



# DATING AND FREEDOM

SS # 1

I call the teenage years and single years the rebirth of one's self (personal renaissance). Meaning, it is at this point that one really realizes that they exist. It is really at this point that the last stage of shaping one's mind really develops. So much so that the great King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, captured and tried to use some of the wisest men of Israel. Among the most intellectual were Daniel, and the three Hebrew boys who were thrown in the fire unburnt. When they were captured, they were all under fifteen years of age. After Nebuchadnezzar's three years 'brain-washing' conversion strategy, some were barely over fifteen years of age. This youth brain washing strategy is key to controlling the masses and most effective. In fact, Adolph Hitler knew it and said that if he got a generation of youths, he could take over the world. In other words, manipulation of the masses can only be successful, if their minds were already fashioned while being a youth.

Why? It is at this point that one is most vulnerable to learn anything lasting and once shaped, it can hardly break. It's at the teenage years that the clay is almost hard, so the last reshaping must take place. Your mind could be marred forever, so this part of one's life must be dealt with caution and not carelessly, as it is treated today - with long lines of sensual partners from the preteens.

Why at this most vulnerable time should one be seeking to know someone else, when one hardly knows him or her self? Why should teens seek to get their minds emotionally entangled when they don't know: 1) where they're coming from 2) why

they're here and 3) where they're going? Why not spend some time seeking the will of God for your life, which might take years, especially depending on the enormity of God's purpose in your life?

Not doing this may be the reason we have so many dysfunctional adults ("teenults"), because in their teenage years, whether directly or indirectly, they were yanked away from themselves, in relation to God. Pulled from godly self-discovery and being established in adulthood preliminaries. These years are called adolescence, by interpretation that should read "adult-lessons" and not "adulthood."

One of the reasons they were yanked away from themselves is peer pressure and societal influences. Yes, teens might object, but if they lived in an environment where there is no nudity and sex on television, no 'porn' on the web and in magazines, no public display of nasty affection, no improperly covered persons walking the streets, less stress on self vainly and much reverence for God, one wouldn't even feel like having a boy or girl friend; much more pre-marital sex.

On the other hand, some persons coming from a background where their parents are ministers usually fall prey to unwed children and many shocking occurrences, contrary to their parents' belief. Why? All their lives, they may have been sheltered: church, school, home, church outings. Such a person sees no evil, speaks no evil and hears no evil; consequently they do no evil. And stupidly, the parents didn't tell them of the many evils. So when the



## SS FILE # 1

opportunity arose to be exposed, BAM! They had no mechanism to deal with what the real world is about (mostly in remote countries with Christian teens going off to school in the West). Notice also that without the influence of evil (TV, cable, web, print, fad) they did no evil. But when the exposure came, without knowing about it, many problems arose.

To solve these and other teen problems, take the example of the first man created, Adam. God graced him to walk and talk with him. By this relationship, God declared his purpose, "dominion over the earth." God also graced Adam to work with him in ministry, 'naming every animal'. Adam was so into God that he was not thinking about a mate, but it was God who decided it was not good for him to be alone. From this, four guidelines can be used for teens and singles today. They are:

1. You should first develop an excellent relationship with God, whereby everyday you are in harmony with God as close to the "pre-Adamic" state as possible; which can be found in Christ.
2. You should then search out your purpose, which only God can verify. Do you know that it pleases God when a young person sets their heart and time to find their purpose on earth? This will not go unrewarded.
3. While this is ongoing, strive to be active, mostly in ministry. It might not be your ultimate purpose, but it usually should be something leading up to it. Again, let God verify your purpose and not an arbitrary person. So it means you have to seek to have a relationship with God. Don't you dare let any arbitrary person dictate your purpose and it hasn't been rectified with the creator. Who does one go to for a blue print, the architect or the construction worker? Moreover, you have direct access to the throne of God through Christ, no matter how young you are. Remember the fifteen-year-old boy in

the bible, Daniel, he was more in tuned with God than everyone in Babylon.

4. Now, while all this is ongoing, God is on the other side preparing the woman or man that you will just adore. Believe you me, you will, if you believe it. Then when you ask your daddy, God, being in his presence every second, he will just tell you and the peace of God will go with it. Then it won't take forever to get married, for God would have set that compatibility already, not lust; him knowing all things. At least give him that much credit. Notice that God didn't make Eve and tell Adam to go and date her for a while and said, "If you don't like her, I'll make another one for you, dearest." No, when God made Eve, Adam exclaimed, "WO!" "MAN!" And so females were called from that point (don't quote me on that, though this is becoming a cliché). In other words, one would not take apart a merchandise to try and know it really well before buying it; instead, just go to the maker and he will tell you where, how, what type and when to obtain it. Then you can trust the maker, for he is the one who made the "specs". Would you go to a device and ask, "What is your purpose in relation to me?" Could it tell you? The same principle applies to you in relation to finding a mate. Go to God! Also, I found out something great while listening to the bible on my MP3 CD player recently. It said, "Whoso findeth a wife ... obtaineth favour of the LORD" (Pro 18:22). Then it dawned on me, nothing on earth - principles, steps, intuition, outward appearances or anything will guarantee you a real spouse. But what actually happens is that anyone who marries the right person did so because God grants him or her favor; they had nothing to do with it. In other words, he likes you so he makes sure nothing ties themselves to you that is not good, only the real thing. And believe you me, I've learnt that finding the right person for you is impossible. That's the reason the verse does use the word "findeth," indicating you doing something, but



## SS FILE # 1

put it back into true perspective by saying you really had nothing to do with it but simply "obtaineth favour." Therefore, if you really want a good spouse, strive to please God.

