

FROM THE BEGINNING: RELATIONSHIPS THAT GIVE LIFE

I Peter 1:13-2:3

Week 6

Read the Scripture passage above and then work through the introduction below to help guide your personal study.

The modern concept of “dating” is not something that gets mention in Scripture. To get biblical wisdom on the topic, we have to look at passages that are about love, marriage, and how churches should function. I Peter is primarily a book about how present suffering can lead us to future glory, but along the way, you can find some great concepts that apply to dating throughout:

- 3:1-7 presents a view of marriage that encourages women (and men) to seek inner beauty.
- 4:1-6 makes a defense for why Christians do not engage in sensual “debauchery.”
- I Peter talks about love frequently, with lines like “love covers a multitude of sins.” (4:8)
- 5:1-11 shows why it is good to listen to older people in your church on issues like dating.
- A recurring theme is how having a Father-child relationship with God leads to holiness.

For this study, we chose I Peter 1:13-2:3 because it is a passage about becoming a more mature Christian, which can help you navigate the “dating world” and build meaningful relationships. The high call of this passage is that you “be holy” like God is holy (1:16). It will be impossible for you to live up to that standard, which is why you need to be ransomed by the “precious blood of Christ” (1:18-20). However, the effort of imitating God will set you on the right path to maturity. A few signs that you are heading toward Christian maturity are that: you will love with an earnest and pure love (22-23), be looking to the future as you live in the present (13, 17), tend towards purity (22), and veer away from “passions” of the “flesh” (14, 24-25, 2:1). This is all great advice for dating.

Work through these questions below before you come to small group and be ready to interact and share answers.

Study Questions

1. Take a few moments to write down and share some of the most significant dating advice that you’ve received (funny, most helpful, least helpful, etc.).

2. What from the sermon this weekend was helpful to you when thinking about dating?

3. Read I Peter 1:13-2:3. What motivations for holy living does this passage give?

FROM THE BEGINNING: RELATIONSHIPS THAT GIVE LIFE

4. Which of the motivations you found in this passage have been helpful to as you have tried to live a pure life?

5. How does your relationship with God as your loving Father (verse 17) help you live a holy life? Explain how judgment and fear play a role in that relationship.

6. What from this passage inspires/teaches you to be a more loving person?

7. The Bible often encourages believers to think with an eternal perspective and to consider the great hope we have in the future. What does this passage remind us about our future? How is that helpful for you in trying to live a holy life?

8. What from this study has helped you think about dating from a godly perspective?

Prayer Guide

Read Psalm 34:1-22

- Praise God for how you've seen and known God to be good!
- Thank him for how he has delivered you from fears and anxieties.
- Ask God for more fear of himself in your life, which will drown out the evil, suffering, and anxiety that you are experiencing now.
- Cry out to the Lord to be near to you in your afflictions. Be specific about how you want him to bring hope into your life.
- Thank him for his redeeming work in your life!