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Youth & Part 1
LOVE

Courtship, Engagement, and Marriage

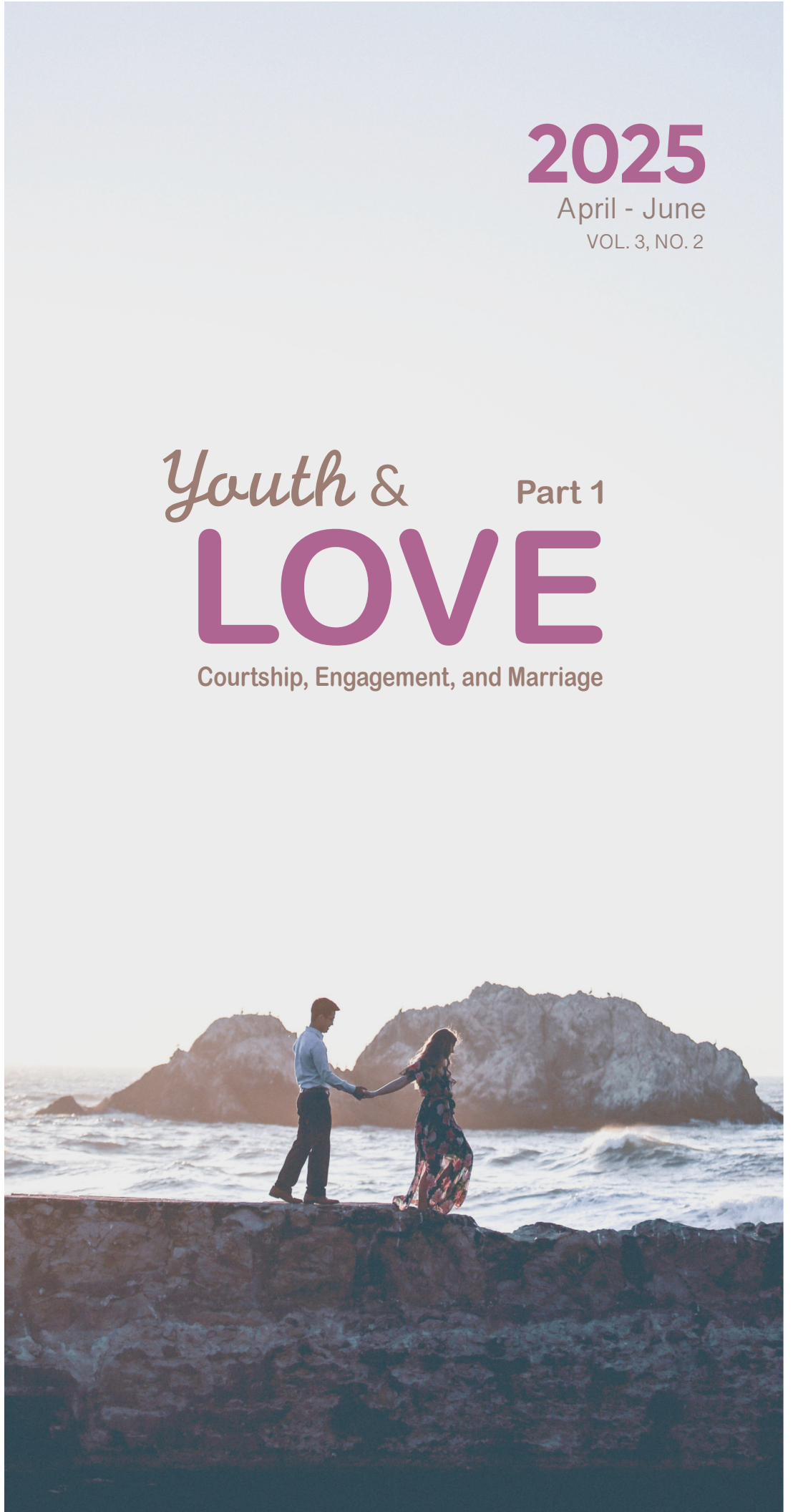




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Canadian Field Youth Department

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Jason & Edna Climaco

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“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth” – Ecclesiastes 12:1

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Can I date someone who is not from our Church?

By Ellen G. White



True Happiness

The heart yearns for human love, but this love is not strong enough, or pure enough, or precious enough to supply the place of the love of Jesus.

Those who would find true happiness must have the blessing of Heaven upon all that they possess and all that they do. It is disobedience to God that fills so many hearts and homes with misery. My sister, unless you would have a home where the shadows are never lifted, do not unite yourself with one who is an enemy of God.

To connect with an unbeliever is to place yourself on Satan's ground. You grieve the Spirit of God and forfeit His protection. Can you afford to have such terrible odds against you in fighting the battle for everlasting life?

"If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven." But how strange the sight! While one of those so closely united is engaged in devotion, the other is indifferent and careless; while one is seeking the way to everlasting life, the other is in the broad road to death. . . .

But... He/She Might Become a Member

The hope was cherished by them that the unbelieving party would embrace the truth; but after his object is gained, he is further from the truth than before. And then begin the subtle workings, the

The Young Messenger



continued efforts, of the enemy to draw away the believing one from the faith.

Many are now losing their interest and confidence in the truth because they have taken unbelief into close connection with themselves. They breathe the atmosphere of doubt, of questioning, of infidelity. They see and hear unbelief, and finally they cherish it. . . .

The believing one reasons that in his new relation he must concede somewhat to the companion of his choice. Social, worldly amusements are patronized. At first there is great reluctance of feeling in doing this, but the interest in the truth becomes less and less, and faith is exchanged for doubt and unbelief.

What ought every Christian to do when brought into the trying position which tests the soundness of religious principle? With a firmness worthy of imitation he should say frankly, "I am a conscientious Christian. I believe the seventh day of the week to be the Sabbath of the Bible. Our faith and principles are such that they lead in opposite directions. We cannot be happy together, for if I follow on to gain a more perfect knowledge of the will of God, I shall become more and more unlike the world. If you continue to see no loveliness in Christ, no attractions in the truth, you will love the world, which I cannot love, while I shall love the

things of God, which you cannot love. You will not be happy; you will be jealous on account of the affections which I give to God; and I shall be alone in my religious belief. When your views shall change, when your heart shall respond to the claims of God, and you shall learn to love my Saviour, then our relationship may be renewed.

The believer thus makes a sacrifice for Christ which his conscience approves, and which shows that he values eternal life too highly to run the risk of losing it. He feels that it would be better to remain unmarried than to link his interest for life with one who chooses the world rather than Jesus.

Shall one who is seeking for glory, honor, immortality, eternal life, form a union with another who refuses to rank with the soldiers of the cross of Christ? Will you who profess to choose Christ for your Master and to be obedient to Him in all things, unite your interests with one who is ruled by the prince of the powers of darkness? "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

Hundreds have sacrificed Christ and heaven in consequence of marrying unconverted persons. Can it be that love and fellowship of Christ are of so little value to them that they prefer the companionship of poor mortals. . . .



Be ye not unequally yoked
for what fellowship hath
and what communion ha

But... He/She Has a Great Personality

The unbelieving may possess an excellent moral character; but the fact that he or she has not answered to the claims of God, and has neglected so great salvation, is sufficient reason why such a union should not be consummated.

The plea is sometimes made that the unbeliever is favorable to religion and is all that could be desired in a companion except in one thing—he is not a Christian. Although the better judgment of the believer may suggest the impropriety of a union for life with an unbeliever, yet, in nine cases out of ten, inclination triumphs. Spiritual declension commences the moment the vow is made at the altar; religious fervor is dampened, and one stronghold after another is broken down, until both stand side by side under the black banner of Satan. Even in the festivities of the wedding, the spirit of the world triumphs against conscience, faith, and truth. In the new home the hour of prayer is not respected. The bride and bridegroom have chosen each other and dismissed Jesus.

At first the unbelieving one may make no show of opposition in the new relation; but when the sub-

ject of Bible truth is presented for attention and consideration, the feeling at once arises: "You married me, knowing that I was what I am; I do not wish to be disturbed. From henceforth let it be understood that conversation upon your peculiar views is to be interdicted!" If the believer should manifest any special earnestness in regard to his faith, it might seem like unkindness toward the one who has no interest in the Christian experience. . . . A sincere Christian will make no plans that God cannot approve.

