

THE Big 3

EPISODE: 151

TITLE: Date to Mate: How to Avoid Unhealthy Relationship Threats

Rushing between dating, courtship, engagement, and marriage is a sure way to build problems into your potential, future relationship. It doesn't have to be that way!

Here are three key things to believe and consider when starting off a new dating relationship or helping your kids navigate these important times in life...

1. **God's timing in your life is perfect!** You may wish it was different, but God is preparing you or your kids for marriage some day (if that is his will). And if it *is* his will, you cannot mess that up. BUT... if it is not his will for you to be married to a particular person, you *really* don't want to be in that relationship either. There is no need to rush or skip steps and try to move from dating straight to a marriage commitment. Trust your good Father.
2. **Biblical Marriage is a beautiful picture of the Gospel and God himself.** God has given us marriage as a gift and blessing! But his desire has always been to show what *he* is really like in the world and magnify his image and glory-*not* ours. Asking God to give you his heart and mind on this, as you prepare for marriage someday, will help ensure that false hopes and unrealistic expectations aren't brought into your marriage.
3. **Pray for your kids' future spouse.** Help them to identify the type of person and qualities that they want in a husband or wife. It's good to write these things down and begin to pray about them, asking God to prepare their own heart (or your own) for a marriage that will be beautiful, will last and will be a lifelong picture of God's grace, love and acceptance to others.

Please take all of this to heart, and if you have kids (or nieces and nephews), would you pass this along? It's time to sit down and discuss this from the heart... this is really important!

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar & Heath

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