"The 6 Radical Resolutions of Biblically-Wise Dating" // Matthew 19:3-12, 1 Cor 13 // Forever Family #3

The **big idea** in this series is that **what Jesus taught about marriage radically redefines** <u>not only marriage</u> but <u>everything connected</u> to it: <u>singleness</u>, <u>conflict resolution</u>, <u>parenting</u>, even <u>dating</u>. **We're using what we learn** about marriage from Jesus in <u>Matthew 19</u> to branch out into some of other topics.

Today, we want to talk about having a **Jesus-centered approach to dating.** But <u>here's the dilemma</u> in discussing this topic. People in the **Bible didn't date**.

- Adam didn't notice Eve on Tinder in the Garden and swipe right.
- <u>Joseph didn't notice Mary</u>, go home, and start stalking her on Instagram and liking her pictures.
- Dating is, in fact, a relatively modern invention--really only going back the last **70** or **80** years.
- This is not to say it's bad--in the Bible they <u>mainly had arranged</u> <u>marriages</u> and traded donkeys and cattle for their wives; and that's not a great system, either--just that's there's not a lot of specific teaching on it in the Bible.

So what we have to do is **take biblical principles on marriage** and <u>reverse engineer them</u> to apply to dating.

Works Consulted:

"Finding the Two," Craig Groeschel

"The Right-person Myth" and "The Right-person Myth," Andy Stanley

"Five Rules of Dating," Andy Stanley

"The Fine Print (1 Corinthians 13)," Andy Stanley.

And because there are no big "go-to" chapters on dating in the Bible, I don't have one primary text I'm going to be working from; I've got to bounce around a little bit.

<u>Everytime I do this, somebody</u> says, "Pastor, why don't you just teach us the Bible."

- Listen, I spent a whole year going through Romans, so get off my back.
- 1 Cor 13 if you want is one place...
- What this series does is takes principles from the Bible and applies them to places not directly addressed in the Bible: that's <u>called</u> <u>"wisdom"</u> and it's an important skill to develop.

Here's the <u>understatement of the year</u>: **Dating is complicated.** Amen?

- It's complicated **when you're 16**; it's complicated when you're 26, 36, or 56.
- And I see a <u>lot of people get hurt</u> by it, and do <u>long-term damage</u> both to themselves and others, and
- Honestly, I want to keep you from that if I can.
- I want you to look back on this chapter of your life without regret, which very few people can do
- BTW, if you're already married, I want to equip you to better support the single people <u>as they pursue</u> healthy relationships. As I'll show you, dating should happen in the context of supporting community.

First, Matthew 19: There are 3 things Jesus taught about marriage in Matthew 19 that should shape our approach to dating. (You can go back and listen to that whole sermon if you missed it) but here they are:

- 1. Marriage is friendship. God's primary purpose in creating marriage, according to Jesus, was for friendship man. God said it was not good for man to be alone, so he created a 'halup' (in Hebrew)--a deep friend for him. Like we saw last weekend, marriage is not the only way God deals with our loneliness, but it was the first way.
- 2. Here is the second thing: Marriage is permanent: In marriage, you lock the door and divorce should be taken off the table as an option. According to Jesus, divorce should be as radical and rare as the amputation of a body part, because that's basically what it is. Divorce should only occur in extremely rare cases where one partner has killed the relationship.
- **3.** Finally, Marriage is not ultimate. Marriage pointed to a bigger and even more satisfying relationship, one which even single people would be included in-the church, God's forever family.
- 4. Bonus: Happy marriages require God's help. Socrates told young men, "By all means get married. If you marry well, you'll be happy in life. If not, you'll become a philosopher." Jesus wants you to have happy marriages, and he taught that marriage (while beautiful and rewarding) is so hard that you can only do it well with his help. It's a gift given to you from heaven.
- 1. Marriage is **friendship**; 2. Marriage is **permanent**; **3. Marriage is not ultimate.**

If those 3 things are true, and we think they are because JESUS taught them, let me give you 6 common-sense resolutions that biblically-wise people will make about dating.

I want to <u>challenge you</u>, if you are single--to **own these resolutions as your own**--whether you are 16, 56, or 86. (**And if you are married**, I want you to <u>help those around you</u> live by them.)

