

## How to Date Honorably

### Introduction

- Welcome everyone (Excited for the FOCUS NIGHTS)
- Sermon Series: **Summer Love**
- How to have healthy relationships

### Content

- Having **healthy relationships will transform your life**. There is transformational power in healthy relationships.
- I believe that healthy relationships is one area that **our generation is really lacking**.
- You may have heard us say it before but our generation has fallen to have a **4% Biblical Worldview** and we can see this reflected in the **health of the relationships** that we are in.
- A lot of people say that we need to have **God at the center** of our relationships, but **what does that even mean**? What does it truly mean to have God at the center of our relationships?
- Many of you here have **not had the best role models** for healthy relationships in your life.
  - Your parents may be **separated**
  - Your parents may **yell and fight**
  - Your **siblings** may **pick on you**
  - Your **friends** may jokingly make fun of you, but you don't find it funny at all
  - The list could sadly go on and on for the amount of unhealthy relationships we see or are a part of.

### Action Step / Main Point

- Tonight I would like to speak to you about **"5 Tips to a Healthy Relationship?"**
- We are going to walk through each tip point by point

Title: Healthy Rizz

### Pray

### Context

- The **goal** of each one of these tips is that they would **reflect** what it looks like to have biblical, **Christ-centered relationships**.
- Even if you are **not in a relationship right now**, many of you will find yourself in a dating relationship one day so make sure you lean in, take notes, and listen because these tips will help you so much in your future relationship.

## **Transition**

- Let's jump into it

## **Tip 1**- Trust

## **Verse**

### **Proverbs 3:5 (NLT)**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

## **Content**

- **If there is no trust there is no relationship.**
- As believers we are called to believe in and trust in God.
- Our relationships here on earth are supposed to reflect, represent, and **mirror that of God's relationships with his children.**
- When you have a relationship with God it **does not just affect you**, but it affects all of your life including your relationships with others.
- I like to say that it is not all **vertical**. The vertical relationships will affect the **horizontal** relationships.

## **Biblical Characters that Trusted God**

- **Noah:** He trusted God when instructed to build an ark, even when there was no sign of rain. His trust saved him and his family from the great flood (Genesis 6-9).
- **Abraham:** He trusted God when he was told to leave his homeland and journey to a place God would show him (Genesis 12:1). He also trusted God when he was about to sacrifice his only son Isaac, believing in God's promise (Genesis 22).
- **Joseph:** Despite being sold into slavery and wrongfully imprisoned, Joseph maintained his trust in God, which eventually led to his rise as the second most powerful man in Egypt and the preservation of his family (Genesis 37-50).
- **Moses:** Trusting God, he confronted Pharaoh and led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the Red Sea (Exodus 3-14).
- **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego:** They trusted God to the point of being thrown into a fiery furnace rather than bowing to King Nebuchadnezzar's idol. They were miraculously unharmed (Daniel 3).
- **Job:** Even after losing everything, Job's trust in God remained, saying, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15).
- **Mary:** Upon learning from the angel Gabriel that she would conceive Jesus, she responded with trust, saying, "Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

- **Peter:** Despite his flaws and doubts, Peter walked on water when he kept his eyes on Jesus and trusted Him, symbolizing the power of trust (Matthew 14:28-31).
- **Paul:** He endured immense suffering for the sake of Christ but continually placed his trust in God, writing, “I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day” (2 Timothy 1:12).
  - All of these characters show us what it means to trust in God and the importance of trust in a relationship.

### When looking at human relationships

- Why is trust important to human relationships?
- **Trust** leads to **vulnerability** and vulnerability leads to more **authentic** deeper connection and **relationship**.
- Many times our relationships are **based on how someone makes us feel**. Trust often **begins with a feeling**, it can't always be based on a feeling, emotion, or some kind of sense. It has to be **rooted** in the qualities of someone's **character**.

### Warning for Future

- If you feel like you **can't trust someone** then **you shouldn't date them** because
  - In relationships everything **rises and falls** on trust.
  - Without trust, the foundation of your relationship is already **built on sinking sand**.
- For someone **to fully invest** into a relationship there must be an **investment of trust** that is freely given **not just once**, but time after time.
- **If someone has broken your trust** you have to be **willing to trust** someone again one day but the **healing process** of someone breaking your trust takes time.

### **Tip 2**- Faithfulness

#### **Content**

- I am amazed to see how many young students **are not faithful** to the person they are dating.
- You don't have to raise your hands but someone of you in here might be talking to multiple guys or multiple girls all at the same time, while dating someone else.
- You might be sitting next to your girl or boy right now but when you go home tonight you are snapping other girls or guys.
- It is important to have friends outside of the person you are dating but some of you are treating your “girl best friend” the same way you are treating your girlfriend.

## GOD

- **Our relationships here on earth are supposed to reflect, represent, and mirror that of God's relationships with his children.**
  - **God's faithfulness** to us is something that our human minds will never be able to understand. **Living in a culture** where faithfulness and loyalty is something that is hard to find, God never changes and is always faithful to his children.

