

## **Title: Dating Relationships**

### **Text: Ephesians 5:22-33**

Two steps forward and one step back. Sand dunes in Michigan.  
Youth ministry can be like this. We only get up to 5 hours a week with you.

#### **Need.**

This has been the summer of drama. Relationships and marriages.  
You need to think to yourself, what do you want your marriage to look like?  
Direction, not just desire, determines destination. Marriage not dating.

#### **Ephesians 5:22-24**

**22** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

**23** For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

**24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Ladies, there are just 2 relationships you need to get right in life. You're relationship with Jesus, and your relationship with your husband.

Ladies, you have this desire for the most beautiful wedding and marriage ever. You want your marriage to be perfect, beautiful, magical, and unforgettable. You might picture your first home, the first time you bring home your first child, etc. God has an even more beautiful picture than you do in mind! Not the Notebook.

He says that a marriage is far more than smiling faces, beautiful homes, loving families, and picket fences. But the way to get that is to first live the beautiful picture He is painting: a relationship with Him that reflects Him.

Stick with me here. God is Trinity, so husbands and wives are to reflect the Father and the Son. The Gospel is primary, so husbands and wives are to reflect its glory. The Father lovingly leads the Son, the Son lovingly submits to the Father. Jesus lovingly leads the church, the church lovingly submits

to Jesus. Husbands lovingly lead their wives, and wives lovingly submit to their husbands.

So, if you want the most beautiful wedding and marriage ever, the Bible says first submit your life to Jesus. Get your relationship with Jesus right, and He will bless you with the most beautiful relationship with your hubby.

Ladies, God is calling you to support, submit, and follow your husband one day. Don't end up with a man who you can't follow. The man who you can follow is the man who he himself is following Jesus.

That means, don't ever date a dude who God doesn't want you to.

1. Don't date because you're impatient (driving, person and age to marry).
2. Don't date because you're lonely (relationship with Jesus).
3. Don't date because its popular (normal isn't working, be weird).
4. Don't date because he's hot (so is hell, feelings, cultivate yourself).
5. Don't date unless God says yes (be blessed).

Ladies, I beg you, please don't date unless God says yes. Pray over it. Be in a tight relationship with Jesus. Don't let go of your dreams. Don't destroy your future because you want something in the present. I've seen so many godly girls get pulled down by the wrong guy and now they have no relationship with Jesus. Jesus is the one you were created for, not some stinky, voice-cracking, perverted, immature, pathetic loser who is feeding you a bunch of lies to use you.

### **Ephesians 5:25-33**

**25** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, **26**that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27**so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. **28**In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29**For no one ever hated his own flesh, but

nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, **30**because we are members of his body. **31**“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” **32**This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. **33**However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Guys, we are called to LOVE our wives one day...when we get them. How? We have these desires to be respected and followed. We want to be leaders, and we want to be seen as strong. We think about marriage in our future and we imagine working hard for our family, our family learning from our wisdom, our family loving and following our leadership.

As Christ loved the church... Love the gospel!  
Gave himself up... Sacrifice yourself, your desires, your “needs”.  
Purify her by the Word... Be in your Bible.  
Keep her pure... Protect her from other perverts, and yourself.  
Love her like your own body... Do what is best for her, not you.

That means, don't ever date a girl who God doesn't want you to.

1. Don't date because you're impatient (driving, person and age to marry).
2. Don't date because you're lonely (man-up, relationship with Jesus).
3. Don't date because its popular (normal isn't working, be weird, girls like).
4. Don't date because she's hot (so is hell, learn to control feelings now).
5. Don't date unless God says yes (be blessed).

### **Gospel.**

We get to reflect the gospel as Christians. The gospel is that God created the whole world, but the world fell into sin. God sent His son to die for all of humanity. Those who believe in Jesus' death and resurrection become a part of His church, His bride. As his church-bride, we are to follow Him as our Lord because He fought for our forgiveness. You aren't like other teenagers, so don't live like them. Don't stoop to the world's level. We are to show them how to live, not the other way around. Jesus' didn't die for you to live like the world, but to live like Him. Remember, Romans 5:6. “At

the right time, Jesus died for the ungodly.” God has a perfect timing for everything. Jesus wasn’t meant to die for the world as a baby, as child, as a teenager, or even a man in His 20’s. Jesus died at the age of 33. God’s perfect timing! God has a perfect timing for you, your life, your marriage, your spouse.

**Conclusion.**

Manziel vs. AJ McCarron. I get to do what other 22 year olds don’t get to do, so I don’t do what other 22 year olds do. This is just talking about a college quarterback who is playing in big games, but he will be forgotten in 20 years. But in the same way, you get to live a life for a Lord unlike most other teenagers. So you don’t do what other teenagers are doing.