Now, one more warning before we jump in: These resolutions are counter-cultural, and so, if you adopt them, people on your college

campus, or in your <u>high school</u>, or <u>your workplace</u> will think you are CUCKOO for Cocoa Puffs; but following them will lead you to the kind of marriages our culture longs for but seems unable to obtain!

Newsflash: our <u>culture isn't doing awesome</u> with the whole dating&marriage thing. I was reading one author, writing for the popular millenial newsfeed site, Medium.com, who said <u>"(Dating today is THE WORST. Each time I ask friends — ranging from early twenties to their forties — how the temperature in the dating pool is, I'm met with borderline hostility. For all the talk of ease that dating apps allow (and this is a little crude, I apologize), the impression I'm left with is everyone is swimming in a pool they all took a dump in. But instead of feeling gross and getting out, everyone decides they have no choice but to keep swimming in the sewage... because it's the only pool where you can meet other people."</u>

Our culture yearns for good, fulfilling, lifelong marriages, but doesn't know how to get there.

Here's your life lesson: <u>If you want something nobody else has, you have to be willing to do what nobody else does.</u>

And that's what these resolutions are--uncommon commitments, but they will lead you to the kind of marriage you long for, the kind Jesus wants for you.

1. I will... prioritize character over chemistry

If marriage is about friendship--lifelong companionship--then character is more important than chemistry.

Our **culture says physical attraction--chemistry--is** *everything.*According to the Bible, chemistry is not *nothing--*God created it--but it's not everything.

Did you know that studies show that the effects of attraction--the butterflies--wear off in about 18 months? Which is why some of you have never had a relationship last longer than that. And if that's primarily what your relationship is built on, when that fades, you have nothing left.

The Apostle Peter says there are two kinds of beauty. He's speaking to women, but you could apply this to men, too) ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:3 (And, I would add, should therefore be in yours, too.) Why? Because that kind of beauty is "unfading," Peter says.

Physical beauty, you see fades in 2 ways...

- First, the beauty itself fades: Things sag and wrinkle and gray and droop.
- <u>2nd way it fades</u>: it's power on you fades. Even if they nip, tuck and botox themselves in place; or start working out and unbutton their shirts and drive red sports car, it's impact on your fades.

<u>So if you are wise, in the dating process you will prioritize the presence of character, because that is the kind of beauty that is unfading.</u>

Matt Chandler, a pastor-friend about my age, got brain cancer a few years ago and had to undergo pretty severe treatment. He says, "When I got cancer, everything that was sexy about me vanished — my strength, my vibrancy, my sense of humor, even my hair... All of that was gone for two years. I became a shriveled up version of what I was before the cancer. But Lauren had entered into covenant with me, and she loved the character that God had formed in my heart. All that

mattered in that chapter of our marriage was her character and mine.
Character sustained the marriage, fueling and reigniting all the rest."2

You are like, "Oh, but he's so cute and his eyes are beautiful and when he takes his shirt off he has that six-pack."

- Let me tell you: When your kid gets sick and you are one the way to the emergency room at 3 am, it doesn't matter what kind of 6-pack he has.
- All that is going to matter to you is if he's the kind of guy you know can petition God in prayer; if he's a spiritual rock that you can lean on
- Or when you learn that you've lost your job, what's going to matter is if she is the kind of partner you know will stand by you and not go anywhere

Because marriage is companionship and because it is permanent, character matters most of all. You are going to tie yourself physically, emotionally, and spiritually to someone else for life.

You want to marry someone whom you are in love with and who is in love with you, right? Well, what actually is love? It's not just warm-fuzzies and butterflies.

In **1 Cor 13**, **Paul** defines LOVE. <u>1 Cor 13 is called</u> the great LOVE chapter in the Bible for good reason:

- Love is patient... Patience means they're ok with you not being perfect. At some point, your intoxicating effects on them are going to wear off, and you're going to disappoint them. How are they going to respond? Are they doing to lash out at you, and punish you for disappointing them, or look for someone new?
 - Love is kind... That means it is considerate. It thinks of others' needs instinctively. They don't just think about themselves all the time; they think about you and your needs.

¹ https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/10-questions-on-dating-with-matt-chandler

² Edited last sentences for flow.

