

The Lord Seeks a Godly Seed

CYC CLASS

Before You Say “I Do”

- **SLIDE**

- There’s a road ahead...
- It’s probably the most dangerous road known to man
- Millions have crashed on this road in the past
- Every single person in the world knows someone, (many of them close, personal friends), who have crashed on this road before
- Maybe even some of us have crashed ourselves
- Every single day people crash on this road, and probably the majority of your friends have crashed
- If you crash, it could cost you your life...
- If you crash, it definitely will scar you for life, and probably will scar others also
- It’s painful and destructive, yet terribly intriguing and enticing...
- Every one of us has to head down this road
- Every one of us has to try our best not to crash like so many others before us...
- The road?
- It’s called **DATING**
- Tomorrow in our classes I am going to make a bold statement

- One that I have absolutely no proof for, but one that I am absolutely convinced of...

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- ***More people endanger their salvation because of **SEXUAL SINS** than for any other reason***

- I truly and honestly believe that it is in this one area that we are most severely tempted and tried, and it is in this one area that most people fall

- Tonight, I want to tell you the really scary part about that statement:

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- ***It's **HARDEST** for **YOU!*****

- The minefield that you walk from the age of 13 to about the age of 28 (or whenever it is that you get married) is difficult to the point that it is almost beyond comprehension

- **SLIDE**

- I'm not going to tell you that Sexual Sins all go away when you get married

- You know that your parents, and your Uncles and your Aunts mess up in this area quite a bit

- We'll be talking about Adultery and Divorce and Remarriage and all of those ugly things tomorrow also

- But, there is one **MAJOR** change that happens when you get married:

- ***You get to have sex!***

- I'm serious!

- That is a good thing!

- **SLIDE**

- Sex is **NOT** a "Bad Thing"

- Sex is a wonderful and great gift that God has given to us

- We need to respect it, and value it, because it really can be spectacular

- Look how Paul describes it to the Corinthians:

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- 1st Corinthians 7:1-2 (Message)

- 1) Now, getting down to the questions you asked in your letter to me. First, Is it a good thing to have sexual relations?
- 2) Certainly – **BUT ONLY WITHIN A CERTAIN CONTEXT**. It's good for a man to have a wife, and for a woman to have a husband. Sexual drives are strong, but marriage is strong enough to contain them and provide for a balanced and fulfilling sexual life in a world of sexual disorder.

- Ah... And there's the rub, eh?

- ***“but only within a certain context”***

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- And that context is **MARRIAGE**

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- Before Marriage, all forms of sexual relations between a young man and a young woman are **SINFUL**...

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- And **EVERY FORM** of sexual contact between a young man and a young woman are incredibly **TEMPTING**...

- It really is quite simple:

- God created us Male and Female, and created us with innate desires and passions...

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- But, before Marriage, it is a **SIN** for us to indulge those passions

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- And, after Marriage, it is a **PRIVELEGE** for us to fulfill those same desires

- That really puts quite a bit of emphasis and authority into the actual ceremony then, doesn't it?

- Look at what Paul told Hebrews:

- Hebrews 13:4 (Message)

- 4) **HONOR MARRIAGE**, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband. **GOD DRAWS A FIRM LINE AGAINST CASUAL AND ILLICIT SEX.**

- **SLIDE**

- **HONOR Marriage!**

- Guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband!

- **SLIDE**

- **God draws a FIRM LINE against casual and illicit sex!**

- And you need to draw a firm line also!

- **SLIDE**

- **WHERE** you “Draw the Line” is in **DATING!**

- Dating is the battleground in which we fight this battle
- That dangerous and perilous road called Dating that each of have to navigate some time in our life, without crashing into any sexual sins
- If you truly want to serve God
 - If you truly want to be obedient to what He has commanded us

- **SLIDE**

- Then you need to get our **DATING LIFE** under control!
- If we don't want to crash on that road, and potentially lose our salvation, or simply at best damage our lives and the lives of the people who we love
 - We need to look at our Dating in the light of God's commandments for us
- We need to change the way we look at Dating
 - We need to find a way to bring our Dating Lives under control

- I'm concerned about a culture that allows people... Even encourages people to enter into several serious relationships before the age of 21, and to try to learn about another person under these extremely stressful circumstances
- I understand that it is something that we all have to go through
 - But, let's just consider some of things that we should watch out for, and try to make the experience the best it can be for us

