

Crazy Little Thing Called Love: Hanging Out and Hooking Up | Josh Straub, Ph.D. & Michelle McKinney Hammond

Introduction

Can a teenager really experience love? If so, are they mature enough to handle the emotions associated with love? How can we help teens understand a proper relationship with the opposite sex? "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" Proverbs 4:23

I. What is love?

- A. Eros – Passionate love
 - 1. It's been known to wear off in a year
 - 2. It affects the brain the same way cocaine does
 - 3. Hollywood examples
- B. Pileo – Intimacy love
 - 1. Trust
 - 2. Friendship
- C. Agape – Unconditional; altruistic love
 - 1. Selflessness
 - 2. God's love
- D. Love is different for girls than for boys: When you say "I love you" know that you are committed to the commitment that goes with those words. Love means giving – "laying your life down"
- E. Bigger than a feeling – it's a decision; it involves a major decision of committing ourselves.

II. Why Do We Want Love?

- A. God created us in love; we were not created to be alone. But it was also it was God who made that decision.
- B. Be open, friendly and approachable: "can I ask the man out?" sure...but if that's the kind of guy you're looking for. If he's not asking, never ask...he will make time if you are the priority. Remain friendly and approachable. You should never make the relationship happen.
- C. Ecclesiastes 8:5-6 – Proper time and procedure. "The wise heart will know it"
- D. What is the wise thing to do? Jeremiah 17:9 "the heart is deceitful above all things and beyond care. Who can understand it?". What is important is the social network...is it solid enough?

III. Dating:

- A. Purpose – For collecting data. Dating is not for mating...it is for collecting data.
 - 1. Fabric: what is this person made of? What kind of woman are you looking for? What kind of man are you looking for?
 - a. Are they qualified?
 - b. Are they marriage material?
 - 2. Fit
 - a. Do our lives match? Are we going in the same direction? But we should have the same core values.
 - b. Core values
 - c. Are you moving in the same direction? How am I going to raise my kids? What do I feel my purpose is? Have I been assigned to you? To serve you? A good lover serves and wants to serve his lover.
 - 3. Finances: how much is the relationship costing emotionally, spiritually, and physically? Do you rationalize your compromises? Girl – bargain financing.
- B. Safety: how well do you "fight"? Can you be safe with that person in that relationship?
- C. Emotional maturity is tied to spiritual maturity.
- D. Godly person: someone who loves me with all his heart...we'll benefit from their relationship with God.

- E. Who is his family and friends? You are carrying a lot of baggage with them. If she has issues with dad she's going to have issues with you. Check out the dynamics between parents and siblings. You are who you spend time with.
- F. A relationship should move forward. A man needs to run to the beauty and offer his strength. Men need to be working on getting their strength and offering his strength. Love is always going on.

IV. Non-negotiable

- A. Doesn't love God
 - 1. Walking consistently: Females ask "do you respect him?"
 - 2. Consistent fruit in their life. How do they handle finances, stress, anger, etc?
- B. Integrity and character
 - 1. Romans 5
 - 2. Make you better not bitter. This is learning how to be building relationships. Be accountable to one another emotionally. Give yourself the reality check. "If you have to ask...he's not into you."

V. Sex: is the natural parallel to the spiritual act of worship (it is a deeper knowing that is reserved for marriage because it becomes worship). Illustration of packing tape. Emotional prostitution.

- A. Sex is a spiritual relationship
- B. Worship – To kiss forward
- C. A woman's power in her purity
- D. Setting boundaries provides freedom. Eccl. 11:9
 - 1. Learn to master your emotions
 - 2. Know your weaknesses
 - 3. Covenant to protect one another
 - 4. Establish accountability
 - 5. Redirect your thoughts
 - 6. Take time to worship God

Soul Care Notes:

Proverbs 4
Genesis 1-2
Ecclesiastes 8:5-6
Romans 5

Study Questions:

1. Discuss the importance of a teens feeling of love.
2. What are the three types of love?
3. Discuss how we can help teens find the right love.
4. What is non-negotiable in a Godly relationship?
5. What is meant by worship being kissing forward?
6. What are some ways we can help teens set boundaries in relationships?