

This calendar is meant to help you set time aside with Jesus. Decide on where you'll meet Him, and choose a time when you won't fall asleep or be distracted. You can cut this page out and keep it in your Bible. "Come close to God, and God will come close to you" (James 4:8).

# JUNE



By Justin & Courtney Rose

Age 31 & 29 | Mayfair Community Church | Metropolitan Division



Search for the word "dating" in the Bible and you will come up with nothing. The word is not used. The concept is not discussed. Instead we are given a framework for all of life: holiness. Scripture says, "You must be holy because I am holy" (**1 Peter 1:16**). Apply this principle to all that you do. **1**

The company we keep is important—especially those we let close to us. **1 Corinthians 15:33** says "bad company corrupts good character." Do you surround yourself with people who encourage you to pursue Christ and love others? Or does the company you keep inhibit your ability to love? **2**

**2 Corinthians 6:14** says "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers" (NIV). This is an image of two livestock bound together to do a common task. However, how can they work together if they don't have the same task in mind? As believers, we should be bound together with others who have the same mindset as we do: to give God glory and spread the Kingdom. **3**

Marriage is a covenant that we make between another individual and God. It is not just between two people, but images the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Marriage partners are "united" as "one flesh" (**Genesis 2:24**, NIV) and no one should separate what God has brought together (**Matthew 19:6**). **4**

Sometimes we are quick to fall into crushes or get into relationships without thinking of the lasting effects they can have on our hearts. **Proverbs 4:23** says to "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." Before you enter any deep relationship, make sure you spend time in prayer to prepare your heart. **5**

If you date and it doesn't work out, does that mean it was a waste of time? NO! Practically, you can learn about yourself, others, how to love, and what you desire in a partner. Spiritually, we are told that "whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (**1 Corinthians 10:31**). Dating can give God glory if it is done with love, purity, and integrity. **6**

To date well, first work on your own heart. No one else will "complete" or "fix" you. Instead, look to the truth of Christ to overcome old sinful ways. We should be renewed by the Spirit, putting on the new nature, and become like God—righteous and holy (**Ephesians 4:21-24**). Becoming more like Christ prepares us to have relationships with others that reflect love and grace. **7**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** says to "encourage each other and build each other up." Our dating relationships can be used to encourage and build up each other, rather than just have emotional fulfillment. Are you encouraging and building up those around you? Are the people you surround yourself with encouraging and building you up? **8**

Boundaries are vital for any healthy relationship. The young woman in Song of Solomon asks her sisters to promise that they will not awaken love until the right time (Song of **Solomon 8:4**). Do not be eager to push for a relationship until the time is right. These boundaries will make you a healthier and more balanced person. **9**

True faithfulness is revealed to us throughout Scripture, through God's commitment to and love for His people. We have a God who is faithful to the very end and was willing to let His Son die on our behalf. This type of faithfulness must be carried over into marriage. To be forever faithful to a spouse is to example the love and faithfulness of God (**Hebrews 13:4**). **10**

Pray for your potential future spouse, even now! Ask God to prepare your heart for love and deep relationship. Pray over your future and family. Read **Matthew 7:7-11** and think about the importance of committed, long-term prayer. **11**

Submission has become a bad word in our culture. No one wants to be under the authority of another. But **Ephesians 5:21** talks about the importance of mutual submission. We must all "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." No one is lesser and no one is greater, but we continuously submit. **12**

For the Christian, marriage is a picture of a greater reality and deeper spiritual truth. **Ephesians 5:21-33** explains that husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church, having given up His life for her. Marriage is an image and reminder of the constant and holy love of Christ for the Church. Pray that your marriage, current or future, would example the love of Christ for the Church. **13**

Here is some good, simple advice: If you do not want to date, then don't! Do not feel pressure to date when you are not ready or comfortable. If you want to start dating, perhaps you can talk to a parent or pastor (officer) to see if you are spiritually ready to do so. **14**

Dating is not for everyone. In fact, **1 Corinthians 7:7-9** suggests that it is better to stay unmarried than to give yourself in marriage. Pray about whether you are called to marriage or singleness. Do not be afraid of singleness. The Apostle Paul calls it a "gift" from God since one can concentrate on holiness and service without having their time divided. **15**



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The Apostle Paul believed strongly in remaining unmarried. Read

**1 Corinthians 7:25-35** and think about the benefits to a life of singleness.

16

Throughout the Bible we're warned to *run* from sexual immorality (**1 Corinthians 6:18**). In the story of Joseph, he runs away from his master's wife when she corners him in the house (**Genesis 39**). We must be sure to "keep our shoes on" in dating relationships so that we can run away from any sexual immorality. Don't let sin trap you.

19

If you are in a committed relationship, **Philippians 1:9-10** is a good prayer to pray over your partner: "I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return."

22

Purity is often used to talk about sexual purity only. However, the biblical understanding of purity is broader and refers to sanctity in all aspects of life and freedom from sin. Jesus calls the pure in heart blessed (**Matthew 5:8**). **Psalms 119:9** says that a young person can remain pure if they obey God's Word. Are you pursuing purity in every aspect of your life?

25

Some people are afraid to enter or exit relationships because they have a fear of rejection. Many are afraid of being unloved. However, **1 John 3:1** reminds us that we belong to Christ and have been accepted as His children. Do not fear rejection when you have the love of the King of kings.

28

All good and healthy relationships are built on a foundation of love. In fact, Jesus tells us to love God with our whole selves and to love our neighbor as ourselves (**Mark 12:30-31**). Are all of your relationships built on the love of Christ?

17

**Romans 12:9-10** is a good reminder for us about how to love others. Write this verse on a notecard and carry it around with you throughout the day: "Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other."

20

The most important quality to look for in a potential partner is their godliness. Do they love the Lord? Do they pursue virtue in their daily life? Work hard to be this kind of person and seek a partner who is the same (**Proverbs 31:10**).

23

Divorce is very common in our world today. Sadly, it is just as common in the Church. Read the words of Jesus about divorce and pray for the marriages and committed relationships around you. Read **Matthew 5:31-32**, **Matthew 19:1-12**; **Mark 10:1-12**; and **Luke 16:18**.

26

Sometimes we are afraid to enter or exit relationships because we feel low or no self-worth. **Isaiah 43:4** says that we are "precious and honored" in God's sight. **Romans 5:8** reminds us that Christ's love was demonstrated for us by Him dying for us even while we were still sinners. Our worth is found in Christ, the greatest treasure we could ever find.

29

One real danger in dating is that we lose focus of our first love, which is Christ! Jesus told His disciples that if they loved anyone else more than Him they were not worthy of being called His disciples (**Matthew 10:37**). Pray that you would continue to put Christ first and love Him with your entire being.

18

A good dating relationship starts out as a deep friendship. It is important for us to pursue genuine friendship in our dating relationships. Find a friend who understands, loves, and encourages you to love God and others (**Proverbs 18:24**).

21

**2 Timothy 2:22b** says, "Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts." Are you surrounding yourself with people of prayer? Do your friends pray for you? Do you pray for others? In a dating relationship, look for someone who prays for you and others often.

24

Before you start dating you should make sure you are already content in Christ. **Hebrews 13:5** says to "be satisfied with what you have." We can be satisfied because God will never fail us and never abandon us. Even if relationships end, we have a constant love in Christ.

27

In your singleness, focus on pleasing the Lord (**1 Corinthians 7:32**). The Apostle Paul says that the unmarried person can concern themselves fully with the Lord's affairs—discipleship, evangelism, and service! Pray that you would use your singleness to the benefit of yourself and the Kingdom of God.

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