

(11-4-12)

## THE EVILS & HISTORY OF DATING (WORLDLY COURTSHIP)

**TEXT: Romans 13:13** Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in **chambering** and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make not provision for the flesh**, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

**2 Timothy 4:3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

**Deuteronomy 20:7** And what man is there that hath **betrothed a wife**, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her.

**Hosea 2:19** And I will **betroth** thee unto me for ever...

**Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was **espoused** to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

**Luke 2:5** To be taxed with Mary his **espoused wife**, being great with child.

**2 Corinthians 11:2** For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have **espoused** you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

**Song of Solomon 4:8** Come with me from Lebanon, my **spouse**...

**Matthew 1:20** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary **thy wife**...

**1 Corinthians 5:9** I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

**1 Corinthians 6:18** Flee fornication...

**Ephesians 5:3** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

**2 Timothy 2:22** Flee also youthful lusts...

**John 4:18**...he whom thou now hast is not thy husband...

**Proverbs 5:8** Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

**Proverbs 22:28** Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

*How Should Christians Date?...Date indiscriminately...Stop evaluating...Date casually...Date often...Date toward interest, not toward marriage..."*

*(Relevant Magazine, Oct. 23, 2012)*

David A. Smart (1892-1952), founder of Coronet Films:

- Coronet Instruction Films for classrooms (*Are You Popular?* 1947).
- Coronet Instruction Films for classrooms (*Dating: Do's and Don'ts*, 1949).
- Coronet Instruction Films for classrooms (*Going Steady*, 1951).
- Coronet Instruction Films for classrooms (*Date Etiquette*, 1952).

-Smart founded *GQ* magazine and *Esquire* magazine. He was called a "playboy." The success of *Esquire* was said to be due to its vulgarity and lewdness. Women were seen as mere objects. Hugh Hefner was an employee, who worked for *Esquire*, before launching his own pornographic magazine in 1953 (the year after Smart's death). *Esquire* was the forerunner of Hefner's magazine that launched this modern world of pornography.

"A generation back...such a relationship at such a tender age would have raised eyebrows..."  
*(LIFE Magazine, June 14, 1954)*

"...it [i.e. going steady] became a nationally-noticed teen-age custom several years ago...[1954]...having spread widely through the country, it is being viewed with much alarm...The practice of one teenager dating another...is increasing...In some U.S. high schools 65% of students go steady...There has been a striking jump in steady dating among 13 and 14 year olds...'Before long' says one observer...'it may go to the first grade'..."  
*(LIFE Magazine, Sept. 9, 1957)*

-*Time* magazine founder, Henry Luce, bought *LIFE* magazine in 1936. He was a member of the secret society, Skull and Bones (and was financed by Rockefeller).

"...Despite warnings from teachers and churchmen of the dangers involved in such immature relationships, 33 percent of the 617 youngsters interviewed said they were going steady...This compares with 20 percent in 1957 and 16 percent in our 1956 survey..."  
*(Jet Magazine, Oct 1, 1959)*

"It is a grave step - this marrying. You should weigh it well...imagination takes the brush and paints a happy home, with gentle, loving wife, always ready to welcome you with a smile...Indeed, some feel, when about the mellow age of sixteen or seventeen, that they cannot possibly wait...We cannot expect the beast to restrain himself. But man, who has reason, whom God has made so superior to the beast, should be master of himself. He should scorn to say that he cannot control his passions. Let young men remember that they are not placed here simply to find the beastly pleasure of self-indulgence...No young man should think of marrying until he has given himself the best possible preparation for his life's work...No young man should marry until he has reached his full physical and intellectual development. The age at which men reach this full development is from twenty-three to twenty-seven years. We say, therefore, on the authority of all the best writers upon this subject, that a young man ought not to marry under twenty-three, and will do better to wait until twenty-six or twenty-seven...But there are young men who are always too young to marry...the young man who has no trade, save that of wandering about the streets, or loafing on the corners, and in stores, or smoking an old pipe, and swearing, who never thinks of turning an honest penny, but boards on his father...No young man is fit to marry until he is ready with skilled hands and brain to command a comfortable support for a family. No young man who is too shiftless to dress decently...Courtship, properly, has but one object, viz., marriage...Boys and girls ought never to court...We do not object to their keeping company together, under proper parental supervision...but, we would not have the boys single out 'their' girls...this is an evil which is to be deplored; parents who wink at it, or sanction it, will live to regret it...they will find it the stepping-stone to matrimonial wretchedness... The strong reason there given for waiting is, that it enables the young man to bring to his aid a mature judgment, a life trained to industry, and the weight of a fully-developed manhood..."

(George W. Hudson, *The Marriage Guide for Young Men*, 1883)

"Courting ought never to be done except with a view to marriage. Many court as a kind of pastime...it leads to trifling and flirtation...Every one will agree that a young man should choose his wife intelligently; in other words, reason should lead the affections, not affections, the reason. But now, suppose a young man starts out 'sampling' - he courts first one then another, without reference to their qualifications...it should be an intelligent love, able to give a reason for choosing one in preference to others. The mistake of this 'sampling' is in this: falling in love before canvassing the qualifications...The right way is to canvass the qualifications before falling in love...You may call this a cold, formal way... indeed, it may seem like taking all the poetry and romance out of courtship; but, nevertheless, it is the only right way...A young man courts a young lady in a kind of haphazard way... You would not think of investing your money in business, in obedience to impulse; you would examine the business to see if it gave promise of success; you would weigh the difficulties. Why not do the same thing in matrimony? Certainly no business so nearly concerns your success and happiness; none should be studied more intelligently; here is your great danger; it is the way of the world; you are apt to fall in line. But

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why follow on in the pathway which has led to so much misery? If marriage is ever to be anything else than a leap into the dark, young men must learn to act intelligently; they must learn to do what we have pointed out,- wait till a proper age, then make an intelligent choice of the woman they need, and, afterward, court and marry her...a young man may withhold his affections from an unworthy object, and bestow them upon one whom his reason pronounces to be most worthy of them...We are not advancing here a 'Utopian' theory, which it is good to hold, but impossible to put into practice; we are giving counsel which may be followed by any young man of common sense...and, whatever others may say about the impossibility of commanding the affections from unworthy objects, and fixing them upon a worthy one, we say it can and ought to be done...Some young people...exchange red-hot love letters almost every day, and then stand up and say that they cannot break off their love...Do not whine and say you cannot."  
(George W. Hudson, *The Marriage Guide for Young Men*, 1883)

**Romans 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.