

# Is this a God thing?

## A Biblical Perspective on Dating

### Before you enter into a dating relationship, ask yourself these questions:

1. Have you received Christ as your Savior, and are you putting Him absolutely FIRST in your life? (*Mark 12:30, Matthew 6:33*)
2. Do you have feelings for this person? Are you attracted to them? (*Psalms 37:4*)
3. Is this person a passionate Christian who is pursuing the Lord *before you*? (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 2 Timothy 2:22*)
4. Do you have peace in your heart when you think about dating this person? (*Colossians 3:15*)
5. Have you heard from the Lord that it is GOOD to date this person, and that this person could someday be your spouse? (*Jeremiah 29:11-13, 1 Corinthians 7:32-35*)
6. Do leaders in your life (parents & pastor) have full knowledge of your relationship, and have they blessed your relationship (not just given a hesitant, doubtful, "Okay...")? (*Hebrews 13:17, Ephesians 6:2-3, Proverbs 11:14*)
7. Have you set physical guidelines for yourself that you *will not cross*? (*1 Corinthians 6:18*)
  - a. Example: "I will not kiss my girlfriend/boyfriend until we are engaged. If he/she won't respect that standard, he/she is not 'the one'."
  - b. *Important:* You must have guidelines before you begin dating, because it's difficult to set guidelines after you've already broken them!
  - c. *Important:* A guideline that every dating couple should have – We will never be alone in a house, and we will never be alone in a bedroom.
8. Have your parents and Pastor agreed with your guidelines?
9. Are you at an age where it's reasonable that this person could someday be your spouse? (*Song of Solomon 2:7*)
  - a. Example: If you are 12 years old, you will need to wait a LONG time until you are old enough to marry. It is very difficult to stay pure in thought and action for that long.

### If you have answered all of the above questions with a resounding "Yes!", you *still* must continue to evaluate your relationship. After you are dating, ask yourself these questions:

1. Are you both becoming more and more excited about Jesus and encouraging each other to grow, or are you feeling farther away from God? (*2 Timothy 2:22*)
2. Are you avoiding doing things and talking about things that aren't pleasing to God? Are you holding to your original standards/guidelines? Are you staying clear of tempting situations? (*1 Thessalonians 4:4, Philippians 4:8, 1 Corinthians 6:18*)
3. Have you stayed close with your other friends, or have you pulled away from your other friendships? (*Hebrews 10:24-25*)
4. Are you *actively* staying in close communication with your parents and Pastor about your relationship, seeking wisdom and accountability? (*Hebrews 13:17*)
5. As you continue to evaluate your relationship, do you continue to have the Lord's peace? (*Colossians 3:15*)