Life or Death Question

. . . Satan stands ready to infatuate the mind and soul to pursue a course directly contrary to God's expressed will that he may separate that soul from God, and he interposes his temptations and obtains control over the mind and the heart's affections. This is Satan's studied plan to lead souls to turn from One mighty in counsel to the persuasion of minds who have no love for God, no love for the truth.

God has blessed you with great light and the Lord expects you to study His will, to carefully follow



ed together with unbelievers:
righteousness with unrighteousness?
th light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14

the directions given you in His Word. You are infatuated, you are being ensnared to your ruin. You have reason to be grateful to God every hour. Rely upon Him, whose wisdom is given in counsel in His holy Word. He has a care for His children above that of the most affectionate parent. He sees the end from the beginning, and for this reason has left us promises and cautions and has forbidden His children pursuing a certain course which will be ruinous to themselves.

The apostle Paul sends down the note of warning along the line to this time. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and

ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)...

God knows what is best for the soul's eternal interest and for their present good. I warn you off from his forbidden ground.

I might tell you of different cases here that God has shown me in Europe who have made a similar mistake to that you are now making, the wretched reality they now experience of being bound to the unbelieving companions, hindered in all spiritual advancement, notwithstanding the solemn promises made that they would not in any way hinder them in their religious privileges. What are their promises worth? The most solemn promises broken! How can it be otherwise the two serving under different generals, one in deadly opposition to the other? Where, then, is the sweet harmony?...

Look well to your steps; listen to no promises, believe only the Word of God which will make you wise unto salvation. Trust not in your own heart for the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. I love your soul for you are the purchase of the blood of Jesus Christ. He has paid a dear price for your redemption, and you are not your own to dispose of yourself as you may think best. You must give a solemn account in the judgment how you have appropriated your God-given powers.

These things call for your serious reflection and decided action in accordance with the plainest directions laid down in the Word of God. Now is your time of temptation, now is your time of trial; will you resist the enemy? Or will you place yourself in a position where his power will be exercised over you?

It is a life or death question with you, may the Lord help you to see every snare of Satan and avoid it, and cling to Jesus with heart and soul and mind and strength.

Amen.

Ellen G. White

-*Letters to Young Lovers*, p. 79-90



Am I Ready To Date?

By Elder Smith Hernandez



When is the right time to begin dating? This question weighs heavily on many young minds as they navigate the complex transitions of adolescence and young adulthood. It is a step full of profound emotional, mental, and spiritual significance that should not be approached lightly. With so much at stake—spiritual growth, emotional maturity, physical responsibility—clarity on this topic is paramount.

Here, we will define meaningful criteria to help assess readiness for entering a relationship. Drawing from biblical teachings, the inspired writings of Ellen G. White, and psychological perspectives, this guide will aid readers in discerning God's will for their relationships while considering mental, emotional, and physical readiness.

Key Questions to Consider

Dating is more than a rite of passage or a social expectation—it shapes one's emotional health, spiritual life, and future marriage. Before diving into this, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Have I reached an age of emotional and psychological maturity where I can navigate the responsibilities of a relationship?
2. Do I possess the mental capacity to make decisions grounded in sound reasoning rather than



fleeting emotions?

3. Am I spiritually dedicated to honoring God in my actions, including my relationships?

4. Have I considered key practical factors, such as physical and mental preparedness, before engaging in a romantic relationship?

Although every person is unique, certain universal principles rooted in Scripture and addressed by Ellen G. White can help guide these decisions.

1. Age and Emotional Maturity: Defining the Right Time

The Bible offers timeless principles regarding relationships and encourages young people to grow in wisdom before making such significant decisions. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven..." Relationships, too, have their proper season. Therefore, entering a relationship prematurely, without the wisdom and maturity acquired over time, can create emotional, psychological, and even spiritual harm.

Ellen G. White speaks to this deeply. She warns about forming romantic attachments too young, as it often leads to complications and mistakes made under emotional immaturity:

"The young affections should be restrained until the period arrives when sufficient age and experience will make it honorable and safe to unfetter them. A youthful passion indulged has generally a blighting influence upon the life of both parties." – *Messages to Young People*, p. 452

Modern psychology aligns with these insights, emphasizing the importance of brain development. Research on brain maturity confirms that the prefrontal cortex, the region of the brain responsible for decision-making and impulse control, does not fully develop until adulthood (typically around the age of 25). This development impacts one's ability to approach relationships rationally rather than from unstable emotions.

Hormonal Changes and Their Impact on Behaviour and Decision Making

Hormonal changes profoundly affect how young people perceive and respond to the world. These processes are not merely biological but also interact with specific brain areas:

- **Changes in the adolescent brain:** Hormonal changes are closely linked to brain development, particularly the prefrontal cortex and limbic system. While the limbic system, responsible for emotions, matures rapidly, the prefrontal cortex, in charge of self-regulation and

decision-making, continues developing until age 25.* This "desynchronization" can explain impulsive behaviors, risky decisions, and extreme mood changes common in adolescence.

- **Emotional and mood changes:** The increase in estrogen and testosterone can cause emotional peaks often misinterpreted as "rebellion." The term "adolescent storm" has been used to describe fluctuating emotions resulting from both hormonal influence and psychosocial challenges of adolescence.
- **Impulse-driven decision making:** High dopamine levels, stimulated by sex hormones, generate more intense reward-seeking, which can lead to impulsive behaviours. For example, adolescents tend to underestimate risks in social situations, influenced by both hormonal desires and peer pressure.**

The Case of Early Adolescence

Culturally, early adolescence has become the default "dating age" for many youth. However, this expectation often leads to vulnerability. Young teenagers may lack the life experience and coping mechanisms necessary for healthy, Christ-centered relationships. Ellen G. White advises that youth should spend their formative years developing their character, faith, and intellectual skills rather than rushing into romantic attachments:

"Let the youth take time to reflect and seek God for guidance before entering into courtship and marriage." –*The Adventist Home*, p. 43

2. The Importance of Mental and Emotional Maturity

A healthy relationship requires two individuals who are mentally and emotionally prepared to communicate, resolve conflict, and show respect. This begins with emotional regulation—a quality that develops through intentional growth and a Christ-like character.

Ellen G. White frequently emphasizes the danger of selfish love and the consequences of entering relationships clouded by impulsive emotions instead of clear judgment:

"True love is not a strong, fiery, impetuous passion. On the contrary, it is calm and deep in its nature. It looks beyond mere externals and is attracted by qualities alone." –*Letters to Young Lovers*, p. 30

Many young individuals may mistake infatuation or physical attraction for love, a mistake that often leads to heartbreak or regret. This principle correlates with Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13:4–5, where true love is described as patient, kind, and enduring:

"Love is long-suffering, it is benign; love is not envious, love is not boastful, it is not puffed up; he does nothing wrong; he does not seek his own, he is not angry, he does not hold a grudge."

Emotional maturity equips individuals to demonstrate this type of Christ-centered love. Thus, before dating, one must reflect on whether patterns such as jealousy, impatience, or selfishness dominate their interactions with others. Mental maturity involves setting goals, planning for the future, and engaging in relationships wisely—all of which grow with intentional self-reflection and time spent with God.

3. Evaluating Physical and Mental Criteria

Physical and mental readiness is another critical factor in determining one's preparedness for dating. The physical dimensions of a romantic relationship—while often unspoken—hold significant moral and spiritual consequences. The Bible challenges believers to pursue purity in their relationships, encouraging personal discipline and respect for others:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8

Ellen G. White echoes this sentiment when she discusses the importance of honouring God's standards for physical purity:

"Those who would preserve physical strength, mental clearness, and moral power must be temperate in all things." –*Counsels on Health*, p. 49

While physical readiness often refers to age and development, mental readiness involves understanding the boundaries and responsibilities that come with relational intimacy. Temptations often arise when individuals undervalue or lack awareness of these boundaries, leading to consequences ranging from heartbreak to estrangement from God.

4. Moving Forward: Practical Applications

As young people navigate modern challenges like social media, peer pressure, and romanticized portrayals of relationships, sticking to these God-centered principles may seem old-fashioned. However, God's Word and Ellen G. White's writings offer timeless wisdom that protects individuals' emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Here are some practical applications:

Seek God in Prayer: Before making decisions about dating, dedicate time in prayer and fasting. Ask for clarity as you identify personal goals and evaluate whether you are ready. Proverbs 3:5 advises, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." "If men and women are in the habit of praying twice a day before... they should pray four times a day when such a step is anticipated." – *The Adventist Home*, p. 71

Established Life Goals: Are you focused on growing personally and professionally before entering a relationship? Ellen White emphasizes the importance of preparation for life's responsibilities before forming romantic attachments (*Messages to Young People*, p. 452).