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- **7 Things to Beware of in Dating**

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- 1) **Dating Leads to Intimacy, but **NOT** Necessarily Commitment**

- We are all familiar how a relationship naturally progresses through increasing stages of intimacy (first base, second base, etc.)
- But, this is not necessarily an increase in commitment
- Dating can teach you how to be intimate like married people, without requiring the commitment of married people

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- 1st Corinthians 6:16-17 (Message)

- 16) There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, "The two become one."
- 17) Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, **WE MUST NOT PURSUE THE KIND OF SEX THAT AVOIDS COMMITMENT AND INTIMACY**, leaving us more lonely than ever—the kind of sex that can never "become one."
- This is obviously dangerous...
- Like rock-climbing with a partner who is not sure whether or not they want to hold on to the rope all the time...
- Intimacy without commitment awakens desires that neither person can justly meet
- The ease of "breaking-up" with a Boyfriend / Girlfriend lends itself to avoiding the true lessons of working through problems and learning commitment

- If you have been intimate with someone who can easily break up with you, how painful that can be to carry that memory with you for years
- Be **EXTREMELY** careful about progressing the Intimacy in your relationships at an **INCREDIBLY** slow speed
- Intimacy is the **REWARD** of Commitment – Not the **APPEAL** of it
- Don't allow yourself to be drawn into an Intimate relationship, with the hopes of the other person THEN becoming committed to that relationship
- Make sure that you get a lifelong commitment before you get Intimate

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2) Dating Tends to SKIP the “Friendship” Stage of a Relationship

- People who could develop into good friends and mates, make a “quantum leap” into a relationship and miss the important part
- Have you ever heard someone say,
 - *“We’re such good friends. I don’t want to start dating and blow it all.”*
- Dating creates romantic expectations
- Friendship creates an atmosphere of self-growth and mutual appreciation
- Consider the following two statements, and decide which one a marriage will be most likely to succeed based on:
 - *“I’m attracted to you. Let’s start dating and see if we like each other.”*
 - *“We’re interested in the same things, and we seem to like each other. Let’s enjoy these things together and see if an attraction develops”*
- Too often, the attraction speaks, and even though you don’t have any thing in common, and will probably never develop a friendship to last a lifetime, now you are dating and you can’t stop
- Concentrate on developing Friendships with people of the opposite sex
 - If there is going to be a romantic relationship, then it will come, you don’t even need to be concerned about it
 - Concern yourself solely with being a friend

- Don't miss out on this great part of a relationship!
- Enjoy the company of your friends in CYC for as long as you can before you entangle the relationship with romance
- You have plenty of time to allow the relationship to blossom into something romantic
- Enjoy it for what it is right now

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3) Dating Often MISTAKES a Physical Relationship for Love

- Our culture, (music, literature, movies and advertisements) regards the words “**Love**” and “**Sex**” as interchangeable
- Many dating relationships also mistake physical attraction and sexual intimacy for love
- You are probably experiencing these things for the first time, so you don't even know **HOW** to determine which is which

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• Galatians 5:19 (Message)

- 19)** It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness
- Make an extra effort to not cloud the relationship with too much physical things
 - Don't get confused into thinking that just because that is the first time you have ever felt that way, or gone that far, that you are in love
 - Love is when you would rather clean a toilet with the other person than walk in a field of daisies all alone
 - Love is something that you know, not just something that you feel
 - Just because you can **ACT** like Lovers, doesn't mean that you are!
 - Beware putting yourself in a situation where you tell yourself that you must be in love with the person, because you've never done this with anyone before

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4) Dating Often ISOLATES a Couple from Other Important Relationships