- Love keeps no record of wrongs... This will be a big one in marriage. Are they the kind of person who, every time you do something wrong, pulls back up their mental list of every way you've disappointed them down since you got married? I know spouses who keep journals of how their spouse has disappointed them. Is that someone you want to be married to?
 - Love does not envy.... That means this is the kind of person who can be happy when you feel good even if they don't feel good. That is really crucial in marriage because otherwise they'll be like, "Well, I'm not happy in life right now so there's no way I'm going to let you be happy, either."
 - Love does not boast, is not proud... A person of true love doesn't think life is all
 about them; that they are entitled to everything and that it is everybody else's role
 in life including yours—to provide those things to them!
- Love does not dishonor...
 That means love doesn't use someone else like a commodity for the fulfillment of their needs, emotionally, sexually, or whatever. They honor the whole you and respect you that way.
- Love never gives up... Love doesn't give up when you've let them down. It doesn't leave. It never stops believing in you and working for the success of the relationship.

Isn't this the kind of person you want to marry? If so, <u>then prioritize</u> <u>character.</u>

You say, "Well, how can you tell what their character is like?"

- The English word "character" comes from the word *cherax*, which refers to the engraving done by a metal tool. That tool makes the same imprint no matter what you dip it in.
- So the way to tell what they are like is to look at how they are in their other relationships. In the dating stage, they are in the used car salesman mode then, trying to hide all the defects. They hear a rattle in the engine and they are trying to turn up the stereo.

So, ask questions like...

- How do they treat their parents? How he treats
- How do they treat their friends?
- How about their siblings?

- **Kaestner with waiter:** How they treat the waitress is what they are like.
- Do they **keep their word**? If they can't hold a job, or they don't keep their word to others, they won't to you, either.
- Here's one that will feel like a punch in the gut: Can they keep your hands off of you? If they don't have the control to keep their hands off you now, why do you think they'll have the control to keep their hands off someone else when your intoxicating effect on them inevitably wears off?

So, if marriage is a lifelong union of companionship, then <u>character matters</u> most of all. Again, **chemistry is not nothing--God made it**, but it's not everything.

Real quick: Sometimes I get asked, Practically speaking, what do you do if you are really attracted to someone's character but not them? Keep dating her for Jesus?

- I would never tell someone to date someone that they are *not* attracted to. For their sake. Every woman wants to be beautiful to her spouse.
- No woman wants to hear, "How you look doesn't matter to me. I don't really find you attractive at all but I admire your quiet time routine." And same with guys.
- But, I will say that sometimes that attraction grows over time, so, practically speaking, if you are in a relationship like that, give it some time! Stay in their proximity and see if it develops. But if not, that's not the person for you.)

I'm not saying chemistry is nothing; but don't give it the weight...

And, if #1 is true...

2. I will... date for clarity not intimacy

• First, ask yourself: What are you after in dating? What's the purpose? It's not supposed to be like an appetizer for marriage,

- "commitment light," or "sexual pleasure light" or "companionship light" until you get to the meal of marriage.
- **No, dating is a time to evaluate** the person you want to join yourself to for your life.
- So, if the purpose of dating is to choose someone to marry, and that means character matters most of all, then physical intimacy is something that, for the most part, you should keep to a minimum.
- Why? Because physical intimacy works like a drug--it intoxicates you.
 - When you are sick, and your body is in pain, you <u>pop a</u>
 <u>codeine pill</u> and you feel awesome. Your body is not
 awesome, but the drug deceives you into feeling that way
 - And that's fine when you're sick, but when the <u>drug of</u>
 <u>physical intimacy</u> keeps you from seeing what is <u>really going</u>
 <u>on in the relationship, & who they really are, you're in trouble.</u>
 - When the **physical excitement of sex** fades, which it will, all you are left with is a sick relationship.

Listen: Let me be clear: The Bible tells us that awakening sexual stimulation outside of marriage is sin.

- Jesus said in Matt 5, the Sermon on the Mount, that to think lustfully about someone you're not married to is committing fornication in your heart. Obviously, doing things that get your motor running, even if you don't go all the way, does that.
- In 1 Cor 6, Paul tells us to "flee" sexual immorality, not see how close we can get to the edge of the pool without falling in.

