

Brother-Sister Friendships (Non-romantic)

I. Basis

I Tim 5:1-2 ...and the younger women as sisters in all purity (Honorable, respectful)
Overemphasis on dating and coupleness

II. Benefits

- A. Wholesome, non-threatening, interaction with the opposite sex
 - 1. Development of social skills
 - Group settings
 - No brothers or sisters in Family Of Origin
 - 2. Healing
 - Previous relationship filled with selfishness & lust
 - Woundings from brothers or sisters
 - Never known pure wholesome loving relationships
- B. Companionship (Without romantic overtones)
 - 1. Friendship
 - 2. Relieves loneliness (Do things together)
 - 3. Ministers to need for intimacy (Intimacy is a universal need, Gen 2:18)
- C. Provides the basis for a wholesome courtship/marriage preparation
 - 1. With someone else (Issue of investing time and the relationship didn't develop)
 - 2. With this person
 - 3. Friendship is a good foundation for a marriage

III. Hindrances/Challenges

- A. Previous wounds, hurts, painful memories and experiences
 - Walls, fears, insecurities
 - Response: Become intimidated, back away and repel friendship
- B. Previous (pre-Christian) sexual activity
 - Worldly patterns of relating, wrong models
 - Distorted patterns of relating, sinful, sensual, selfish
 - Personal vulnerability
- C. Bonding with someone out of mutual rejection and alienation
- D. Wrong Motivations
 - 1. Need for intimacy (Lack of wholesome intimacy)
 - 2. Looking for a partner
 - 3. Pressure on the other person
- E. Different levels of intimacy develop
- F. External pressures
 - 1. Family 2. Society

IV. Keys for healthy brother-sister relationship

- A. Personal inner wholeness-healing, cleansing, deliverance, restoration (DTS focus)
- B. Spiritual intimacy-contentment
- C. Stay focused on the Word of God
- D. Avoid exclusiveness (Sending wrong signals)
 - Relate to others of the opposite sex
 - Focus on group settings, include and welcome others in the relationship
 - Be cautious of the level and nature of personal sharing. Time limits.
- E. Guard your thoughts and emotions. Avoid fantasies.
- F. Maintain good same sex relationships, don't isolate yourself
- G. Maintain accountability (Stay open, seek objective input)-Pastor, Mentor
- H. Maintain healthy family relationships

V. How do I find God's mate for my life?

Check List (Romantic attraction, spiritual union)

* Airplane example-green lights. Every item is significant (Smart/wise faith)

1. Inward witness
 - Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
 - Rom 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirits...
 - Phil 4:7 The peace of God...shall guard your hearts and minds
2. Confirming word, scripture, prophecy-Gives voice to what is in your heart
 - Example. Judy S. "The Word of the Lord"
3. Counsel of committed people (Parents, friends, pastor)
 - Proverbs 11:14 In the abundance of counselors there is victory
 - Proverbs 12:15 A wise man listens to counsel
4. How to handle differences
 - a. Pray b. Wait c. Communicate d. Trust the Lord e. Honor and respect
 - f. Release your expectations g. Outside counsel h. Respectfully disagree
5. Confirmation of the other person
6. Confirming circumstances
 - Rev 3:7 Open the door that no one can shut, Acts 16
 - Attending same school. Working in the same department, finances
7. Biblical principles-Unbeliever, already married
8. Mentoring, inventory, agreement in categories
9. Spending time under a variety of circumstances, 6 months-1 year
10. Agreement on your basic values and vision
11. Love, trust, respect, understanding
12. Evaluate the basis of your attraction-physical, personality, spiritual
13. Meet each other's families and culture.

VI. What to do if you feel romantic attractions for another person? Or have an interest in them?

- A. Admit in honesty that it is romantic (To yourself and to the Lord)

- We are notorious for dishonesty (Denial and self deception)
- B. Reaffirm Jesus as the Lord of your life
Mt 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God
Seek the Lord whenever these feelings, thoughts and desires arise
1. Lord am I able to extend romantic feelings toward this person? Yes? No?
 2. If yes then Lord direct me (Attraction does not guarantee that it is of the Lord)
 3. We can be in love with love. "Boing" Don't be ruled by attraction.
- D. Share with someone you are accountable to and with someone you can trust.
1. We all need help in this area-our feet leave the ground
 2. We need objectivity (Ex-Tom W., Honeymoon phase, Maximize the positive)
 3. It brings the relationship into the light
 4. They can commit it to the Lord in prayer with us
- E. Communicate/honest sharing with the other person (Under the Spirit's guidance)
1. Right timing is essential-not too early or late
 2. Share wisely and unselfishly
 - a. Don't shock or manipulate
 - b. Leave them an out
 - c. "God told me" "I'm in love with you and I can't live without you"
 - d. The issue of a woman's initiative
 3. Communicate continually-it keeps you from getting hurt
"Signs and wonders"

Adapted from: How to Progress in Dating by Dean Sherman