



Core Seminars—Dating

Class 4: What to Talk About

8. Feedback

What potential deal-breakers do your friends see?

Where do your friends see you as well-matched; where do they think you'll struggle?

What counsel do your friends have for problem areas?

IV. Conversations in Late-Stage Dating

Talking about the last issues that stand in the way of engagement.

9. Foolishness

Don't hide your sin! (your goal, Gen. 2:24, is to be one flesh)

Current Foolishness: immediate implications for your relationship

Past Foolishness: There's rarely a need to go into specific detail. Share enough detail to communicate the nature and severity of the sin.

- Seek forgiveness

Sexual sins: Pornography v. Premarital sex v. Scandalous sin

Forgiveness: Sometimes forgiving someone isn't so much moving on as committing to begin a process so you can eventually move on

10. Fears

Why share? To help each other; to know each other.

Explain how significant your fear really is.

Questions? e-mail deepak@capbap.org or jaron.cookson@gmail.com

I. Introduction

II. Guidelines for your talk

1. Frontload the big questions

2. The guy should take the lead

What role should she play?

3. Seek transparency and honesty

“Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.” (Proverbs 12:19)

“Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.” (Proverbs 18:12)

III. Conversations in Early-Middle Stages of Dating

1. Faith

Doctrinal differences

Church preferences

The advantage of dating someone from your own church.

You have no business dating someone if there's even a question about whether he/she is a Christian.

Your personal walk with Christ

How would your spiritual lives fit together?

2. Family

Do you believe the same thing about how the Bible describes gender roles in marriage? Why do you believe what you do?

How do you envision these roles operating if you get married?

Do you have similar ideas about children? (family size, discipline, adoption, etc.)

What kind of family will you be if you get married?

- Your relationship: how are the leader/follower, initiator/responders roles seeming to fit you?
- Talk about your families of origin (how have they shaped you; what kind of relationship do you envision having with them?)

3. Finances

Talk about your debt

What role does money play in your life?

- Your financial values
- Your financial habits

WARNING: recognize how easy it is to see choices that are different from what your family made as morally suspect.

- Your financial struggles

4. Future

Talk about any fixed ideas you have about your future

How excited are you about the future you could build together?

5. Fun

Do you enjoy each other?

If you don't, is it because you need to change what you're attracted to? Or break up?

6. Friendship

What do you enjoy about your friendship?

In what ways does your friendship need to grow?

7. Fights

What kind of fighters are you?

Who is the internal processor; who is the external processor?