So, we avoid that because it is in. But even beyond that, knowing what I know now about marriage, even if I weren't a Christian I would counsel a couple who were dating to keep physical intimacy to a minimum. *Because sexual stimulation sabotages the spouse search.*

Practical for me, from my dad gave me: Lynn's laws

- Nothing in the dark
- Nothing below the chin
- Never lie down. Matt Chandler: "Nothing good and godly ever happens between dating couples when they lie on a couch together late at night to watch a movie. It has never in the history of humankind led to discussions about <u>cinematography</u> or the symbolic resonance of the **director's body** of work."3
- Nothing should last longer than 5 seconds
 - O B/c once it crosses 5 sec, it almost for sure has become sin.
- Again, these are just guidelines--the goal is seek purity, not see how close to the line you can get.
 - You can abuse any of these--you can get creative in 5 seconds.
 - One of our pastors, Eric Gravelle, CP of our CHC, makes a helpful distinction. He distinguishes between acts of affection vs. acts of desire. <u>Acts of affection</u> are one thing; acts of desire outside of marriage are sin.

Here's how King Solomon said it: Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, by the gazelles and wild deer, not to awaken love until the time is right. Song of Solomon 2:7 (Gazelles and wild deer represent youthful, sexual vigor.) Keep 'em hibernating until it's time for them to run. Then let 'em out the cage and let 'em go wild.

And by all means, don't live together:

- First, again, if you are living together, you are in blatant sin--and I can't say for sure that means you're not a Christian, but I can say you are <u>living in unrepentant</u> sin, and there is <u>no way you have</u> the blessing of God on this part of your life which, we have seen, is the one thing you most desperately need.
- **But second,** studies show statistically that someone who has lived with 2–3 people has less than 5% chance of staying married.

³ Matt Chandler, Mingling of Souls, 61.

 <u>Living together, I've heard, is better preparation</u> for divorce than marriage. <u>Love says</u>, "for better or worse." Living together says only, "for better."

The purpose of dating is <u>not to give you marriage light</u>, an **intimacy** appetizer. It's to give you space to get clarity on their character.

Sometimes I get asked: "How does this apply to high school kids? Should they be able to date?" We don't have a rule against that at our house, but since they are not ready to get married, that's a road it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to go down. We say the 3 ideals to pursue in this stage are: non-exclusive; non-physical; non-escalating.

Date for clarity, not intimacy.

Singles! Listen, I know living like this is difficult, counter-cultural.

- But I'll say it again: If you want something very few people have, you have to be willing to do what very few people will do.
- Understand: Dating is a time of testing. Are you going to be faithful in this and wait on God? If you use this time to show that you can wait for him, you won't believe the ways he'll bless you.

Even this stage of dating should be characterized by selfless, sacrificial love. <u>Love for your future spouse</u>, and this person's future spouse.

- Physical intimacy creates bonds between people that are hard to undo. We'll get more into this next week--but it's like duct tape...
 Out of love for your future spouse and their future spouse, don't steal for yourself something that should be special for them.
- Don't prioritize the satisfaction of your lust over their long term good.

⁴ This description owes a lot to Andy Stanley's sermon in *The New Rules on Love, Sex, and Dating*

3. I will... reject the 'marriage=completion' myth

This goes back to last week: This myth says that marriage is an essential part of life--there is a right person out there for you, and if you don't find that person, you'll never be happy. And if you're not happy, it's because you haven't found that person.

Here's how it plays out in dating and marriage:4

- In the dating stage, you're on the hunt. You've got to find that right person. And you're always worried about it. "What if I don't find them? Am I too picky? What if they don't like me?"
- Finally, you find that one that makes your heart flutter, your liver quiver, and you think, "This is it. Our relationship is special. Oh, we never fight. We're perfect for each other"
- But then you get married and you figure out they are not as perfect as you thought. HE is totally insensitive to your needs and he just smells bad at night. That cute little burp he did when you were dating starts to drive you crazy. Or SHE IS selfish and acts crazy sometimes.
- All <u>those little habits</u> you thought were so cute start to drive you crazy. In the <u>dating stage you thought they were quirky</u>. Now you think, "I think something is seriously wrong with you, dude."
- And then their **selfishness** or their **bad temper** or their **thoughtlessness** really start to hurt you.
- Looking at them doesn't intoxicate you anymore;
- So you come to a crisis point in your marriage, and you think, "I know how we can fix this. Let's have a baby!" BRILLIANT! Yes, let's bring another life into a dysfunctional relationship."
- And so after you have the baby you think, "The problem is I just think I married the wrong person."
- And then, after having the baby and losing sleep one of them is at work and guess who they finally see? The "right person." You are

- like, "OH, I get it now. I married the wrong person, but I just met the right person."
- And so they decide to correct the problem by getting out of that marriage to the wrong person and getting married to the right person.

