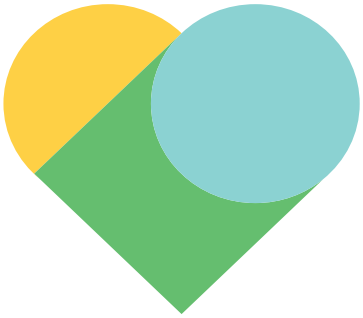
THE MINGLING OF SOULS

DATING DISCUSSION GUIDE

MATT AND LAUREN CHANDLER



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SESSION 1: ATTRACTION AND CHARACTER

BEFORE WATCHING THE SESSION:

1) What does your ideal relationship look like? Write down specific qualities of the person you are looking for, then specific qualities of the relationship you would have with that person.

The Person:

The Relationship:

SESSION NOTES:

AFTER WATCHING THE SESSION:

2) Now that you have heard God's wisdom for attraction and character, review your list of ideals. Why are those qualities important to you? Are there any qualities you need to remove or add?

3) The Hebrew language has three words for love: raya (friendship), ahava (love of the will), and dod (intermingling of souls). Together, they describe God's design of healthy relationships. Where do sex and attraction fit into this design? How has our culture distorted this design?

4) According to your list in Q1, are you more interested in physical attraction or character? How do you think this affects your relationships? Be specific.

5) The world pounds us with the idea that physical attraction is all that matters, but that path only leads to pain. God's Word redefines and refocuses our relationships so that they might thrive and glorify God. How has this session redefined and refocused your idea of attraction? What is God teaching you for your good and His glory?

SESSION 2: DATING AND PURITY

BEFORE WATCHING THE SESSION:

1) Take some time to reflect on the patterns and habits in your dating life. Do you have a "type" (think of character)? Where do you typically struggle in relationships? How do your relationships typically end?

2) What does this teach you about yourself and your view of dating? Be specific.

SESSION NOTES:

AFTER WATCHING THE SESSION:

3) What habits and hang-ups in your dating life were confronted and corrected by the Word of God? What do you believe God wants for your dating life?

4) Matt discussed several areas of concern for dating couples:

a) **Reciprocity -** Do you typically linger around people who aren't interested or lead on people you aren't interested in? Why do you think that is? Dig deep and be honest.

b) **Security -** Matt said that people are "escalating centers," meaning that small problems in dating will grow to become central issues in marriage. What are some practical ways that you can create safety in your dating relationship? What role does your community play in safeguarding your security?

c) **Approval from your community** - Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-13. Why is it not good for someone to be alone? What is the weakness of the king in v. 13? Does your dating life reflect this wisdom?

5) Compare and contrast God's view of purity with our culture's? What are some practical ways to fight for purity?

6) The habits you develop in dating carry into your marriage. Ahava does not happen by accident and does not grow in unhealthy places. What habits do you need to stop? God is not trying to take something good from you, but is offering something better.

7) What God-honoring habits do you need to start? Write them down and be specific.

If you are currently dating, discuss the habits that need to change openly and honestly with your significant other.

DATING Q&A

The following is a list of the questions Matt and Lauren answered in the live Q&A. How would you answer these questions? How did their answers help you? If you are watching these sessions with a small group, discuss your answers with one another.

1) How do you ask a girl out?

2) Can you refocus a relationship and make it good and God-glorifying after physical boundaries have already been crossed? How?

3) Would you date someone who is not a Christian? Why?

4) What advice would you give to dating people on how to keep a relationship Christ-centered?

5) What if I struggle with physical appearance and don't think anyone finds me attractive?

6) Should I try online dating? Why?

7) Can you struggle with pornography and date well? Or not? What growth would you need to see in that area before?

8) How soon is too soon to think about marriage during a dating relationship? Why?

9) How do you go about healing from an abusive relationship? What are some practical steps to guard your heart against bitterness or building walls?

10) How do we approach figuring out and setting boundaries in dating?