



Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work it** and **keep it**. 16 And the LORD God **commanded the man**, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” 18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a **helper** fit for him.” God created Men with three distinct purposes in mind: (1) to work (2) to obey (3) to lead. No dating relationship that results in marriage should begin without a practice of all three in a man’s life. Men are the foundation of the home, the church, the culture, the workplace, and the earth. God created man first in order that he might impact the world around him.

Look up Scripture ::

- Psalm 127:1 – the Lord must build the house
- Ephesians 5:22-28 – headship, submission, sacrificial love
- Proverbs 7 & 31 – woman to avoid & woman to pursue 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 – flee
 - sexual immorality
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 – marry a believer in Christ

Dating in College ::

The rules of dating seem to constantly change. The design and blessings of God, however do not. Remember, you are dating a “girl,” not a “god.” She is designed by God to *connect*, *complete*, and *cultivate* alongside the man. You were created to *work*, *obey*, and *lead*. Your dating relationships should be a reflection of God’s design and Christ’s love for the church.

Discuss ::

- How do you think dating in college will be different than in high school?
- Have your leaders share 1-2 biggest mistakes that college students make in dating.
- What should YOU be doing right now to prepare yourself for the day you begin dating in college? Describe what it would like to achieve the following in a dating relationship in college...

Healthy Dating in College::

- **Pursue** : If men are to “lead” in marriage then they must lead in dating. Initiate. Communicate. Be creative. Men’s natural response is passive. Pursue with integrity.
- **Understand** : Guys know that women are beautiful, however they often fail to look beyond the surface level. Get to know her heart, passions, and fears. Ask good questions.
- **Listen** : Dating requires communication; communication requires listening. You can’t listen if you are always thinking of what to say next. Learn the art of listening in dating.
- **Serve** : Don’t confuse serving with flirting. A man who serves knows how to encourage and enable a woman to become a more complete disciple of Christ. Serving requires putting aside the natural selfishness that men have and instead seeking her happiness.
- **Honor** : To honor doesn’t mean to worship. It does mean to see the beauty and purpose that God placed in women. Men fail to honor women when they don’t guard their own eyes and mouth. Honor women by viewing them as God does, not as sexual objects.
- **Value** : You show that you value a girl while dating by telling her things like: “I like that you bring ____ to our relationship.” “You do _____ really well.” “I appreciate you because...”
- **Protect** : Protecting a girl in a dating relationship doesn’t mean being her shadow with a shotgun. Men are to protect her heart, mind, body and emotions. This requires a *selfless* and *prayerful* approach to dating. Men don’t abuse women; they seek to protect them.