But that doesn't work either. Let me tell you why: **You always marry the wrong person.** For two reasons:

- First, we're not primarily lonely people who need soulmates; we're sinners who need a Savior!
- I love how Gary Thomas says it: "Marriage doesn't solve emptiness; it exposes it... If someone can't live without you, he or she will never be happy living with you either."
- Lonely, insecure people... life-preserver
- Tim Keller says that most people today approach marriage with the attitude: "I want someone to fill every vacancy in me, awaken dormant gifts inside, continuously enrapture me in other-worldly emotional bliss." And that puts tremendous, unfair pressure on them.

The second reason that I say you always marry the wrong person is they are a sinner and so are you and that means they will inevitably, let you down.

 I love how Tim Keller says it: the best you can hope for in marriage is "less of a bad match" for you, since everyone ends up disappointing you.

So what if you gave up the myth that there is a "perfect person," and understood that's not what marriage was about anyway?

• What if you saw that God's main purpose IN LIFE was preparing you <u>for himself</u>, and that marriage was <u>a</u> way he can do that, and <u>a</u> way he can supply some of your needs, but not the only way he can do those things?

Wouldn't that change how we approached singleness?

 Rather than being on a <u>rabid</u>, <u>obsessive search</u> for the right person who was <u>the</u> key to a happy life, we could <u>put our eyes on</u> <u>Jesus</u>, and <u>focus on following</u> <u>him</u>, and <u>let him</u> supply your needs.

You could finally live out Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

Which leads me to...

4. I will... seek God first and my significant other second

When you reject the "marriage = completion" myth, you can put your eyes on Jesus and <u>let him supply</u> your needs.

The best marriages are like 2 people running down the road as hard as they can after God, and looking over you see someone running about the same speed and direction that you are, and you are like, 'Hey, where you going? Wanna go together?'

- I said this last week: Don't wait on a spouse to determine who you are or where you're going.
 - Some of you are like <u>chameleon</u> just taking on the characteristics everyone around you. **Don't do that.**
 - Be your own person. Be full in Christ.

Here's a statement: "You're not ready to date until you are ready not to date."

- **Be full in Christ.** Don't <u>look for in another human being</u> what you should be finding in Jesus.
- I even love this counsel from Proverbs: Prov 24:27, "Put your outdoor work in order and get your fields ready; after that, build your house." Outdoor work = job. House = metaphor for marriage.

⁵ Sacred Search, 209.

⁶ Jon Tyson.

Guys, before you seek a spouse, get a job. When you do this, btw you'll become much more attractive, I promise. **Not a formula.**

Here's how we said it last weekend: Become the person that the person you are looking for is looking for. That's a practical way of applying Matthew 6:33. And if God has marriage for you; great, you'll be better prepared. And, if not, you haven't wasted a decade.

Here's another one...

5. I will... date 'only in the Lord'

- If marriage is about friendship, a life-long companion to walk alongside of you, then why unite yourself to someone who doesn't share the most important part of you?
- Scripture is very clear on this:
 - 1 Cor 7:39, talking about a single lady in the church, "She is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord."
 - 2 Cor 6:14, "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness?"
- Friends, I want you to see what Scripture says here less as a restrictive rule; it's a LOVING GUIDELINE, because to be unequally yoked to an unbeliever means you will never be able to share the deepest parts of you with them.
 - A yoke was a harness put on two animals pulling the opposite directions! If they don't share your faith in Christ, and it's important to you at all, they are going to be <u>pulling different</u> <u>directions</u> when it comes to your <u>time</u>, your <u>money</u>,
 - And raising children. If you are dating an unbeliever, have you thought about your future children? The single biggest impact on their spiritual lives is going to be your spouse. And you are intentionally going to make the biggest influence on them someone who doesn't share your faith?

⁷ Numbers 31:16; Revelation 2:14. Balaam devised a plan to get Moabite women to seduce Israelites.

