

It is inadequate for the sincere believer in Christ Jesus because the divorce rate in the United States has doubled since 1960 and is at 50 percent or more. Second, dating often leads to sexual promiscuity which violates the pure ways of Christ and the Apostles. It should be remembered, too, that teen pregnancy and out-of-wedlock births are at an all time high. Dating and the potential sin it creates a scenario for, is a very high risk venture for the devout, converted believer in Christ.

The havoc wrought by sexual sin in our society is shocking. It must be realized that as believers we live in a time of virtually unrestrained licentiousness.

That promiscuity is rampant in the United States is confirmed by the following statistics:

- Since 1960 illegitimate births have increased 400%
- In 1991, 29.5% of all births were illegitimate.
- It is projected that by the year 2000, 40% of all births will be out of wedlock.
- Every 64 seconds a baby is born to a teenager in this country. Five minutes later, a baby will have been born to a teenager who already has a baby.

These startling and sobering facts hasten us to support a system of purity whereby our converted youth can find a marriage partner without resorting to tactics that can lead one into committing sin.

A Better Way

Dating can lead to sin before almighty God. That is a serious statement—and a serious possibility. Willful sin inhibits eternal life. Since dating, and an ongoing close relationship between a young man and young woman creates a high potential for sin, it is best if a deep spirituality underlies the motive in seeking a spouse.

Youth—and anyone—should resort to God’s divine will in seeking a lifetime helpmate. It is far superior to dating—and betrothal in the Lord (1) helps to avoid sin and (2) lets God select the appropriate mate according to His will (and free of fleshly instincts).

Dating isn’t necessary! Yes, that might seem radical in today’s world, but sexual sin is a crisis in our land. Seeking God’s revelation for a marriage partner—instead of “trying out” various prospects—is by far the most wise course; and it does indeed work!

In the congregation of saints the system of entreating God’s direction—instead of dating—is one that has proven itself successful. Unmarried brothers and sisters in the Lord make and accept marriage proposals without dating as they commit their human will to God’s divine will. In this, a brother (in faith), after much prayer and counsel with God (reading His Word), “asks” for a sister (in faith) to marry him. He does this by going to his local Elder.

The Elder forwards the proposal of marriage to the sister (or to her Elder if she resides in another congregation