## Verse

### Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

- **The Lord is faithful to complete everything.**
- He is faithful with the promises he made.
- **Jesus was so faithful** to the calling on his life that he lived a perfect life to be crucified for me and you.
- God is faithful!
- And he is calling you to be faithful to him and put him first before anything else. He is calling you to be loyal to him.
- **Our relationships here on earth are supposed to reflect, represent, and mirror that of God's relationships with his children.**

### For Our Relationships

- **God's faithfulness to us gives us the strength to be faithful people.**
- Faithfulness means: steadfast loyalty that isn't easily swayed.
- Faithfulness **in our relationships** means being loyal
  - As **we are called to be loyal and faithful to one God**, our relationships should mirror that and we should show loyalty and be faithful to one person.

### Warning for Future

- **If you are not mature enough** to be loyal to one girl or one guy, don't date or get in a relationship.
- Also if you are talking to someone that does not seem loyal and is trying to be flirty or texting/snapping/DMing a bunch of other people, just keep them as your friend until they grow up a little bit.
- The **habits** you create now will follow you into your future relationships.

**Tip 3**- Purity

## **Content**

- When we think of purity many of our minds **go right to sex.**
- **Purity is so much more** than just not saving sex before marriage, but it does include that.
- Since we are talking about it let's talk about it
  - Sex is a **gift from God** to be enjoyed within the constructs of a marriage between 1 man and 1 woman.
  - What you see on **shows, movies, youtube**
  - **What you hear** from friends at school, or in the songs that you listen to
  - These things **do not depict the true purpose or design** of gift God created in sex
  - Culture has **diminished sex** to the **pursuit of selfish pleasure** that can be enjoyed outside of which it was designed for.
  - So yes **purity does include the self-control to save sex** for the constructs for which God designed it for but purity for believers is a much bigger picture.
- Purity is a **heart condition**, Purity is a **way of living**, Purity is a **pursuit** for all Christians.

## **Verse**

Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

## **Content**

- This verse comes out of the **beatitudes** that Jesus lays out at the beginning of the **Sermon on the Mount.**
- Jesus was trying to get the people to **stop focusing** so much on their **outward appearance** or their outward purity, but look to **something deeper** to focus on something deeper the **purity of their heart.**
- For those that **focus on the purity of their heart, will see God.** Which means they **will know God.**
- Your life as a Christian is a journey of becoming more and more purified by the work of the Holy Spirit within you.
  - The way you talk will be purified
  - The things you watch will be purified
  - The things you do will be purified
  - The way you look at others will be purified
  - The way you worship will be purified
  - The way you spend your life will be purified
  - **Jesus is in the business of purification.**

- You will **never be perfect** like Jesus, but if you have truly invited Jesus into your heart then the Holy Spirit is doing a work inside of you and you are on the **journey of purification**.

### For Our Relationships

- So why is purity important for relationships?
- Purity is obedience to God.

### Warning for Future

- You need to find someone that **respects and honors your purity**.
- You should not be in a relationship with someone that **does not view purity** the same way as you do because that will **lead to compromise**.
- Your **purity is more important** than having a person!

### Transition

Tip number 4

### Tip 4- Break-up

#### Content

- I apologize in advance for being so **honest and straightforward** with you. But I am not a leader that will stand up here and lie to you. I am going to tell you the whole truth because **my goal is to see you grow** to become the strongest believer you possibly can.
- To be honest with you, the person you are dating is **halting you from growing** in your faith.
- If the person you are dating or the person you are desiring to date is **holding you back in your faith you should break up with them**.
- Your **faith must take priority** over everything else in your life, even your dating relationships.
- The person you are in a relationship with or desire to be in a relationship with should be someone that **propels you in your faith**, someone that **pushes you** to grow, some that wants to see your **faith grow and strive**.
- Many of you are **struggling** with the first **three tips** (trust, faithfulness, and purity) within the relationships that you do have and maybe the **answer is to simply break up** so you have time to **focus** on yourself and grow in your **faith**.
- The **pain of breaking up** from an ungodly relationship is **worth the present pain**, then **prolonging** the future pain to come.

#### How To Break-Up (Sidenote)

- Listen, **ghosting** someone is not breaking up with them.
- **Texting someone** is not the right way to break-up with someone.

- I know it's **hard** and it may make you feel **uncomfortable** but you have to take the mature step and speak to people **face to face**.
- Whether it is a break-up or a disagreement you should have **hard conversations face to face**.

### **Tip 5**- Wait

### **Verse**

#### **Lamentations 3:25 (NLV)**

**25** The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the one who looks for Him.

### **Content**

- **Wait for the Lord to bring you someone** that is perfect for you.
- In the **meantime** do the most important thing and **fix your eyes on Jesus**.
- This tip is pretty simple: Wait
- Be **patient and trust** that he will bring the right person into your life at the right time.
- I know these tips are easier said than done, especially this one.
- There is **no need to ever rush** into something that is not right for you no matter how old you are.
- The Lord is always **faithful to provide** for us everything that we need. That includes healthy relationships.

### **Conclusion**

- 3 Prayers
  - God, Prepare me for the one I am supposed to date.
  - God, Protect me from those I should not date.
  - God, Prepare the person I am supposed to date.
- Relationships are so important to me that I **fasted and prayed** before ever jumping into a relationship.
- You **can't have Christ at the center** of your relationships if you don't have Christ as the **center of your own life**.