Emotional Stability: Are you quick to anger, or do you possess patience needed for healthy communication? As Ellen G. White notes in *The Adventist Home*, p. 73: "He who would control others must first control himself. So those who want to marry should learn restraint and humility."

Establish Accountability: Surround yourself with trusted adults, such as parents or spiritual mentors, who can provide advice and support. The Bible affirms the importance of wise counsel: "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." Proverbs 11:14

Live a Pure Lifestyle: Make the decision to honour God in your actions, thoughts, and relationships. Romans 12:1 encourages believers to live as living sacrifices in service to God.

Remember

Dating is a serious step that has significant implications for one's present and eternal life. As Ellen G. White emphasizes, these formative years should focus on laying a strong foundation in Christ, developing maturity, and practicing self-restraint. The Bible says, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8), reminding us that purity leads to intimacy with the Creator.

By seeking God's guidance, reflecting on emotional and mental readiness, and following these principles, young people can approach relationships wisely, safeguarding both their spiritual walk and future happiness. Always remember **relationships are not just about finding the right person—they are about becoming the right person.**

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Relationships are **not** just about **finding** the right person—they are about **becoming** the right person.





What is True Love?

By Evald Pedersen

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. True love is a commitment to do whatever it takes to make someone else happy, regardless of the cost.

The apostle Paul explains what love is in 1 Corinthians chapter 13:

1. Love suffers long.
2. Love is kind.
3. Love does not envy.
4. Love does not parade itself (does not brag)
5. Love is not puffed up (does not pretend to be more than it is)
6. Love is not rude.
7. Love is not selfish.
8. Love thinks no evil.
9. Love does not rejoice in iniquity.
10. Love rejoices in the truth.
11. Love bears all things.
12. Love believes all things.
13. Love endures all things.
14. Love never fails.

The Apostle Paul ends chapter 13 by saying that love is greater than faith and hope because it will last forever.

The Song of Solomon 8:6-7 says, “For love is as strong as death. . . . Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers drown it. If a man tries to buy love with all his wealth, his offer would be utterly scorned.” (New Living Translation)

In other words, you cannot buy it for money. Let us say you have a friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, which is very dear to you, you really truly love this person, and someone comes and says, “I will give you \$100,000.00 if you will give up this relationship.” What would you say? “Forget it, I will not sell my friend for money.” If you really love someone, you would never let finances influence your relationship. However, when people split up, get separated or divorced, the most common reason is, that they argue over money. They accuse each other of spending too much or complain that one is not contributing enough. How can this be?

Many times when young people fall in love, they get excited over the other person. The girl thinks



Love is
Pure and Holy

he is such a handsome fellow; he jokes a lot and he is so much fun to be with. The young man thinks, she is so beautiful and both of them forget that there are many other qualities that are necessary in order to have a successful and happy marriage. In Proverbs 31:30 it says, “Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.”

Sometimes it is love at first sight, and everything else is forgotten. I remember many years ago I saw a young man on the street in the town where I grew up and I said to myself, this is such a handsome young man; he was very good looking, until he opened his mouth. I then got a completely different opinion about him; his language was not nice at all.

To the girls, I would say, “Be careful.” There are some important characteristics to look for. Is he serving the Lord? Is he sincere, does he take pride in his job? One important observation: how does he treat his mother? This will be a very good indication of how he will treat you after the excitement of the wedding is over. Do not let your feelings destroy your common sense. True love is more a principle than a feeling. In *The Adventist Home* page 49–50, it says, “Love is not unreasonable; it is not blind. It is pure and holy. But the passion of the natural heart is another thing altogether. While pure love will take God into all its plans, and will be in perfect harmony with the Spirit of God, passion will be headstrong, rash, unreasonable, defiant of all restraint, and will make the object of its choice



Love will take
God into all its plans



Love is in perfect harmony with
the Spirit of God

an idol. In all the deportment of one who possesses true love, the grace of God will be shown. Modesty, simplicity, sincerity, morality, and religion will characterize every step towards an alliance in marriage. Those who are thus controlled will not be absorbed in each other’s society, at the loss of interest in the prayer meeting and the religious service. Their fervor for the truth will not die on account of the neglect of the opportunities and privileges that God has graciously given to them.”

In the teenage years we all experience the body’s change from childhood to adulthood. As we mature physically as well as emotionally, we develop a desire to have someone special to love and share our life with. There is nothing wrong with these feelings, but it is like anything else in life, the feelings in our love relationship have to be controlled by our reason that God has given us, just like any other wish we have in life. We all know what money can do; we can buy things for money. But if we try to gain money in a way that is not honest, our conscience or reason will say, “Don’t do it, it’s not right.” There may be times you have an opportunity to make money in a dishonest way. The devil will give you all possible excuses, not to worry about it, but make you focus on all the things you may be able to buy: the wonderful vacation you can have, the beautiful car you can drive; many people fall victim and live an unhappy life, because, without honesty, we will never be happy.

The same with our appetite, if we have food that tastes really good, our appetite says, "I would like more," but your common sense says, "You have eaten enough, the stomach is full." You may see something that tastes very good, but you know that it is not healthy and your common sense will say, "Don't eat it." We live in a world where we are constantly involved in a battle between good and evil. Satan is always trying to figure out how he can tempt people to make wrong choices, so he can lure them away from the straight and narrow way. This is the case in any decision in your life. For example, getting up in the morning, your conscience says, "It is time to get up". The devil says, "Take it easy, you can still make it," and the result is that you are rushing around and getting frustrated instead of getting ready in a normal way.

With your love life it is no different. The enemy may point out all the benefits he can in order to get you into a relationship which is not in your best interest and that will lead you into a situation which will separate you from your Saviour. You may say, "Don't worry about it, I know when I meet the right girl or see the man that I love." Unfortunately, the statistics show that close to 50% of all marriages end in divorce and many who stay together are not happy. You may say that this is the world. Unfortunately, there are also many in our church who do not stay together until "death do them part."

How do you make sure you find the right spouse? Pray about it. Do not be in a hurry. Jesus says; if you pray for bread, your Heavenly Father is not going to give you a stone. Never let your girlfriend or boyfriend get between you and your God. If this person loves you, he or she will never get between you and Jesus. He or she will never tempt you to do anything that is not according to the Ten Commandments. Take your time, do not be in a hurry. Never think, if I lose him or her, I will never find another special friend.

Does this mean that anyone I date has to be absolutely perfect? If this is the case, you many never find a spouse because this is difficult to find on this planet, because we are all sinners. Ask yourself, "Will I love this person the way he or she is?" Some have said, "After we get married I will teach my spouse to be the way I want him or her to be." This is not a good idea; most likely it will not change your partner. Speak about any differences you



have before you get married. Do not ignore your parents' or close friends' advice when you think you are in love with someone. They may be in a better situation to evaluate that person from a neutral viewpoint.

When you have found your true love and made a commitment, do not forget to invite Jesus to be the centre of your home. As long as you both ask, "What would Jesus do?"

Do not forget. It does not matter how long you are together. You are still two individuals. There may be different opinions. Respect the other's opinion even though you may not agree. There are very few couples that have not had an argument; we are all human beings and make mistakes. If this happens, it is not the end of the world. The Bible says, "Let not the sun go down upon your anger." Should you be upset with your spouse, do not go to sleep without settling your differences and ask for forgiveness. With the help of the Lord, this is possible and you will find that your love will grow stronger as time goes on.



True love is not merely a sentiment or an emotion. It is a living principle, a principle that is manifest in action. True love, wherever it exists, will control the life.

Manuscripts 21, 1900

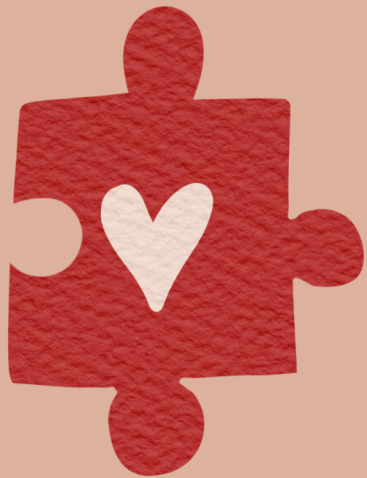
There is one thing that I have enjoyed for more than fifty years and that is to always come home to a clean and well-organized house. I would say to the girls, if you can organize your home so that it is clean, neat and everything is in its place, this will improve your chances a great deal to have a happy husband and a happy marriage.

