

# i kissed dating goodbye

## Discussion Notes Chapters 3&4

### Chapter 3

**Summary:** This chapter points out the reasons our common view of “Christian” dating is not the best way for young believers to handle relationships. Seven defects of our culture’s concept of dating are pointed out and discussed.

**Key Quote:** We don’t find the real beauty of singleness in pursuing romance with as many people as we want. We find the real beauty in using our freedom to serve God with abandon.” pg 44.

1. What was the point of the crummy shopping cart story at the beginning of chapter 3? (answer top of page 36 ”I’ve concluded that for Christians...”).
2. What is the cause of sinful and selfish relationships? (sinful and selfish people)
3. Do you agree that dating itself is at least part of the problem leading to sin in relationships?
4. On page 37 the author ask in regards to the problems with dating, “Is this the answer? Head out on the same course with the same assumptions and attitudes as those who have fallen and hope that in the critical moment you’ll be able to stay in control?” Why do you think dating would work for you? (what is different?) or Why do you think it would not?

#### **Defective Dating I: Dating tends to skip the friendship state of the relationship.**

5. Agree or disagree, why?
6. Page 39 reads, “He asked me out, but I’m just afraid that if we start actually dating it will change our friendship.” What expectations change when people go from friends to dating? (dating gives expectations of romance, exclusive interaction, etc)
7. Any thoughts on the following statement from page 39? “In dating, romantic attraction is often the cornerstone of the relationship. The premise of dating is “I’m attracted to you; therefore, let’s get to know each other.” The premise of friendship, on the other hand, is “We’re interested in the same things; let’s enjoy these common interests together.” If romantic attraction forms after developing a friendship, it’s a bonus. However relationships based on physical attraction and romantic feelings will only last as long as the feelings last.

#### **Defective Dating II: Dating often mistakes a physical relationship for love.**

8. How is it true that physical relationships (hand holding, cuddling, kissing, etc) cause people to falsely feel “love”?
9. Is dating a pursuit of commitment in Junior High? High School?
10. Do you agree with our book that the underlying attitude in dating is that a person’s primary value comes from the way he or she looks? defend

**Defective Dating III: Dating often isolates a couple from other vital relationships.**

11. Have you ever had a friend drop you for a boy or a girl? How did it feel? Ever neglected a friendship because of a boyfriend or girlfriend?
12. Do you think pairing off is healthy/safe for people your age? Defend your answer
13. The author states that “when we allow one relationship to crowd out others we lose perspective,” lose perspective of what? (top of page 42)

**Defective Dating IV: Dating can distract young adults from their primary responsibility of preparing for the future.**

14. On page 43 we read, “One of the saddest tendencies of dating is to distract young adults from developing their God-given abilities and skills. Instead of serving in their local church, instead of equipping themselves with the character, education, and experience necessary to succeed in life, many allow themselves to be consumed by the present needs that dating emphasizes.” How have you seen yourself or others in dating relationships pull away from church, youth group, friendships, school, sports or other activities?

**Defective Dating V: Dating can cause discontentment with God’s gift of singleness.**

15. On page 44 the authors says, “We don’t find the real beauty of singleness in pursuing romance with as many people as we want. We find the real beauty in using our freedom to serve God with abandon.” What are ways you can use being single to serve God with abandon that you don’t or can’t when in a relationship? Consider Do Hard Things from last year.
16. How does dating make you focus on what you don’t have? Do you tend to dwell on when and who will be your next boyfriend?

**Defective Dating VI: Dating can create an artificial environment for evaluating another person’s character.**

17. How is dating an artificial way of interacting? Do you think people try to be what they think the other person wants them to be? Do you notice friends act different around their boyfriend than they do friends?

**Defective Dating VII: Dating often becomes an end in itself.**

## Remainder of Chapter

18. Do you see any of these 7 habits in your thoughts or actions about relationships?

**Read from page 47**, last paragraph: “If you’ve dated, this probably sounds familiar to you. I think that for too long we’ve approached relationships using the world’s mindset and values, and if you’ve tried it, you might agree with me that it just doesn’t work. Let’s not waste any more time wrestling with the swerving cart of dating. It’s time for a new attitude.”

19. Would you be willing to try a new way, have a new attitude, a new philosophy about relationships with the opposite gender?

Defective Dating Manifesto (making the 7 statements positive)

- I. I reject defective dating that tends to skip the friendship stage of a relationship, and I choose to build my future marriage on the solid foundation of friendship with my spouse.
- II. I reject defective dating that mistakes a physical relationship for love, and I choose purity and the clarity that comes in a relationship undistracted by premarital physical involvement.
- III. I reject defective dating that isolates me from other vital relationships, and I’m saying yes to the joy, wisdom, and godly perspective that comes from investing in family and other friends.
- IV. I reject defective dating that distracts me from my primary responsibility of preparation, and I choose to glorify God and serve my future spouse by using this time in my life to prepare for the future.
- V. I reject defective dating that causes discontentment with God’s gift of singleness, and I embrace the contentment that comes with a heart of gratefulness and an attitude that seeks to make the most of today.
- VI. I reject defective dating that creates an artificial environment for evaluating another person’s character, and I choose to get to know my future spouse in a setting that lets us both see who we really are and what our true character is.
- VII. I reject dating that becomes an end in itself, and I choose a healthy romantic relationship that bridges friendship and marriage and to either move purposefully towards commitment or just be friends with the other person.

**Final Statement on Chapter 3:** This book never suggest we stop dating because we’re afraid of relationships but because we want something better - a better way to interact with our brothers or sisters in Christ.

## Chapter 4

**Summary:** This chapter begins to give us new ways of thinking about dating and relationships. That is breaking away from dating's negative habits by taking on a new attitude regarding love, purity and singleness.

The new attitudes are...

### **I. Every relationship is an opportunity to model Christ's love.**

1. How do you define a flirt? (page 50, "Much of her interaction with guys is fake, it focuses on attracting attention to herself and getting a reaction from whoever she currently likes.")
2. What is the 180 degree turn you can take from this flirtatiousness (Middle of page 50, "honest, sincere love that treats guys as brothers not potential boyfriends;" looking for ways to bless others)

### **II. My unmarried years are a gift from God.**

3. How has society taught us to feel complete without a boyfriend or girlfriend? (movies themes, music, tv shows, etc)

### **III. I don't need to pursue a romantic relationship before I'm ready for marriage.**

4. What is the youngest you can realistically see yourself getting married? Why then would you desire to date in high school?
5. Page 52 encourages us to , "seek close relationships with family and deep nonromantic relationships with brothers and sisters in the Lord." How can you seek to grow these sort of relationships?

### **IV. I cannot "own" someone outside of marriage and should not act as though I do.**

6. In what ways does having a boyfriend/girlfriend make unwarranted emotional, spiritual or even physical claims on someone?

### **V. I will avoid situations that could compromise the purity of my body or mind.**

7. How can you avoid placing yourself in situations that will threaten your commitment to purity? What situations?

## **Other**

8. What is the only way you can change your attitude towards dating? (God, Praying for change)
9. Important Paragraph:  
“Choosing to quit the dating game doesn’t mean rejecting friendship with the opposite sex, companionship, romance, or marriage. We still can pursue these things; we just choose to pursue them on God’s terms and in His time. God ask us to put our romantic ambitions in the “all these things” pile that we must leave behind so we can “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). Leaving dating behind is a by-product of God’s primary desire for us to consume ourselves with seeking him wholeheartedly. “
10. Any other thoughts on these radical ideas?