressive order
- **Depending** on your date for personal identity

*"The prudent sees danger and hides himself,
but the simple go on and suffer for it."
(Proverbs 27:12)*

Key Verse to Memorize

*"How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word."
(Psalm 119:9)*

Key Passage to Read and Reread

Proverbs chapters 1-7

Guidelines for Finding the Right Date and Mate

- **Establish** your convictions for dating; write them down and post them in a highly visible place.
- **Share** your convictions with others who will hold you accountable to abide by them.
- **Establish** friendships, rather than sexual relationships.
- **Select** good friends who share your moral convictions.
- **Stay** away from activities that will compromise your convictions.
- **Be** selective with movies, music, videos, television, and the Internet.
- **Refuse** to go to the bedroom, house, or apartment of your date without having others present.
- **Avoid** dates who gossip about others . . . soon they'll gossip about you.
- **Practice** saying no to others so that you can say yes to God.

*"Am I now seeking the approval of man,
or of God? Or am I trying to please man?
If I were still trying to please man,
I would not be a servant of Christ."
(Galatians 1:10)*

Prioritizing Purity in Dating

Prioritize God's standard for purity in your dating. (Hebrews 13:4)

Undertake personal accountability for how you treat your date's body. (1 Thessalonians 4:6)

Repent of any activity that violates God's standard by arousing sexual desires, and recommit to sexual purity. (1 Thessalonians 4:3–4)

Implement goals that are pleasing to God. (2 Corinthians 5:9–10)

- pure motives for dating
- wise choice of dates
- godly actions on dates

Trust in God's timing. (Genesis 29:20)

Yield to God your right to date and marry. (Matthew 6:33)

Related Topics . . .

- Codependency:
Moving from Bondage to Balance
- Intimacy:
Learning the Language of Love
- Loneliness:
How to Be Alone but Not Lonely
- Premarital Counseling:
Are You Fit to Be Tied?
- Sexual Integrity:
Balancing Your Passion with Purity
- Singleness:
Single and Satisfied

1. *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (Disney Platinum Edition) (1937)* (Disney Studios, 2001), videocassette.

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Dating:
The Waiting Game.

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