- Honestly, are you really that selfish? Prioritize your desires of the moment over the souls of your future kids?
- Or do you just not care about the faith your future kids? You will!
- Please understand: If you're not a Christian here today, I'm not trying to be mean to you:. In fact, if you're not a Christian, I'll tell you, for your sake, you shouldn't date a Christian, unless you plan to become one. Because the Christian you are dating right now really wants to convert you.
 - **LET ME PROVE IT**: THEY HAVE YOU HERE TODAY. They keep looking at you every once in a while to see if I'm connecting
 - The point: They don't accept you as you are.
 - Their mom and dad don't really like you and they want you to become a Christian. Their whole family is praying for you (they know you're here), and nobody in the family is ever going to be really happy until you become a Christian
 - I'm just being honest with you; I've observed this for many years.

Resolve to date only in the Lord. *Believers*: understand how our enemy works.

- Everybody knows the story of Balaam--but not the details behind it.⁷ "I can't curse them, but you can get them to curse themselves. Send in all the hot Moabite women to seduce them and the kids will grow up in homes not sure who God is, and you'll destroy the faith of the next generation. That's what our enemy does. He gets you in relationships that will stop the forward progress of Christianity in your family.
- So, please don't think of "date only in the Lord' as a restrictive rule; think of it as loving wisdom from God.
- And don't deceive yourself by saying, "Oh, we won't get serious. This is just about having fun and having a buddy."

 Dating is a road that leads to a destination. And every mile you travel with them it gets harder to take the exit ramp. If you don't want to go to the destination, stay off the road!

6. I will... date only in the context of community

- Back in Bible days, marriages were arranged. Your community chose your spouse for you. And let me be clear: I'm glad we're not there anymore. There were A LOT of problems w/ that)
- But in our culture we have gone to the opposite extreme. In what is arguably the most important decision of our lives, we isolate ourselves and tell ourselves that our heart knows best.
- But your heart usually doesn't know best. Other people, your community, can see what's happening even when you can't, all hopped up on pheromones as you are.

You need **godly and wise counsel** more at this stage than perhaps any other!

- If there were no other practical reason to be involved in the church as a single, this would be it.
- Sometimes people see **the obvious problem** with this person or your relationship that you can't see
 - Lust or flirtation problems
 - Failure to keep their word
 - Manipulative, controlling behavior
- Matt Chandler: "One sure way to walk in foolishness in a romantic relationship is to date someone who troubles the godly counselors in your life."
- Stay connected to people in the church. Ask older believers to speak into your relationships..

Now, just like last week: I know what you are saying. PJD, you are a middle-aged man who's been married for 20 years and you have 4 kids. What do you know about dating? Again, you are right!

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But before I do that... Let me close by saying that some of you listening to this say, "**Woah, when it comes to dating, I** blew it. I've messed up." Maybe you're looking back on <u>great hurt you've caused to yourself,</u> or someone else. Maybe it is <u>regret over sexual sin</u>.

In 1 Cor 6, Paul talks about those who have blown it sexually, he says, "But you are bought with a price." God bought you back from where you messed up. And then he says: "...you are washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Cor 6:11

- Washed means cleansed from sin, as good as new.
- <u>Sanctified</u> means "set apart"--made special. Set apart for a special purpose
- Justified means forgiven.

There is a fountain filled with blood...

Dating Q&A

Invitation

⁸ Matt Chandler, 56.

Let me be clear on standard... wait until married

So, prioritize character in the dating process, and while you are waiting, focus on **its development in you.** Here's the way we said it, "Are you the person you are looking for is looking for?" Are you becoming more godly, self-controlled, and servantlike?

[1] Matt Chandler, Mingling of Souls, 61.

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• Let me be clear on standard... wait until married

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- One of our pastors, Eric Gravelle, CP of our CHC, makes a helpful distinction. He distinguishes between acts of affection vs. acts of desire.
 - My practical guide: Lynn's laws.
 - Matt Chandler again: "Nothing good has ever come from a boyfriend and girlfriend cuddling on the couch watching a movie from 11pm to 1am. It has never ended in a discussion about cinematography in the history of watching movies on couches. To put yourself in that position to begin with is a foolish one."9
 - LIke a drug

⁹ Chandler