Early in this article I mentioned that the most common reason for divorce is because of financial problems. Some years ago at work I heard the expression, "This girl is high maintenance." My father once said, "There is a limit to how little you can live on, but there is no limit to how much you can spend." I could not understand this when I was a child. But I have seen it is true. There is no limit to the amount people can spend on things they do not need. How the wife handles money is so important. It is possible to be clean and neat without spending a lot of money. Usually the wife does the grocery shopping and cooking, it makes a big difference if she looks for the best bargains or if she goes to the most expensive store and buys whatever she thinks looks good. The same is the case with the husband, does he insist on driving the latest model car with all the extras available or is he

satisfied with a used vehicle which serves the family's need?

Remember, if you expect the Lord to bless you, do not forget to pay your tithe and help those who are less fortunate. "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And prove Me now in this, says the Lord of Hosts." Malachi 3:10. "He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, And He will pay back what he has given." Proverbs 19:17

This world has seen many great men, but only eternity will tell how many of these men became known because of the support they had from their wives. At the same time many men have been ruined because of the choice they made when they were looking for a wife. To fall in love is wonderful, but do not overlook the pitfalls that are possible. To find the right partner in life is most likely going to be the most important decision you will ever make. Please pray to the Lord that you may make the right choice. May the Lord help us that our love to each other and to our Saviour may grow stronger on our way to the eternal kingdom. Amen.



Is He/She The Right Person For Me?

By Agata Gonzalez



Love is something we all are looking for, but finding the “right person” can feel overwhelming. The truth is, you will never truly know if someone is right for you, but God does. As Christians, this decision carries even greater weight because we seek not just personal happiness but harmony with God’s will.

In this article we will explore practical steps and biblical principles to guide you in this journey. From evaluating your readiness for a relationship to identifying important aspects in our future partner, while trusting God in the waiting season, this is what we will talk about. Our goal is to help you approach dating with wisdom, purpose and faith.

Why Dating with Purpose Matters

Dating is not merely a recreational activity for Christians. Unlike the casual approach often encouraged by society, dating for believers serves a higher purpose. The ultimate goal of dating, from a biblical perspective, is marriage—a covenant relationship that reflects Christ’s love for the church. As we read in Ephesians 5:25–27, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blem-



ish.” Entering into a relationship without clear intentions can lead to unnecessary heartbreak, temptation, and emotional scars.

This does not mean you should marry the first person you date, but it does mean approaching relationships with wisdom and intentionality. Dating with purpose requires self-reflection, prayer, and readiness. We will read the advice that Sister Ellen White gives us:

“Love is a plant of heavenly origin. It is not unreasonable; it is not blind. It is pure and holy. But the passion of the natural heart is another thing altogether. While pure love will take God into all its plans, and will be in perfect harmony with the Spirit of God, passion will be headstrong, rash, unreasonable, defiant of all restraint, and will make the object of its choice an idol. In all the deportment of one who possesses true love, the grace of God will be shown. Modesty, simplicity, sincerity, morality, and religion will characterize every step toward an alliance in marriage. Those who are thus controlled will not be absorbed in each other's society, at a loss of interest in the prayer meeting and the religious service. . . .” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 459

Are You Ready for a Relationship?

Before looking for "the one," it is essential to ask yourself if you are ready to pursue a relationship.

Readiness is not just about age; it is about maturity in key areas:

- **Spiritual readiness:** Are you grounded in your faith? A strong relationship with Christ is the foundation of a healthy partnership.
- **Emotional readiness:** Have you healed from past hurts? Entering a relationship to "fix" yourself or find validation can lead to disappointment.
- **Financial readiness:** While financial stability does not mean wealth, it does mean being responsible and capable of supporting a future family.
- **Mental readiness:** Are you prepared for the challenges of a relationship? Love is not just about emotions; it is a commitment that requires patience, forgiveness, and a lot of effort.

Discernment Through God's Word

Once you feel ready to pursue a relationship, the next question is: How do you know if someone is right for you? The Bible offers timeless wisdom for navigating relationships. Here are seven critical questions to ask yourself before dating or considering marriage:

1

Is He/She a Christian?

The Bible warns us against being unequally yoked with unbelievers. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” 2 Corinthians 6:14. While it might be tempting to date someone based on their charm, appearance, or kindness, spiritual compatibility is non-negotiable for a lasting, Christ-centered marriage.

Ask yourself: Does this person have a personal relationship with God? Are they committed to their faith beyond attending church or praying before meals? Genuine faith is evident in the daily life—through prayer, Bible study, service, and a heart that seeks God.

The Prophet of God wrote: “If, in your infatuation, you can repeatedly turn from the prayer meeting, where God meets with His people, in order to enjoy the society of one who has no love for God, and who sees no attractions in the religious life, how can you expect God to prosper such a union?”—*Messengers to Young People*, p. 437

Dating someone who does not share your faith can lead to conflict and heartbreak. Imagine trying to build a life together when your values, priorities, and worldview do not align. Trust God to bring someone into your life who will encourage your walk with Him.

2

Do They Honour You as a Fellow Believer?

“Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;” Romans 12:9–10. God calls us to love genuinely and honor one another. In a dating relationship, this means showing respect, kindness, and selflessness. Does this person treat you as a brother or sister in Christ?

Respect is demonstrated in both words and actions. A godly partner will never pressure you to

compromise your values or boundaries. Instead, they will encourage you to grow in your faith, honour your decisions, and prioritize your well-being.

For instance, how do they handle disagreements? Do they listen patiently or resort to harsh words? A person who honours you will approach conflict with grace, seeking resolution rather than dominance. Observe how he or she treats his/her relatives, particularly their parents and siblings. That is a good indicator of who they really are and how they will treat you in the future.

3

Do They Stay Through Difficult Times?

Life is not always easy, and relationships will face their share of challenges. The Bible’s description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 reminds us that true love is patient, kind, and enduring.

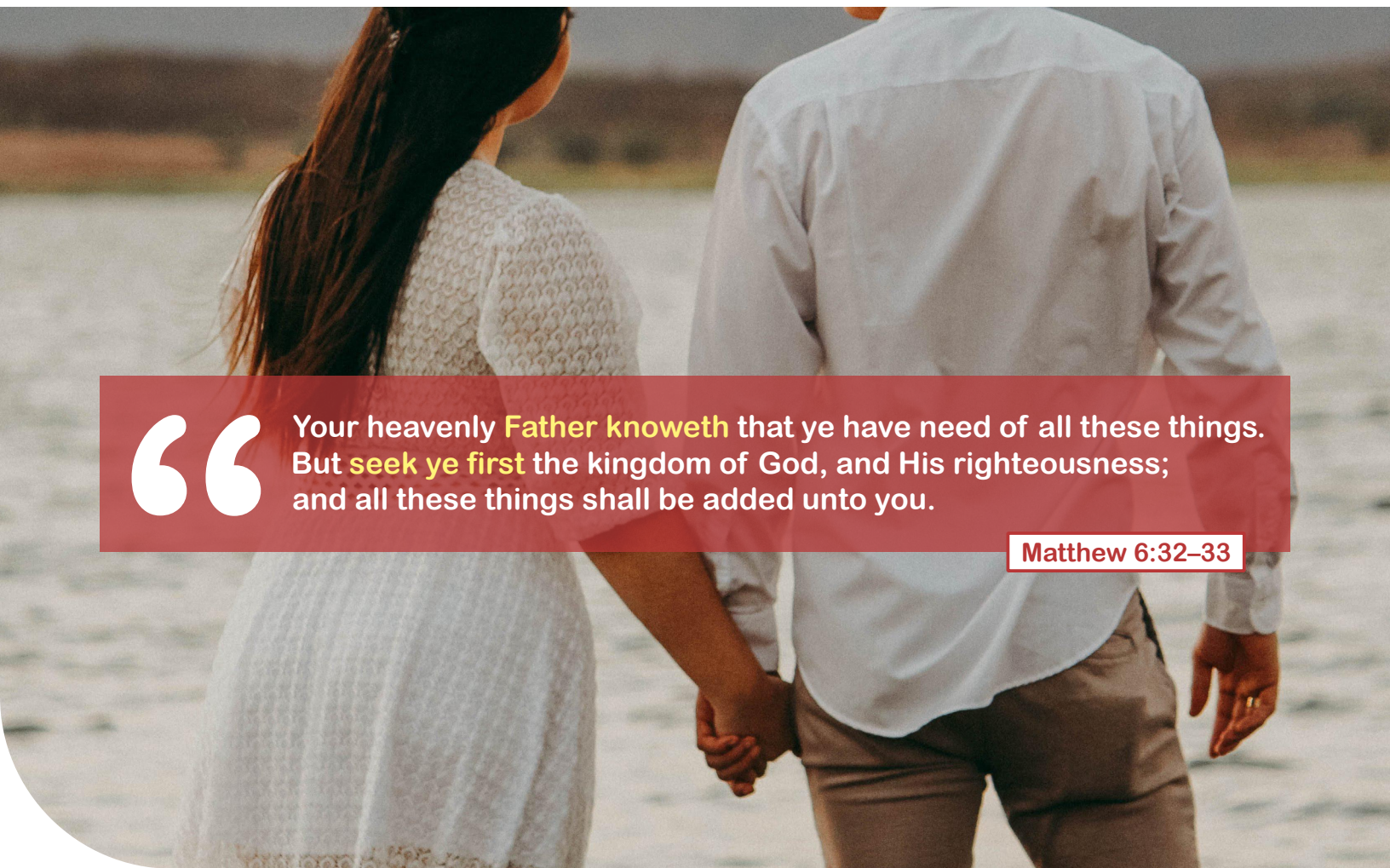
A potential partner’s character is revealed in how they handle adversity. Do they remain steadfast during trials, or do they give up when things get tough? Marriage is a lifelong commitment that requires perseverance, so it is crucial to know whether your partner will stand by you in both good times and bad.

