

## THE FOLLOW UP

**TO DATE OR NOT TO DATE**  
*You have 6 days to get  
these 4 devos and the Quiet  
Time Challenge done*



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. ~ 1 Cor. 13:4-8a

## DEVO #1—It's Not about You and Your Needs

**READ: 2 Corinthians 5:15-17; Ephesians 5:22-33**

Joshua Harris writes, "People whose sins have been forgiven through faith in Jesus...can't live or love the same ever again. We've been set free from our old self-centered life...Because of that, relationships with the opposite sex can no longer be about 'having a good time' or 'learning what I want in a relationship.' They are not to be about getting, but giving."

"While friendships with the opposite sex are great, I have no business asking for a girl's heart and exclusive affections if I'm not ready to consider marriage. Until I do that, I'd only be using that girl to meet my short term needs, not seeking to bless her for the long term."<sup>1</sup>

1. What do you think about Joshua Harris's quote?
2. According to 2 Corinthians 5, what should life be about for the Christian? Is this true for you? Why or why not?
3. How do we see self-sacrifice as a vital key to a relationship between a man and woman in Ephesians 5?
4. When it comes to dating, are you thinking about it in order to follow the Bible's plan for relationships or to get your own needs met? Explain:

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God for His plan for relationships
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, making dating about you and your wants and desires
- ~Ask God to help view relationships His way

## ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

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## POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Consider reading the book, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*
- ◆ Go through your relationship/dating choices. Evaluate how those choices line up with Scripture and God's will
- ◆ Keep praying at least ten minutes each day
- ◆ Do you have any negative memories or current struggles because of past dating relationship issues? Give those over to the Lord right now

1. Harris, Joshua *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, Multnomah Books, 2003
2. IBID
3. IBID
4. IBID

## QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

### NOTE:

The *Quiet Time Challenge* is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately apart from your daily devotional time.

### HOW IT WORKS:

Find a quiet place with no distractions. Make this between just you and God. Clear your mind then read the Bible verse(s). After doing so, work through the questions. At the end, spend five to ten minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

### PART 1 — READ: Ephesians 4:22-24

### PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain these verses in your own words:

Do your relationship choices show you are still living like the culture or that you are living like Christ and for Christ? Explain:

### PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart and to show you any relationship choices that are not pleasing Him. Then seek to hear His voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

## DEVO #2 — Want to Be Pure and Blameless?

**READ: Philippians 1:9-10; 1 Timothy 4:12; 5:1-2;**

"What about me?" you might be asking. "What about my needs?" This is the awesome part. When we make God's glory, and other people's needs, a priority, we position ourselves to receive the greatest joy in our lives.

When we change our focus to pleasing God, instead of living to please ourselves, we find the right kind of joy. When we stop looking at people as potential boyfriends or girlfriends and start looking at them as brothers and sisters in Christ, that's when we can develop true friendships. Instead of pursuing our own plan for "relationships," we are pursuing God's plan for service and friendship. Such a pursuit will ALWAYS end well. Meanwhile, most dating relationships do NOT end so well.<sup>2</sup>

1. What is it that really matters according to Philippians 1? Are you living as if that matters most? Explain:
2. In 1 Timothy, how does Paul tell Timothy to view those of the opposite sex? Is this how you view them?
3. What are the five things Paul says young people can be an example in?
4. With those five things in mind, where are you doing well? What needs work?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God for His great plan for your life
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, pursuing relationships instead of pursuing friendships
- ~Ask God to make you someone who strives to be pure and blameless, and also a great friend

## DEVO #3 — Looking for Real Love

### READ: 1 Corinthians 13

In the book, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, it says, "We wished for intimacy without obligation. We wished for sex with no strings attached. We wished for the pleasure of love with none of the work, none of the vows, none of the sacrifice. And we got it."

"But the results were not what we hoped for. And we're left feeling emptier than before. The intimacy is superficial. The sex leaves us dissatisfied and hungry for something real, something true. Where is true joy? It's found in God's brand of love—love founded on faithfulness, love rooted in commitment."<sup>3</sup>

1. What does 1 Corinthians 13 say is the most important thing?
2. Our culture defines love ALL WRONG. According to the Bible, in verses 4-7, how is love REALLY defined?
3. How are you doing with these characteristics? Explain:
4. What can you do to help you develop the characteristics of real love?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God for showing you real love
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, living by the culture's definition of love, instead of the Bible's definition of love
- ~Ask God to fill your heart with real, biblical love

## DEVO #4 — Defective Dating

### READ: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; 12:13-14

The following are issues that defective dating habits tend to cause. 1. Defective dating moves a guy and gal beyond friendship toward romance. Pressure to perform, to look just right, etc. take center stage over just getting to know someone. 2. Defective dating causes us to mistake physical contact for love. Joining lips doesn't mean hearts are joined. 3. Defective dating often isolates a couple from other important relationships. Key relationships with parents, mentors, siblings, and best friends get pushed to the side as everything becomes about just one person.

4. Defective dating distracts from growing personally and preparing for the future. Instead of serving others, focusing on studies, developing skills, etc., people spend all their time with each other and miss preparing for the future because of the present. 5. Finally, defective dating makes dating an end in itself. Instead of dating being a bridge from friendship to marriage, it is something to "get to." People move from one dating relationship to another without every developing friendships or preparing for marriage.<sup>4</sup>

1. Have you thought about these dating pitfalls before?
2. Which of these pitfalls have you seen in your own life or in the life of someone you know?
3. What can you do to guard against these things?

### PRAYER

- ~Thank God for your friends and family
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, being a defective dater
- ~Ask God to help you spend your time the right way, to build healthy friendships, focus on serving Him, and growing as a person