

## The Type of Person You Want to Date

### Introduction

- Summer Series: **Summer Love**
- I am excited to share with all of you! I have been loving my time with the J-High.
- Tonight we are going to get right into it because I am excited to preach tonight.
- Turnoff phones pay attention
- Take notes

### Action Step / Main Point

- Tonight I would like to speak to you about “**The type of person you want to date**”
- What **qualities** and **characteristics** to look for in a relationship.
- We are going to walk through two points

### **Matthew 22:34-40 (NLT)**

#### Context

- These words from Jesus come a little **later in his ministry** as he is getting closer and **closer to the crucifixion.**
- Just about **everyone is questioning Jesus**
  - Sadducees, lawyers, chief priests, elders, scribes, Pharisees, and their disciples.
- All of these **religious leaders** are **questioning** Jesus, his **teaching**, and **authority.**
- They are trying to **catch Jesus slipping** so they can **punish him and discredit his authority**, but with each question and confrontation **Jesus proves his authority** to be **even greater** than any **religious leader** that is questioning him.
- There is **one last question** the Pharisees throw at Jesus to **test him.** A **legal expert** asked him one last question which we will read about right now.

#### Verse

### **Matthew 22:34-40 (NLT)**

**34** But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his

reply, they met together to question him again. **35** One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: **36** “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

**37** Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

**Title:** Simple Love

**Pray**

**Transition**

- The first quality you want to look for in someone to date and also the first point is....

**Point 1**- Love God

**Verse**

**Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT)**

**37** Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment.

**Content**

- The **greatest commandment** and the **greatest quality** you can find in someone is simple: **they love God**. They love God with all their heart, soul, and mind.
- If you **call yourself a believer**, Christian, Christ follower and this is not the first thing you look for in someone then your **priorities** are straight up **out of line**.
- Your **first priority** when it comes to qualities to look for in someone needs to be that they have a **REAL relationship** with God.
- I know it may seem harsh but if they don't love God you shouldn't be **falling in love with them**.
- God has been telling his people this concept of loving him with all their heart, soul, and mind **since the very beginning** of time.

**Verse**

## Deuteronomy 6:5 (NLT)

**4** “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. **5** And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

### Content

- **Loving the Lord** with everything within you is **not a new concept**.
- In the **culture** and context that we live in today **we have lost**, we no longer understand the true love, the **biblical meaning of love**.
- **Culture** has equated love with an **intense emotion**. Nowadays love is just a **stronger response than to like** and we use it so freely.
  - I love: running, chipotle bowls, mint ice cream, movies, reese's, catching a dub in warzone or fort, McChicken, chick-fil-a....
- **Biblical love is so much deeper**. The **love that God has for you** is so much deeper. The love that God has for you is an **active love**. God **actively chooses to love you** every single day no matter where you are **at in your faith**, no matter what **you have done**, or are doing **God is actively loving and pursuing you**.
- See, for many of you we are **preaching about these qualities** and characteristics that you should be looking for in someone to date but **you don't even have these qualities** and characteristics yourself.
- You want to know the love that God has for you.

### Parable of the Lost Sheep

#### Luke 15:1-7

**1** Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach.

**2** This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

**3** So Jesus told them this story: **4** “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. **6** When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ **7** In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

### Content

- **This is the love that God has for you.** I need you to **understand** this.
- **Before you go looking for anyone else to love you** you need to understand that there is a God in heaven that has **left everything** to meet you where you are at.
- You **don't have to get clean** from sin before he loves you. He loves you just the way you are but he won't **leave you that way.**
- To love God with all your heart, soul, and mind you must **first understand how much he loves you.**
- To love God with all one's heart, and soul, and mind, is **choosing to respond to God as he chooses to unconditionally love us.**
- Is **deeper than feelings and emotions.** This love is like nothing of the love we experience in culture.
- **Step 1)** Realize how much God loves you. **Step 2)** Love God with everything within you. **Step 3)** Find someone that truly loves God.