Consider their reaction to personal struggles or disappointments. Someone who leans on God during difficulties and maintains a positive attitude is more likely to approach marriage with resilience and faith.

4

Do They See Marriage as a Lifelong Commitment?

Marriage is not just a legal contract; it is a sacred covenant, as we read in Mark 10:6–9, “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” A godly partner understands the gravity of this commitment and views it as a lifelong journey of love and partnership.



“

Your heavenly **Father knoweth** that ye have need of all these things. But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:32–33

Talk openly about your views on marriage early in the relationship. Do they believe in staying together through thick and thin? Are they willing to work through challenges rather than seeking escape? Understanding each other's commitment to the covenant of marriage is vital for a strong foundation.

5

Are You Committed to Supporting Each Other's Purity?

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” Hebrews 13:4. God calls us to honour marriage by keeping the marriage bed undefiled. In today's culture, purity is often dismissed as outdated, but for Christians, it remains a reflection of respect, self-control, and obedience to God.

Discuss boundaries early in the relationship and hold each other accountable. A partner who values

purity will respect your decisions and make every effort to maintain a Christ-honouring relationship. Remember, purity is not just physical—it is also emotional and spiritual. Guard your hearts and minds by setting appropriate limits.

We will read more advice about purity, that Sister Ellen G. White wrote in *Messages to Young People*, p. 438: “The habit of sitting up late at night is customary, but it is not pleasing to God, even if you are both Christians. These untimely hours injure health, unfit the mind for the next day's duties, and have an appearance of evil. My brother, I hope you will have self-respect enough to shun this form of courtship. If you have an eye single to the glory of God, you will move with deliberate caution. You will not suffer lovesick sentimentalism to so blind your vision that you cannot discern the high claims that God has upon you as a Christian.”

6

Are They Responsible with Finances?

Financial disagreements are a leading cause of marital conflict. While money is not the most important aspect of a relationship, financial responsibility reflects maturity and discipline.

Observe how your potential partner handles money. Are they generous yet wise in their spending? Do they plan for the future or live recklessly? Are they faithful in tithes and offerings? Discuss financial goals and values to ensure you are on the same page.

7

Do Your Future Plans Align?

Amos 3:3 asks, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Marriage involves more than love—it requires unity in purpose, goals, and values.

Talk about your visions for the future. Do you share similar dreams for career paths, family life, and ministry? While it is all right to have individual aspirations, your overall direction should align. A mismatch in future plans can lead to frustration and division.

Practical Steps for Discernment

Knowing what to look for in a partner is important, but how do you apply these principles in real life? Here are some practical steps:

- Pray consistently: Seek God's guidance in every stage of your relationship. Ask Him for wisdom, clarity, and peace.
- Seek counsel: Talk to trusted mentors, pastors, or family members who can offer godly advice.
- Take your time: Do not rush into a relationship out of impatience or loneliness. Wait for God's timing.
- Observe their character: Pay attention to how they treat others, especially in everyday situations.
- Discuss important topics: Have honest conversations about faith, family, finances, and future goals.

Trusting God in the Waiting

For those who are still waiting for the right person, remember that God's timing is perfect. Proverbs 3:5–6 reminds us to trust in the Lord and not lean on our own understanding. While waiting can be challenging, it is an opportunity to grow in faith, character, and self-awareness.

Embrace your season of singleness as a gift rather than a burden. It is better to stay single than live in bad company. Use this time to deepen your relationship with God, pursue your passions, and prepare for the future. When the time is right, He will bring the right person into your life.

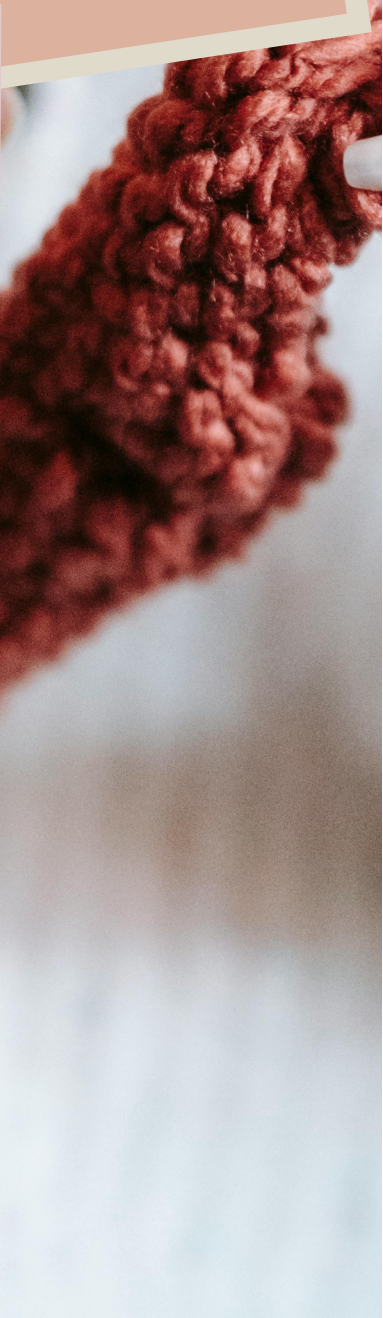
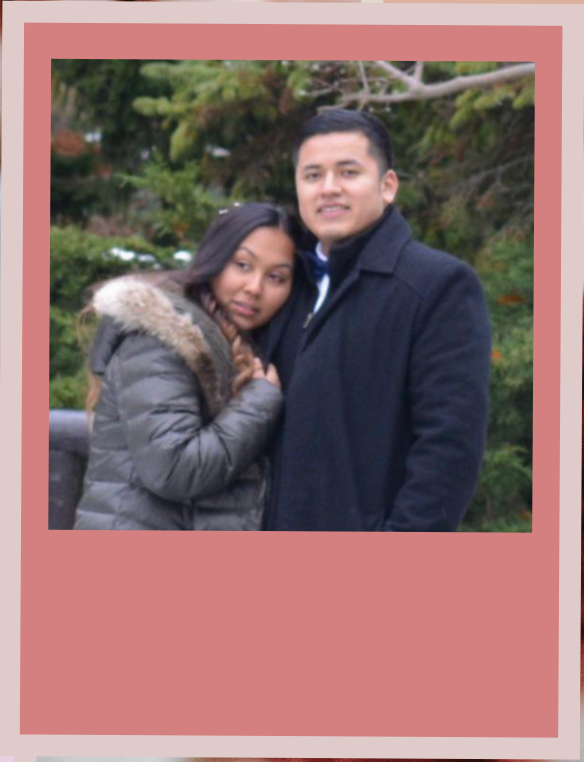
A Final Thought

"The curse of God rests upon many of the ill-timed, inappropriate connections that are formed in this age of the world. If the Bible left these questions in a vague uncertain light, then the course that many youth of today are pursuing in their attachments for one another would be more excusable. But the requirements of the Bible are not half-way injunctions; they demand perfect purity of thought, of word, and of deed. We are grateful to God that His Word is a light to the feet, and that none need mistake the path of duty. The young should make it a business to consult its pages and heed its counsels; for sad mistakes are always made in departing from its precepts." —*Messages to Young People*, p. 446

Choosing a life partner is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. By seeking God's guidance, evaluating your readiness, and applying biblical principles, you can navigate this journey with confidence and peace. Trust in His wisdom, and remember that He knows what is best for you.

