

# Remix Dating – The Little Black Book Series (Week 5)

## RECAP/HOOK

- “I love you.” = “I choose you and set myself apart for you.”
  - The most authentic/unfailing love is when we give our small, fickle human love to God and He gives us His love through us to others.
- Being the “right” person is more important than getting the “right” person.

Society continues to cling to their notions of love and strategies for romance despite their constant failures. Definition of insanity: “doing the same thing over and over hoping for a different result.” If we want something different, we’ll have to do something they aren’t doing.

- It’s time to remix our outlook on dating. Some of these are foreign concepts, but please be willing to chew on them before rejecting them outright.

**Definition of Christian Dating** – a mutual agreement for companionship towards marriage while putting Jesus first.

- Mutual = must have same values and life direction
- Marriage = purpose of dating
- Jesus = central to your lives and relationship

IF YOU ARE NOT READY TO PURSUE MARRIAGE, YOU DON’T NEED TO BE DATING.

- If this person isn’t someone you can see yourself with forever, you don’t need to be dating them. Wasting: time, heart, energy, emotions.

**Success in Christian Dating** – Marriage; or a mature break up based on wisdom.

- Success in a break up = you’ve raised the bar for their next relationship.

Let’s orient ourselves. What are you bringing to a dating relationship? Who are you?

## BOOK

**Matthew 5:13-16** - *“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

*Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

- In a culture of hedonism, darkness, and fake love where everything is saturated in self-worship, a Christian's life mission is to glorify God in being salt and light to the world.
- **John 10:10** – Enemy comes to “steal, kill, and destroy.”
  - We have an enemy who is trying to actively sabotage that mission of God in us and through us. He'll use romance if he can to water down your dedication and distract you from your FIRST love and calling.

**TEST:** Will dating ADD to your light/purpose or make you DIM and FLAVORLESS for the kingdom of God?

- Does dating them ENHANCE your walk with Jesus or DISTRACT from it? If you step into dating for the wrong reasons, they will become an idol.
- You only need to begin these steps in dating if God has brought you to a point where that dark/flavorless world needs you more as a duo.
  - **Matt. 6:33** – “Seek first the kingdom and His righteousness...”
- Don't even consider investing in someone romantically until both of you are at the point of pursuing Jesus together. **Example:** Triangle

## LOOK

Are you willing to do whatever it takes to have the marriage you always hoped for?

- Week 1 – Are you willing to unlearn and redefine what love is?
- Week 2 – Are you willing to embrace someone else's differences?
- Week 3 – Are you willing to sacrifice your own desires?
- Week 4 – Are you willing to grow first?
- Week 5 – Are you willing to do things differently?

Here are 3 big areas a Christian will do things differently.

**1<sup>st</sup> major difference: Assign marriage its proper value.** Society undervalues the God-designed, God-blessed sacrament of marriage.

- **Mark 10:8-9** – *The two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.*
  - Sanctifies you for heaven. Reflects the character of God and emulates His relationship with the church.

- Life-altering, whole-hearted, 30-60 year commitment for a life of sacrifice to one person in the highs and lows.
- Who you choose is more important than your career choices, what house you buy, how much money you make, where you live, who your friends are.
- If love is a choice and you have the power to choose wisely, choose carefully!
- Christian dating is different because it assigns marriage its proper value.

**2<sup>nd</sup> major difference: Only date a Jesus-follower who is producing fruit.**

**2 Corinthians 6:14** - *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?*

- “Unequally yoked” – Reference to oxen. The stronger animal is the one whose neck is broken by the difference in strength.
  - Don’t become romantically involved with someone whose priorities and treasure are elsewhere.
    - Example: Katy vs. Jacqui – Every time I tried to express or discuss spiritual matters the atmosphere became uncomfortable. VS. Jacqui – long distance bible studies and praying together often.
- Christian dating is different because they’ll only date a follower of Jesus.

**3<sup>rd</sup> difference: Stop searching for The ONE:** the concept that there is only “1” person on the planet for each individual.

- Are we supposed to float through life hoping to bump into that 1 in 7 billion? You better get it right the first time! What if they’re in china?
- This is cinematic and sounds romantic, but denies the real romance = **true love** is based on a commitment to choose = “I love you” = “I choose you.”
- This change in perspective is the difference between: “I think, feel, hope you’re the ‘one’ in the world for me.” (Feelings and decisions are out of our control.) VS. “**I choose for you to be my ‘one.’**” (Puts the choice under the oversight of wisdom.)
- (Self-contradictory?) I believe, for Christians, God is presently grooming their future spouse. BUT, the weight of finding them is never supposed to be on your shoulders. Do you trust God?

- What we believe: **Proverbs 16:9** - *The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.*
- **Danger:** If you believe there's a pre-ordained soul mate for you, you may believe you'll only be happy if you find them. You'll always wonder if someone else would be better than the person you committed to. When things get hard you'll bail on your marriage thinking, "they must not be 'the one.'"
  - **Problem:** Social scientists: People are getting married but not deleting their online dating profiles. "Just in case someone better comes along."
  - **It's like you're putting yourself on a pedestal and seeing what the best offer you can get is.** \*auctioneers voice: "Who makes 50k a year? 70k? Good-looking? Better looking? Makes me feel like a good person? A hero? = Grossly selfish? **Love is a choice, not an auction.**

**OR a higher perspective:** GOD is my ONE and there may be many who will pass through my life who are compatible who I could choose to BE my number **TWO**. And, there is no one in the world who can displace them because I have chosen them to be mine and give myself to be theirs.