So, from these four guidelines, it all boils down to this bible verse, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt 6:33). With the Kingdom come blessings. Again, believe me, IT REALLY WORKS! By the way, seeking is not a one-time thing.

Having written all that I must draw your attention again to Daniel and the three Hebrew boys, whom I admire, although Babylon tried to infiltrate their minds with Babylonian doctrines and lifestyles, they did not 'bow'. They were just teens, but with God anything is possible. With God you can stand on his word. Don't give into peer pressure, give into God and stand on his word. For his word is sure and stands forever. Leave the boyfriend and girlfriend mentality until you have completed your Adam experience - knowing what God has called you to do, unequivocally. Leave it alone until you have had your mind exercised to discern between good and evil. Leave it alone until God 'hooks' you up with the right person. Then you don't have to worry if the person will look attractive or be compatible. All that is good and perfect comes from him (James 1:17). Moreover, God will give you the desires of your heart (Ps 37:4). In fact, Christ was recorded as saying that if anyone has a son and he asked for bread, would that parent give him stones, or scorpions for eggs (Lk 11:11-13). In other words, will God give you something to hurt you or that is not years on end satisfying? No. God will only give you the best.

If this were applied to our present generation, the divorce rate would be zero. Frankly suggesting that marriages that result in divorce have failed to apply this principle of seeking

God totally, and developing a clear relationship; which can only be sanctioned by being truly saved (acts 2:38).

In concluding, dating should be corner-stoned on first seeking godly dialogue. It should also result in marriage. Dating for the sake of dating is unadvisable and endangers your soul. My advice to teens and young adults is to wait on the Lord (YAH).

## I AM FREE OR AM I?

I am free or am I? This is the notion entering the minds of singles and teens today. The burning desire to be free to do our own thing is pressing in our mind. A freedom to express ourselves as we feel, to choose an intimate partner as the need arise, to let our voices be heard and to basically be 'me', as dangerous as that might sound. We can obviously see this egotistic and non-altruistic dogma being glorified on the world stages (TV, cable, web, print, and fad). But proverb 14:14 states, "A good man shall be satisfied from himself."

Being a single Christian is one of the greatest times in our lives. It is a time to really get to know our God and ourselves. From birth we were taught what to do, how to do it, how to act, what not to say and so on. Worse if you grew up in the church. Therefore, we have formed an influx of masks and facades, leaving little room to know our true potential in the Lord. Becoming a young adult, with sudden changes in our lives and bodies, makes it even more difficult to keep up with the childhood masks and facades.

One minute you're in a training bra, the next minute your chest is bulging over the rest of your body. From smooth baby cheeks to the annoying ritual of shaving. One minute you're preparing for your high school finals and the prom, the next minute you're working eight



SS FILE # 1

hours a day plus going to school full time and involved in ministry. We as singles have allowed ourselves to be bombarded and interrupted in our lives with so many stuff that could be avoided.

We just got out of class, heading seven miles home to get ready to go to church, then hurrying to leave church; in between travel, beepers, cell phones and emails interrupt us. Then we take this fast paced lifestyle into marriage. Therefore, not getting to know God, yourself and your spouse; even worse, the upcoming sibling.

Did you know that a study was done to a group of laboratory mice pertaining to the above, I heard on a radio program? They were given the same amount of interruptions an average American go through each day. Guess what? Those mice went CRAZY!

Single saints, this is a time to know yourself and know your God. "For the people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits" (Dan 11:32). It is a time to watch and pray lest the maker comes back upon you unaware.

Seeking God means spending time with him in

prayer, meditation, fasting and feasting on the word. Fleeing youthful lusts means fleeing your youth, today's style; for all that is in today's youths are lusts. No wonder the Hebrew boys are considered men from the age of thirteen and given its due responsibilities; not necessarily sanctioning that.

God is calling all young singles to seek him. He is beckoning to you to "come out from among them" and "seek ye my face." Will you answer the master's call? Will you take the time to realize that you are special and God loves you and personally hand picked you? Will you seek him until you can say to him, "let me decrease and you increase?" Will you find grace to discipline yourself to forsake all in total consecration to him, and at the end, utter in passionate anguish, "OH THAT I MAY KNOW HIM!" This release will be your freedom.

- "Dating," was first written as an essay in a college English class, posted online, and turned in another English class.  
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