Whether you are dating, engaged, or waiting, keep Christ at the center of your relationships. In doing so, you will not only find the right person but also honour God in the process.

Amen





ABC of Courtship

By Edna & Jason Climaco



Today many people use the word “dating” to refer to a period that precedes marriage in which people enter into casual or formal relationships with one another until they ultimately settle down with a match for marriage. Dating is encouraged during adolescence and adulthood as it can provide *experience* to explore one’s likes and dislikes before entering a serious commitment. Despite dating’s intent, nowadays it has become increasingly transactional with the rise of social media dating applications that prioritize looks temporal gratification and ego-boosting. In such applications such as Tinder, a user would simply swipe right or left through a plethora of options, before landing on an enticing caption or a (subjectively) good-looking face. Following this, a user then starts a chat, sets up a time to meet and formally meets in person. Yet, while this may seem streamlined for some (as it removes the pressure of developing a friendship and an authentic relationship before pondering a romantic relationship), social media applications have devalued human connection and relationship building that was given by God for man and woman to find true companionship and love. While on the one hand, dating and social media dating applications *may* provide users with more experience in what they like and dislike in a future partner, it is levity in its treatment of potential partners, and relationships is not something to be admired or copied. God’s plan for you as a young person when considering a future



spouse is startlingly contrasted to what dating and social media applications sell today. According to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, there is a real (and good!) difference in God's plan in finding a future partner. Let's find out how!

Dating on Trial

Let us get back to basics. While dating is a process that involves a person exploring their pool of potential partners through casual days or evenings out, dating has little intention. You could date five different people, decide you do not like any of them and end up back at square one. This can be frustrating for many people as they sift through dating applications, or contacts in their phone until they altogether give up. Bearing this in mind, dating is not the *only* way to find a partner. Courting is the alternative option. While dating involves casual outings with multiple partners, courting is a "traditional approach to building a romantic relationship". While dating rarely has intent, courting is about intent! The intent? To find a partner for life. When you court someone, you are telling that person that you intend on marrying them IF (and that's a big if), you are compatible, you are able to respect one another, you are able to prioritize each other and you have God's approval to move towards that step. God's intent for you as a young person is to court, not date. The reason for this is that God does not want you to suffer heartbreak as

you traverse the world of potential partners, but rather that you enter into a courtship only after you have carefully poured your heart out to Him in prayer. Ask yourself: If the next person you will be romantically involved with could be your partner for life, would you want to tread as carefully as you can or rush into things without considering the gravity of the decisions you are taking? Choosing a life-long partner requires its due diligence. And to follow God's command, we have to seek God and His wisdom. This sentiment is shared in James 1:5 as it states "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally."

How Do I "Court" Correctly?

Now that we understand that courting should be the process that you undertake once you have decided that you are ready to seek a partner with faith in God's leading, let us consider how to court, and what you should and should not do in your courtship.

Being Alone vs Being with Others

I am going back to talking about dating one more time, as it will help us make a clear distinction between dating and courting that is worth noting. While dating focuses on getting to know a person and only a person in isolation, courting places an emphasis on getting to know a person both on their

own (on occasion) and in group settings. The reason for this is that while alone time with a person may help you know their likes, dislikes and other topics of interest, it may also lead you into situations you would rather not find yourself in (i.e. fornication, lust, etc.). Though your goal may be to get to know a person better, by choosing activities that only prioritize alone time, you may find that you lose the opportunity to truly learn about a person as you become distracted solely by their appearance. When speaking about love, Ellen G. White shares that “true love is not a strong, fiery, impetuous passion. On the contrary, it is calm and deep in its nature. It looks beyond mere externals and is attracted by qualities alone.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 49

The Great Outdoors

I love nature. And if you know me, you know I love all things camp. This year my husband and I acquired brand new gear, packed our bags and camped as much as we could throughout the summer. I’m happy to have chosen someone that shares my interests and passion. I’ve always loved this about him. And believe it or not, I learned that he loved the outdoors early in our courtship. During our courtship we’d often go to parks, lakes, and walks throughout our town. We’d spend hours exploring and visiting nature.

Spending time outdoors is a great activity that you can do while courting. Nature has a unique way of bringing clarity to our minds. It helps us refocus and ground ourselves. Ellen G. White shares a similar sentiment in her book *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students* “In the midst of the beautiful things of nature, the soul may be uplifted from the earthy to the heavenly.” Spending time outdoors with your person of interest is a great way to get to know them. You can listen to them talk, hear about their likes, their dislikes, all while being outdoors and enjoying God’s creation. Find opportunities to plan group walks, youth day trips to mountains or lakes, geocaching hunts, or attend our youth camps in the Canadian Field!

Take Part in Service

God knows that you have talents, and He knows that your person of interest has their own set of talents as well! Bearing this in mind, there is a possibility that the blend of your talents is what God is

seeking for your local community. Take this into consideration as you consider activities of service that you and your person of interest could organize for the local food bank, homeless shelter, visit the elderly, or tend to a community garden. Search for activities online that speak to the talents that the two of you have and see how God can use you both in service. This will be an excellent opportunity for you both to work for God while also discovering your own talents and compatibility. In addition, you will learn how to work together, and support one another as you encounter challenges in the real world for the benefit of others. The best thing of all is that Proverbs 19:17 promises that “He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given.” What an amazing promise! As you give to others, God gives back to you. Remember that our goals as Christians are to show Christ through our actions, and when you are blessed to find a person that shares the same goal; this is no easy feat.

Learn and Grow Together

Learning and growing in God’s word is a particularly important activity that you should undertake with your person of interest during courtship. As you will be focusing your interest and affection on each other during courtship, it is important to ensure you are keeping God at the center of your courtship. As you study God’s word, I encourage you to ask yourself: Is our courtship honouring God? Are we listening to God’s leading? What can we change? How can we improve our relationship with God alone and as a couple? Remember: As a member of this courtship, you have a responsibility to be a good example to this person, and what better way to do this than by studying God’s word with each other. By prayerfully studying, you will foster mutual encouragement for one another while also developing a love for study and Truth.

Conclusion

Courtship is the first step in finding a partner for a God-centered lifelong commitment. Consider this as you begin your courtship and as you choose your first outings and subsequent outings with the person of your choosing. Bearing in mind the importance of courting and what it means for you as you choose a partner for life, ensure you seek the guidance of trusted adults in your life (your pastor,

missionary, and parents). While the activities here presented are only some of the many activities that you can do during courtship, the heart of the message is to understand that courtship is more than simply picking and choosing the first person who shows up on your social media feed. Rather through these activities, my hope is that you are able to get to truly know your person of interest, their passions for life, their goals and ambition, how they treat others, how they treat you and most importantly how they treat God. The verse I'd like to leave you with is found in Proverbs 4:23 that reads "Keep your heart with all diligence." As such, I pray for you and your decisions as you enter courtship and that you place your heart in God's hands as He leads through knowing one another in a way that honours Him and yourself.

Amen.





Do I Need Supervision?