- This removes fate and emotions from the driver's seat and replaces them with wisdom and trusting the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Christian dating is different because they don't search for "the one."

**Psalm 16:2,5,7-8,11** (A psalm of David.) - *2 I said to the Lord, "You are my Master! Every good thing I have comes from you." 5 Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine. 7 I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me. 8 I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. 11 You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.*

- Who is David's #1? For him, no one alive would live up to that. This is a psalm of someone who finds wholeness and hope in God. He feels satisfied and secure with his Heavenly Father as his treasure.

### **Christian Dating is NOT:**

- ...For those who aren't ready.
  - It has the potential to be very destructive if not (see Being>Getting).
  - Having a crush does not signify that you're mature enough to prepare for a spouse.

- ...All it's cracked up to be.
  - It can make things awkward, risk heart ache, and destroy friendships.
  - You spend a lot of time and energy battling sexual temptation and it's exhausting.
- ...A good way to "really get to know someone."
  - Filter, filter, and filter before you get your heart involved.
  - Many try hard to put on the mask of what they think you want. At the very least, you're both on your best behavior for the first 9 months!
    - Instead, observe them at school, what they do in their spare time, social media likes, at their job. Watch their character, consider the fruit (or lack of fruit) of their lives.
- ...For the purpose of rescuing someone from their troubles.
  - Guys like to be heroes and make rescuing a mission. Girls like to convert the bad boy. (Walk to Remember = lousy dating advice)
  - You can support someone without becoming romantically involved.
- ...An alternative to being lonely.
  - Dating does not fill a void. It's companionship as two whole people.
  - Creates codependency, expecting that person to complete you.
  - Real love is only concerned with giving (selflessness).

**Christian Dating Is:** Christian dating is a mutual agreement for companionship towards marriage while putting Jesus first.

- ...Mutual: You mutually view each other as prospective marriage partners.
  - You both have decided there are no deal breakers (see next week).
  - You're both more concerned with the other's relationship with Jesus than any benefits you get from the romance.
- ...Preparation for Marriage (followers of Christ take dating very seriously).
  - You're two people working hard to make it work.
  - Exercising selflessness, humility, teamwork. Learning how to disagree, argue in healthy ways, making mistakes and forgiving.
  - Learning new stuff about yourself.
  - This is not the little boys/girls game culture portrays. It's making countless adult decisions.

**The Filter/Remix Dating:** No healthy relationship has been ruined because of taking things too slow. MANY hearts have been broken from moving too fast.

**Ex:** Buying a house: You don't go out and buy the first house with the color you like, and live in it until you decide it's not right for you. Then, sell it and buy the next one that looks good. Why? Buying a house is a huge investment of \$ for a long period of time and selling it isn't a cake-walk either. You're already smart enough not to sink tons of money (even debt) into a house until you're convinced it's a great match for your lifestyle, searched thoroughly, appraised and inspected.

- You'll invest far more than money into a romantic relationship. It's not worth senselessly doing over and over until you stumble upon luck. Create some wise investigation steps before you begin to invest. If you would use wisdom buying a house, use wisdom finding a spouse. An intentional filter.
1. Friendship: Doesn't have the temptation to wear masks. You're more likely to see clues of who they really are.
    - **The best marriages are between the BEST of friends.**
  2. Group Hangouts: Observe who they are with their friends, what kind of people their friends are, how they treat your friends, what they are influenced by, how they treat strangers.
    - In group hangouts there's less pressure to "be" a couple.
    - There's no financial cost to you.
  3. Double/Triple Dates
    - More energy, more fun.
    - Less pressure, less awkwardness.
    - A step towards being more serious without the commitment.
  4. Going on one-on-one dates – What surfaces on these?
    - Is there pressure to be physical? What is your conversation about? Does time together come easily? Do you laugh a lot? Are you able to be yourself? Are you seeing something in them worth holding on to for life?
  5. "Talking" – Mature, open conversation of where you are and where your considering going.
    - Time to unpack and make clear who you are, your priorities, values, faith, sexual standards, life's direction. Harmony or contradiction?
    - If not, there's no messy breakup.
  6. Dating exclusively – a mutual agreement for companionship towards marriage while putting Jesus first.
    - Avoid getting here too fast. Best case scenario: you only get here once.
      - You both view each other as prospective marriage partners.
      - Seeking the Lord together for your future.

## 7. Engagement:

- Committed for life, just waiting on the wedding day.
- Full transparency and disclosure – nothing hidden (Past relationships, mistakes, struggles and hard life situations are old news).
- You are practicing for life together.

## 8. Success: Marriage

- And now the hard work begins...

In short, **take it slow**. Is this process the only way to have God-honored success in dating/marriage? No, but it is wisdom.

- If you want what others don't have, you have to do something different than what they are doing.

## RECAP

- Christian dating is companionship towards marriage while putting Jesus first.
- Christians 1) assign marriage its proper value, 2) only date Jesus-followers, and 3) trust God with their number "two."
- Christian dating is not an alternative to being lonely.
- Take it slow. Filter!
- Will dating enhance or weaken your light for Jesus? Your most important status is not "boyfriend/girlfriend" but . . .

**Matthew 15:13-16** - *"You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world . . . Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

## TOOK

**Challenge:** Think/write down of 3 great date ideas that will help you get to know someone on a deeper level. Bad idea: Go see a movie = nothing is learned. Good idea: Take them to a rock gym and belay each other.