

Best Practices for Dating

Christian Dating

1. We are on your side and want the very best for you. BSM staff members are here to help you and to celebrate godly decisions being made in your relationships.
2. We affirm the idea of dating between two godly Christians, but recognize the temptations that come with the form it takes in our culture. Guard against distractions. The relationship should not hinder sharing the gospel, connecting with students, and leading well. (1 Corinthians 4:2)
3. Your approach to a dating relationship provides an opportunity for you to model a godly relationship that is above reproach. (1 Thessalonians 5:22) Conduct yourselves in such a way that will honor God, and that if younger students followed your example, it would serve them well and give them a great example to follow. (1 Corinthians 10:23-31)

Things to think about when considering a relationship:

1. How long will it be before you are ready to consider getting married?
2. Are relationships an idol for you? If God never calls you to get married, would Jesus be enough for you?
3. What is your relationship history? Are you still working through significant issues with the Lord related to past relationships?
4. Are you struggling with sexual sin or other habitual sins?
5. What are your standards for someone to date?
6. Poor reasons to date: loneliness...attraction...proximity...

Helpful Guidelines

- Stay aware that the enemy will persist to destroy you, especially in the area of dating relationships. (John 10:10, 2 Peter 5:8)
- Be a good friend to others. Guard your heart against exclusivity that pulls you away from community. At BSM events, you should treat each other the same way you treat everyone else at the event. Don't ignore others to give attention to one another.
- Resist PDA - It is problematic because it communicates a private intimacy that allows for the public display. Overtly letting everyone around you know that your significant other gets your attention, focus, and physical contact will alienate others, cause doubts in their minds of your character, and will hinder your ability to share the gospel.
- Alone time is dangerous... Never go to the other's apartment, dorm, dwelling, when others are not present; limit riding in the car together.
- Public Place, Private Conversation - Go on dates with other couples or in public places.
- Have an accountability partner that will be kind but firm.