By Joseph B. Suganob



“**W**here no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14

Back in the day, when I started my work as a part-time Bible worker for the church in the Philippines, I had a Bible student who was then a daughter of our church member. She was sixteen years old at that time, in her fourth year in high school, and an honored student in her class. She was a very intelligent young lady with good grades in her studies, so the parents thought that one day she could be a professional and possibly have a better life. Unfortunately, in the middle of the school year, she met a guy older than her who started to court her almost daily. Young and inexperienced, she started spending time with him, and liked him. But she did not tell her parents about the man who courted her. Later on, the parents discovered that somebody was courting their young daughter, through her friends in the community. So the parents tried to talk to her and ask her if the news was true. At first, she denied the news, but since her parents consistently asked her the question, she confirmed that the news was true and admitted that she was already in a relationship with him. Her parents were devastated as they learned of the unfortunate situation of their daughter. They counselled her to stop the relationship because she was too young to enter into that type of relationship; and besides, she did not even really know what type of guy she



was into. They reasoned to her that their advice for her to cut the relationship off that they had was not just because they did not like him for what he did. But, also because she had yet to finish her studies to make a better future for herself and build her relationship with God, both of which were in jeopardy because of her relationship with the unbeliever.

Counsel upon counsel and prayers after prayers were offered to her, but nothing helped the situation because the daughter reasoned that she was in love with him and even believed that he could give her a better future. Although I was unaware of her situation, I noticed that she started to show no interest in Bible study, which she had been very interested in before meeting this guy.

One Sabbath, I noticed that she was not attending our Sabbath services, and I asked her parents why she was not with us in the worship. The mother could not hold back her tears as she told me of her daughter's situation. We prayed together in the church for her, and after we prayed, her parents asked me if I could talk to her in the hope that she would listen to me. I promised them that I would do what I could to convince her not to continue with her relationship and consider her parent's advice.

In the evening of the Sabbath, I was able to talk to her and I tried to convince her to listen to her par-

ents and reconsider her decision to be in a relationship with the guy. Unfortunately, she was strong in her decision. She told me that she would stop attending Bible study for the time being because of her situation and that she might continue when everything is alright. I was so sad about her decision and asked her to pray to the Lord that He may enlighten her.

After two weeks, I learned from her parents that she got pregnant with the guy and had to stop going to school because the school does not allow any pregnant students without a legal husband. Her parents were devastated by her situation but could not do anything to reverse it. I also learned that she and the guy decided to live together, even without the marriage bond, because she was pregnant. The once lofty hopes and expectations of her parents for her died away, and they were all left devastated.

Several months after she moved in with her boyfriend, she delivered a baby boy. They were both happy with her boyfriend and lived in a small hut close to her father's sugarcane farm. I still kept in contact with them and treated them well until one day, they both attended our church services and ask me if I can give them a Bible study. I agreed to their request, and the boyfriend joined us in the Bible study. They told me that they would consider joining our church through baptism once they got



legally married. Everything seemed to work well at the beginning.

When the young sister reached the age of eighteen years old, they decided to get married. In the Philippines, only when a person reaches the age of eighteen can they qualify to apply for a marriage license with the government—a paper they need in order to get married. They asked me if I could help them process their paperwork in the Local Municipality for their marriage license, which I did. After we finished all their paperwork, they were officially bonded in marriage through the Municipal Mayor of the town and were able to build their own house with the help of the sister's parents, who gave them money for the house.

Three years after their marriage, the once happy life that they had shared turned into a life of chaos. They now started to fight against each other because they both discovered their negative temperaments and characteristics. They had a lot of disagreements. The husband started to hurt her by punching her, and she became a battered wife. The home they had, which was once a heaven for both

of them, became a place of suffering and torture. Because of this, she went back to her parents and, with tears, asked them to accept her into their home once again. She told her parents that if she had only listened to their advice and counsel, she could have avoided the trauma that she received from her husband. But, everything was too late; her parents could never bring back the times that had passed and make things better for her. She separated from her husband with the baby, and her husband found another woman and lived with her. Their plan to get baptized in our church became only a plan and a memory that never came to pass.

The case of the young sister is not an isolated one with many young people in our time. Many young people in our day, once they reach the age where thoughts of courtship start to enter into their minds and a feeling of intense desire (nowadays termed as a “crush”) towards the opposite sex hits them, they become unreasonable and impulsive. They called that feeling of infatuation true love, and once their desires and feelings get involved, they are so consistent in their belief that what they feel is true love, that they are very hard to convince that it is only infatuation.



The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. . . . Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Proverbs 12:15; 19:20

when they are not properly guided and supervised. It is the most crucial time for every young person, because many of them use the beating of their hearts instead of their mind as the basis for their decision. In the same book I referred to above, the writer continued, "Before making a decision, ask your parents for advice and ask God for wisdom. If you let Him guide you, He will guide your life towards success and you will be happy." -*Be Human*, p. 96

The word of God says, "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." It may seem old-fashioned, and some young people even consider asking advice from believing parents, elders of the church, and ministers as obsolete, but that is the safest way for young people to proceed before they enter into any stage of courtship or relationship.

The Spirit of Prophecy said, "The youth trust altogether too much to impulse. They should not give themselves away too easily, nor be captivated too readily by the winning exterior of the lover. Courtship as carried on in this age, is a scheme of deception and hypocrisy, with which the enemy of souls has far more to do than the Lord. Good common sense is needed here if anywhere; but the fact is, it has little to do in the matter." -*The Adventist Home*, p. 55

For these reasons, youth need to ask themselves, "Do I need supervision?"

While it is true in all aspects that the time for courtship is inevitable in the life of most young people, if not all. In a book written by Gerhard Hunger (a minister of our church), he said: "Courtship is a wonderful time. It is a time of illusions, disillusion, triumphs, failures, anxieties, and waiting." -*Be Human*, p. 94

In these times, young people seem to get carried away by an extreme feeling of happiness. Thus, they enjoy it so much, that they are led astray and lost

The life of Samson in the Bible is much known to many young people and the baleful result of his own decision to obtain a wife from the unbelieving Philistines. His parents advised him not to do it, but he was too determined to take Delilah as his wife, for "she pleases him well." Judges 14:3, last part. The result of his rejection of the counsel of his believing parents put his life into the worst situation, for the enemy of God's people blinded him. Samson's life history must be a lesson book for young people.

In the book *Messages to Young People*, we read: "In these days of peril and corruption, the young are exposed to many trials and temptations. Many are sailing in a dangerous harbor. They need a pilot; but they scorn to accept the much-needed help, feeling that they are competent to guide their own bark, and not realizing that it is about to strike a hidden rock that may cause them to make shipwreck of faith and happiness. They are infatuated with the subject of courtship and marriage, and their principal burden is to have their own way. In this, the most important period of their lives, they need an unerring counselor, an infallible guide.

This they will find in the Word of God. Unless they are diligent students of that Word, they will make grave mistakes, which will mar their happiness and that of others, both for the present and the future life.” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 443

Like in the case of the young lady who disregarded her parents, and abandoned her studies just because of the young guy who she thought would give her a better future, and instead ended up broke and ruined, will be the life of those who will follow their infatuation and do not ask counsel, who reject the supervision of those experienced people in the church like Elders, Ministers, and especially their believing parents.

Consider the following statements from the Spirit of Prophecy: “When will our youth be wise? How long will this kind of work go on? Shall children consult only their own desires and inclinations, irrespective of the advice and judgment of their parents? Some seem never to bestow a thought upon their parents’ wishes or preferences, nor to regard their matured judgment. Selfishness has closed the door of their hearts to filial affection. The minds of the young need to be aroused in regard to this matter. The fifth commandment is the only commandment to which is annexed a promise; but it is held lightly, and is even positively ignored by the lover’s claim. Slighting a mother’s love, dishonoring a father’s care, are sins that stand registered against many youth.

“One of the greatest errors connected with this subject is that the young and inexperienced must not have their affections disturbed, that there must be no interference in their love experience. If there ever was a subject that needed to be viewed from every standpoint, it is this. The aid of the experience of others, and a calm, careful weighing of the matter on both sides, is positively essential. It is a subject that is treated altogether too lightly by the great majority of people.

“Take God and your God-fearing parents into your counsel, young friends. Pray over the matter. Weigh every sentiment, and watch every development of character in the one with whom you think to link your life destiny. The step you are about to take is one of the most important in your life, and should not be taken hastily. While you may love, do not love blindly.” –*Messages to Young People*, p. 448–449

“

It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:5

“If you are blessed with God-fearing parents, seek counsel of them. Open to them your hopes and plans; learn the lessons which their life experiences have taught.