- The exclusive attention so often expected in dating relationships has a tendency to isolate you from the friends who love you the most, family members who know you the best, and sometimes even God, whose will is far more important than any romantic interest
- This just makes the problem greater
- Now you are not listening to your loved ones who are trying to warn you away from this person, and you are setting yourself up for a huge fall
- **Unless a man is prepared to ask a woman to be his wife, what right has he to claim her exclusive attention?**
- Make sure that you are not giving **ANYONE** your exclusive attention
- Concentrate on spending time with other people
- Don't attach yourself to someone who doesn't want to be around your friends, your CYC or even your family – **BIG RED FLAG!**
 - The worst possible abusive relationship start out by one person singling out the other person, and separating them from the other people in their lives that they love
 - Spousal Abusers, Molesters, Date Rapists, they all do the same thing:
 - **ISOLATE** you from everyone else in your life, and make it so that you are totally dependent on them...
 - And **THEN** taking advantage of you!
- Look for opportunities to stay in a crowd, hang out after CYC together, go on double dates, watch TV at your parents house
- Leave yourself open to the input from others who can give you valuable information on your relationship
- When **EVERYONE** in your life is telling you the same thing about the person that you are dating...
 - Don't convince yourself that they "*simply don't know them like you do*"

- **SLIDE**

5) Dating Often **DISTRACTS** Young People from Preparing for the Future

- While we can't live in the future, and shouldn't put our trust in our own plans...
- Too often people in relationships don't complete their plans for schooling, or don't develop their interests to a point that will be helpful in their careers
- *"Sure, you're good at being a boyfriend, but how many employers are hiring those?"*
- Don't put dating above your future!
- Don't let your Boyfriend or your Girlfriend convince you that *"none of that stuff is important as long as we've got each other, babe"*
- It **IS** important!
- I'm not one to say that you **HAVE** to go to College!
 - I didn't go to College, so how could I possibly say that!
 - I've hired dozens of people who are great employees, who never went to College
- But, I will tell you it would be **GREAT** if you **COULD** go to College!
- What an awesome opportunity to open your future up to so many different and interesting paths
- You've got your whole lifetime ahead of you to spend wonderful time together with the love of your life...
 - But, the Final Exams are next week, so pay attention to what you need to pay attention to!
- Prepare for your future now, because it is coming **AWFULLY** fast!
- Even if it doesn't mean going to College, there are other things that you need to do NOW to prepare for TOMORROW
- Are you baptized yet? Hmm...
 - "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and **ALL** these things shall be added unto you."

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6) Dating Can Cause DISCONTENTMENT with God's Gift of Singleness

- *God's Gift of Singleness?*
- Never heard that one before, have you?
- Think about it! It really is true!
- There are a lot of wonderful things that a young **SINGLE** Brother or Sister can do, but they never will if they are busy pursuing relationships
- Like giving a child an expensive toy, and having them enjoy the box more...
- God gives us a gift of singleness, and we quickly discard it in pursuit of a relationship
- What a shame!

• **SLIDE**

• 1st Corinthians 7:32-33 (NLT)

32) In everything you do, **I WANT YOU TO BE FREE FROM THE CONCERNS OF THIS LIFE.** An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him.

33) But a married man can't do that so well. He has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife.

- Enjoy the few years of freedom that you have to serve God in ways unlike any other time of your life
- Spend six months in the Children's Home in India
- Go to Ecuador for two years of Missionary Work
- Travel to Australia for an entire winter and surf (I mean, go to the School of the Prophets)
- This is YOUR Time!
- There is plenty of time for husbands, wives and families to come!
- Do something special for God **NOW!**

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7) Dating Creates an ARTIFICIAL Environment for Properly Evaluating Another Person's Character

- Even if the relationship is motivated by marriage, and not just fun...
- Dating is not the best environment to properly evaluate the other person's character
- Of course they are putting on their "**best face**" - Their on a date!
- That's part of the reason that dating is fun, because it gives us a break from real life.
- We can be polite, sweet, loving and cute...
 - Even if we're really not!
- I opened doors, I used a napkin, and I didn't pick my nose...
- To properly evaluate someone's character you need to see them in the everyday environment and real-life setting of family and friends
- Make efforts to spend "Family Time" with your Boyfriend or Girlfriend
- See how they act around their little brother, or how they respond to their Mother
- Allow each other personal time with friends, and beware of someone who doesn't "allow" to have some
- Observe the other person when they hang with their "posse"
- Is that really what you want for the rest of your life?
- Try to make decisions the way that God does...

• **SLIDE**

- 1st Samuel 16:7 (NLT)

7) But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't make decisions the way you do! People judge by outward appearance, but the **LORD LOOKS AT A PERSON'S THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS.**"

- **SLIDE**

- There you go! 7 Helpful Hints to make this journey that you are on a little easier...