### **Application**

- **Things to look for** in someone that truly loves God:
  - Do they talk about their relationship with God?
  - Do they go to church? Do they serve in church? Do they give to their church?
  - Are they consistently pursuing Jesus?
  - Do their actions line up with their words?
  - Do they participate in worship?
  - Do they pay attention and take notes during the sermons?
  - Do they read their Bible and have a devotional life?

### **Transition**

- The second quality you want to look for in someone to date and also the second point is....

### **Point 2-** Love Others

#### **Verse**

#### **Matthew 22:39-40 (NLT)**

**39** A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

## **Content**

- An equally important **commandment** and the **great quality** you can find in someone is simple: **they love others**. They love the people around them, whether that be family, friends, strangers, or enemies. **Do they love them well?**
- Looking at **how someone loves** and treats others will **foreshadow** how they will treat you.
- If someone **picks** on their friends, **gossips, lies**, or gets **jealous**. If you see **those qualities in their relationships** with their friends, siblings, or parents. **They will come to treat you the same way.**
- What they **do to others** they will also **do to you**.
- Don't get me wrong, the relationship **will start off great**. You will be on **cloud nine**. You will feel like **soul mates**, like you were **meant for each other**, like you finally found **the one**.
- But eventually what's **within you** or within **someone else will come out** of you.
- If someone is **filled with** the **love of God, mercy, grace, generosity, faithfulness** those things will come out of them.
- But if someone is **filled with** **gossip, resentment, bitterness, pride, anger**... those things will come out of them.

## **Verse**

### **1 John 4:20-21 (NLT)**

**20** If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? **21** And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

## **Content**

- Listen, **I didn't say it the Bible did**. If you say, **"I love God"** but **hate** a fellow believer you're a **liar**.
- Dang, the Bible is cutting deep. The Bible is mad honest.
- If we **follow the first** and greatest commandment and truly love God with everything within us. The **second** commandment and equally important **will follow**.
- See this commandment just like the first one **must be found in you** before

- you go searching for it in **someone else**.
- If you **truly love God** you will **come to love others**, even those that are **hard to love**.
  - Don't get me wrong there are some people that are **extra hard for me to love**. There are some people that deserve to be **dropped kicked** in the chest and **RKO** down a flight of stairs.
  - See, sometimes it can be **hard because** we feel like the people around us that have done us dirty, talked about us behind our back, shared things that they shouldn't have **don't deserve our love**.
  - It is so hard sometimes but **God has called us higher**, God's love for us has **made a way** that we can **love the people around us** that are hard to love.
  - When **looking for qualities** and characteristics in someone to date you must **realize the importance of loving others**.
  - **If they don't love others well, they will not love you well.**
  - But when you find a man or woman that **truly loves others** well it will **transform your life**. You will have a **fruitful** relationship that will **reflect the Kingdom of God** and **draw people closer to Jesus**.

### **Application**

- So, how can you tell if someone truly loves others:
  - Watch how they: treat their friends, siblings, and parents
  - Watch how they: talk about their friends
  - Watch how they: deal with conflict
  - Are they willing to apologize and admit that they were wrong

### **Conclusion**

- In conclusion
- Relationships are so **complex**, but the **qualities and characteristics** to look for in someone to date are **quite simple**.
- Sometimes we like to **make things so much harder** for ourselves than they need to be. **Finding someone is not a formula to follow.**
- When it comes to qualities and characteristics to look for in someone to date look to **what Jesus said** the **two greatest commandments** he gave his people.
  - **Love God and Love Others**
- **You will attract people that are like you.**

- So **before you ever go out looking** for someone else take some time to **reflect on yourself** and see if the **qualities within yourself reflect the qualities** that you are looking for in someone else.
- **Do I love God? Do I love others? Do they love God? Do they Love others?**
- This **isn't a formula** for you to find love, but a **discipline to follow to protect yourself and find someone that is truly right for you!**

### **Alter**

- Prayer and response
- Students pray for one another (Depending on time)