

# ***Twelve Key Points for Christian Dating***

By Sonya Cherici

**P**ersonal beliefs about dating vary as widely as the definition of Christianity. Beliefs can be based on family traditions, the country of origin, religious background, social group in which one is engaged. Regardless of the personal beliefs, if we want our relationships to be blessed we have to follow God's word on the subject.



If you are a Christian, you know that Christ is the healer of broken hearts and broken relationships. This is great because it is difficult to fully give yourself into a relationship if you are broken. We are all broken to a certain extent because we were born with a fallen nature that was passed down to us from Adam and Eve. That is why it is paramount to work on a relationship with Christ first so he can heal the stuff that was passed down through generations. Both men and women have gone through a lot over the years as a result.

Many were raised without fathers, some without love, some in orphanages or foster care, neglected, verbally or physically abused, molested, raped, prostituted or just lost. Some have been spoiled to the core. What ever the case may be, there is no judgment here. I mention them only to say that those things affect the ability to maintain "right" re-

lationships. Right, meaning the kind of relationships God has created us to have.

What I want to say is that no matter what has transpired in the past, it does not have to dictate the future, or even today. God knows you. He knows the person hidden so deep inside that you can only know by the revelation that comes from spiritual transformation. He loves you with a love so pure and unconditional. This kind of love is unsurpassed. Once you made the confession of faith and became apart of the kingdom of God, He washed you and purified you with His love. You are precious in His sight and He will move mountains for you.

Listen to what Isaiah 43:3-4 (NIV) reads: "For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place. Others were given in exchange for you. I traded their lives for yours because you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you."

God has so much to give you. He can and will transform you to the person He created you to be. All He asks is that you commit yourself to Him and leave sin behind. When you became a Christian, you laid the sin down and picked up a crown of righteousness. Meaning, you are a child of the Most High God. Since He is the King of kings and you, being His daughter, are a princess. If He has purified you, why go out and roll in mud? Why contaminate yourself in an unholy union?

So when it comes to dating, we have to be very careful. The enemy has planted lots of landmines out there. That is why you have to stay so close to God's word. It is your protection.

Here are twelve points to take into account as you wait for the Lord to provide a spouse.

1. **PRAY**. Pray for protection from the traps of the enemy. You need protection from temptation. Actively pray for your future husband. Pray that he is fully committed to the Lord. Pray for his protection and that God will lead him to you. Also pray that God will protect his heart from wayward women.

2. **COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD**. As Paul said, a woman or man who is single can give wholehearted devotion to the Lord. After marriage, concerns for your spouse, children and household can overshadow the faithfulness to God. So now is a good time to work on your relationship with God. Allow Him to build you up. Give the Lord wholehearted devotion.

3. **BE HOLY** – God is still calling a holy people. As women, we should be holy in the way we speak, interact with others and the way we dress. That means getting rid of things that easily leads to sin – malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander of every kind, etc. Remember, if you dress provocatively, you will only attract men who are after your body, nothing more. Scripture tells us to come out from among them and be separate.

4. **DO NOT COMPROMISE YOUR FAITH BY COMMITTING SEXUAL IMMORALITY**.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 (NIV) says, “Be sanctified, each person should learn to control his or her own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God.” The Bible clearly says that no sexual immoral person will inherit the kingdom of God.

FYI, if you complicate the relationship by getting sexually involved, you will not increase your chances to get married. Have you not heard the old saying, “If you get the milk for free, why buy the cow?” If you are the one for him, he will wait for you. On the other hand, if he is pressing you to fulfill his needs, you are probably not the one. If you give your body over to sin, you will become defiled. God can-

not dwell with sin. Thus, neither you nor the relationship will be blessed.

5. **MANAGE YOUR EMOTIONS** – The enemy uses emotions. He will send thoughts of loneliness to trap you into sin; or jealousy over someone else’s relationship or marriage. God’s timing is different for each person. Self defeating thoughts are not of God. Trust Him and don’t move ahead of Him, that is when we get into trouble.

6. **DO NOT BE EQUALLY YOKED WITH UNBELIEVERS**. Someone asked, “What if he is not a Christian?” in our “Waiting for the Right SCM” video.” God gave this commandment to the Israelites and he has made it plain to us in the New Testament in 2 Corinthians 6:14-17. What does light have to do with darkness? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? If you don’t date non-Christians, you won’t fall in love and marry an unbeliever.

7. **SURROUND YOURSELF WITH GODLY FRIENDS**. Have you heard that bad company corrupts good morals? Pray for godly friends of like mind. Better yet, friends who are more mature than you are in the Lord so that you can support each other.

8. **GET BUSY** – Idle time is the devil’s workshop. Keep busy. Help the needy, be a mentor, join ministries at church. Have girl’s night out. Get involved in community events; this will help you to take your eyes off self.

9. **THROW THE BIOLOGICAL CLOCK AWAY**. Society wants to dictate when time is running out, but I think God is in control of that. Remember of Sarah. She was well beyond child-bearing years and was barren. Outside of God’s miraculous healing, God could bring a widower who has children in need of a mother, an opportunity to adopt children could open up, there are many ways God can bless you with children.

10. Remember, **WHAT YOU SEE IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT YOU GET**. Don’t think you will move into a marital relationship and change

your man. Your dating experience with your potential spouse is close to as good as it gets. In fact, a friend told me she was watching a television show and heard a man say that the relationship doesn't get better than the dating experience. Interesting.

11. WATCH HIS RELATIONSHIPS CAREFULLY - friends, relatives and his mother. There is a good chance that the way he treats or relates to his mother will transfer to you. Watch it. Do not enter into marriage and blame your mother-in-law, because you saw it when you were dating.

12. PATIENCE. Don't move ahead of God. You can be in His perfect will for your life, or His permissive will. Meaning God will allow it, but you will suffer for your own error. Pray and wait for God's direction. The key is not to move ahead of God. You can get into all kinds of trouble if you move ahead or allow the flesh to control you.

My prayer is that God will give you a heart after His own heart. I pray that God sends a man who will cherish and lead you in the ways of Christ. In the interim, may God preserve you and sanctify you for service, that you may be found ready when Christ returns. Amen.

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