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- **SLIDE**

- 2) Dating Tends to **SKIP** the “Friendship” Stage of a Relationship

- **SLIDE**

- 3) Dating Often **MISTAKES** a Physical Relationship for Love

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- 4) Dating Often **ISOLATES** a Couple from Other Important Relationships

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- 5) Dating Often **DISTRACTS** Young People from Preparing for the Future

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- 6) Dating Can Cause **DISCONTENTMENT** with God’s Gift of Singleness

- **SLIDE**

- 7) Dating Creates an **ARTIFICIAL** Environment for Properly Evaluating Another Person’s Character

(PAUSE)

- **SLIDE**

- ***But... But... But.... What about?...***

- I know what you’re thinking

- I remember hearing talks like this when I was growing up in Vermont...

- There really was only one thing that we wanted to hear in a class about Dating:

- **SLIDE**

- **How FAR can you go?**

- The answer is not that simple...
 - Because it is different for everyone
- Pretend you are all over age 21...
 - I don't believe that it is wrong for a person to have an alcoholic drink every once in a while
 - I **DO** believe that it is an absolute **SIN** to get Drunk!
- That's quite clear, isn't it?
 - It's just as clear as the **FACT** that a person who practices fornication or adultery is sinning!

- **SLIDE**

- 1st Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV)

- 9) Do you not know that **THE WICKED WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**? Do not be deceived: Neither the **SEXUALLY IMMORAL** nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders
 - 10) nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers **WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

- So, how many drinks can you have before you are considered a drunkard?
 - It is different for everyone
 - It depends on your height, your weight, your metabolism, your blood content, all kinds of things...
- But, what happens?
 - You can easily get carried away by the alcohol, and have your judgment impaired, and drink more than you wanted to, and soon become drunk...
- There is an old Japanese saying,
 - ***“Man drink first Sake. First Sake drink Second Sake. Third Sake drink Man.”***

- That is why some Christians have decided not to drink any alcohol...
 - So, that the nice relaxing feeling doesn't become a "Buzz", and the "Buzz" become a "High", and then next thing they know they have gone someplace they didn't want to go
 - By definition, "being light headed" means that you are no longer thinking with all of your rational senses, and your intelligence has been impaired...
- So, how far can you go sexually before you commit sexual sin?
 - The same problem exists, right?
 - ***"Man drink first Sake. First Sake drink Second Sake. Third Sake drink Man."***
- Sexual attraction naturally progresses and grows...
 - First Base leads to Second Base, Second Base leads to Third Base, etc., etc.
- As you begin any type of sexual contact, you begin to become more and more passionate
- Your physical reactions start to kick in, and your intellectual intelligence tends to just shut down and enjoy the ride
- **SLIDE**
- Any time your **PASSION** and your **EMOTIONS** are doing the thinking for you, and you have stopped thinking rationally and intelligently...
- **SLIDE**
- You have gone to far, and are in danger of leading to a **SEXUAL SIN!**
- The powers are at work that seem bigger than life!
 - You are asked to try to swim in a ocean of life-ending rip tides!
- I don't blame a person who falls in that situation, and allows their emotions to take control of them and commit a Sexual Sin
 - *It's only natural!*
- **I BLAME THE PERSON WHO ALLOWS THEMSELVES TO GET IN THAT SITUATION IN THE FIRST PLACE!**

- You are not an animal!
 - You are thinking, intelligent, human being!
- The reason God calls **US** to Righteousness, and not German Shepherds is that **WE** have the ability to **CONTROL** our “natural” inclinations!
- **STAY AWAY** from situations where your **PASSIONS** are going to be in control and your **MIND** is not
- **SLIDE**
- 1st Thessalonians 4:3-5 (NLT)
 - 3) **GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HOLY**, so you should **KEEP CLEAR OF ALL SEXUAL SIN**.
 - 4) Then each of you will control your body and live in holiness and honor
 - 5) not in lustful passion as the pagans do, in their ignorance of God and his ways.
- **SLIDE**
- The **BOTTOM LINE**
- **SLIDE**
- God wants you to be **HOLY!**
- **SLIDE**
 - So keep clear of all **SEXUAL SIN!**