“If children would be more familiar with their parents, if they would confide in them and unburden to them their joys and sorrows, they would save themselves many a future heartache. When perplexed to know what course is right, let them lay the matter just as they view it before their parents, and ask advice of them. Who are so well calculated to point out their dangers as godly parents? Who can understand their peculiar temperaments so well as they? Children who are Christians will esteem above every earthly blessing the love and approbation of their God-fearing parents. The parents can sympathize with the children and pray for and with them that God will shield and guide them. Above everything else they will point them to their never-failing Friend and Counselor.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 73

Dear young people, you should always remember that God loves you, and also your parents and church leaders love you. Please stay away from the thought of avoiding seeking counsel and advice from them. You need to do this when engaging in a relationship and courtship. Erase from your mind the idea that it is embarrassing and a sign of immaturity when you ask for counsel and guidance. The Lord wants you to do this to have a better life in this world and in the world to come.

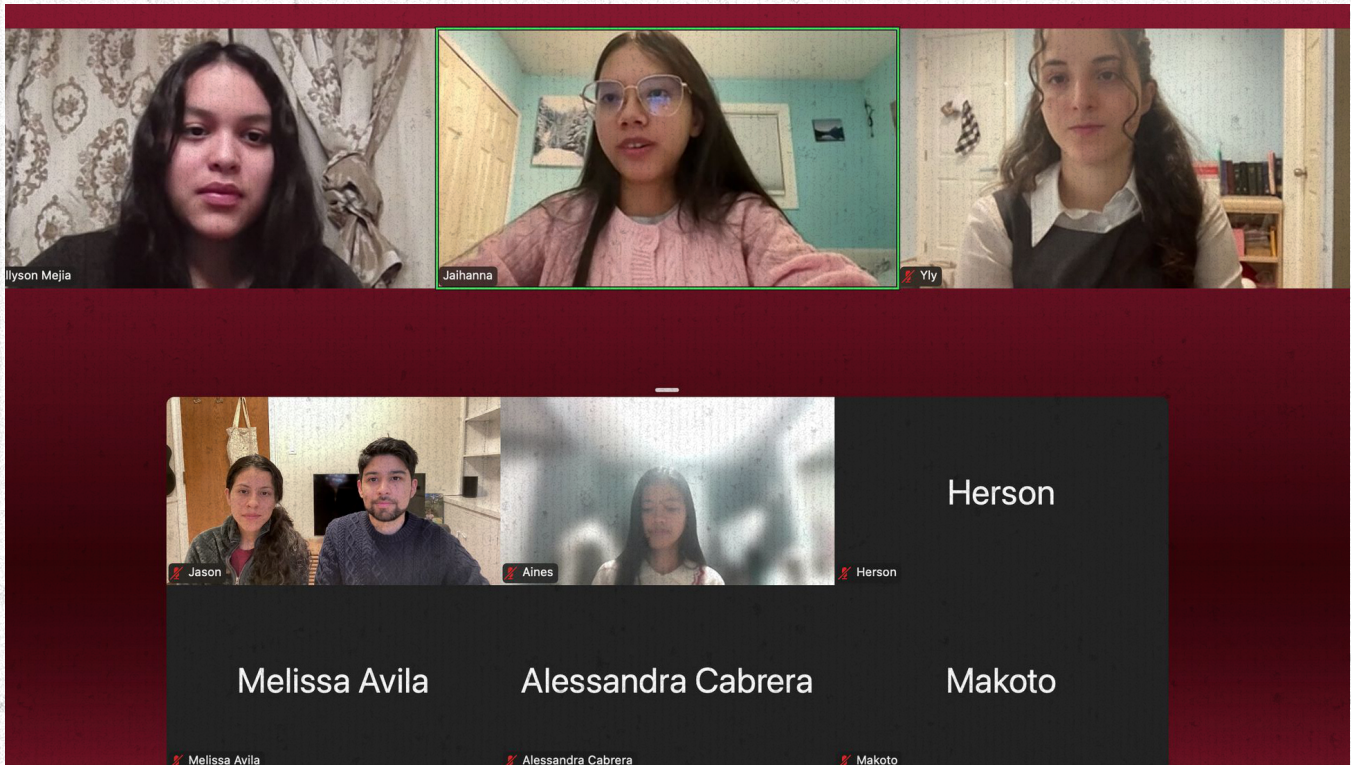
May God bless all our young people. Amen.

LOUD CRY NEWS

WHAT HAPPENED, IS HAPPENING AND WILL HAPPEN

Message from the Youth Leader

By Jason Climaco



Can you believe it's already March?!

It seems like we were just celebrating the New Year a day ago, but alas, spring is almost here.

As we move into the third month of the year, the Youth Department is happy to announce just how much ground we have covered!

In just three short months we have:

- Built a team of dedicated youth (The **Youth Department Management Team; YDMT** for short) to help lead department plans.
- Held a **Give Thanks Day** – a day to encourage youth to come together to thank God for the year that had passed.
- Launched the **Courageous Hearts** Project – a group for sisters to connect about faith, spirituality and purpose
- Launched the **Men of Valour** Project – a group of brothers who learn about biblical manhood, leadership, and integrity
- Held our first **Early Bird Devotional Week** – a morning devotional that brought together our youth to dedicate their morning to God in a devotional.

In addition, we would also like to announce:

The **Spring Youth Camp** in Mission, BC, May 16-19! Under the theme **Onward Christian Soldiers**, we look forward to inviting you to join us in the great outdoors as we camp, fellowship and learn together.

God has *truly* blessed the Youth Department.

And we are excited for everything that is to come in 2025!

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to work with and for our youth.

Yours,

Br. Jason

Follow Us!

Are you interested in seeing more posts and news about upcoming events? Follow the official social media accounts of Loud Cry Youth.

- Facebook: [CanadianReformYouth](#)
- Instagram: [LoudCry.Youth](#)
- Website: www.4truth.ca/youth

Give Thanks Day



in Calgary

By Allyson Mejia
Photo Credit: Aines Abragan



"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" Ephesians 5:20

"Give Thanks Day" was the theme of our Sabbath on the 28th of December, 2024 held in the Calgary Church, Alberta. On this day, we started with our Sabbath School Program in the morning. For the divine service, we had our dear Brother Bruno Allamon preach a message with the title "Youth, How About Your Future?" with a Bible verse found in Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Furthermore, in our afternoon program, we had two youth present on the topic of giving thanks to God, and its importance. Our dear Sister Jaihanna presented on the topic of "Thankfulness" with a Bible verse found in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."



Continuing, our dear Sister Allyson presented, "Being Thankful While in Trials" with the Bible verse from James 1:2-4, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

We had five brethren—Brother Fernando, Sister Reshelle, Sister Ailyn, Sister Marlene, and Sister Georgina—giving testimonies and expressing their gratitude to God. We had three special songs—first with Sister Jaihanna, second with Sister Aines, Sister Jaihanna, and Sister Allyson, and third with the Curato family.

Give Thanks Day in London Church

Photo Credit: Yohana Monsalve

On December 28th 2024, Ontario youth gathered in London to worship God in a special event, "Give Thanks Day." Some youth from USA also joined to share blessings. During the divine service, both Jason Climaco preached about how we should appreciate God, and our friends and family for the different things in our daily life. In the afternoon, the youth had a special tesimony program in which they could share the blessings they have received throughout the year. The video recordings of the both programs are available on Canadian Field's official YouTube channel (IMS Canada).



Toronto Church

Photo Credit: Alexandria Schulz, Tiffany Bessec, CH

On February 23, 2025, youth in Toronto gathered for worship, sledding, and skiing while taking in the the invitation of future events to all young people.





Voice of Youth Box



"Voice of Youth Box" is a unique online space where you can share your voice. It can be questions about faith, requests for advice about your concerns, suggestions about the youth department plan, or any voice you would like to make! It is all anonymous, so feel free to share your deepest thoughts. Do you have anything to share? Please scan the QR code. Right here in this magazine, we will share our answers to some suggestions/questions sent through this box.

Youth Outing

Christina McTavish

...red for the "Tobogganing Youth Outing," enjoying a day of fel-
...beauty of nature. David, the youth leader of Toronto, extends
...le.



Join Our Group!

If you are interested in joining our WhatsApp group chat, please send your contact information to our email!

canadianreformyouth@gmail.com

Youth Events in Other Countries

International Youth Conference

- Date: September 3-10, 2025
- Location: Leptokarya, Greece

Please check out the link below for more information and for registration:
<https://avventismo.com/eventi>



**“TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE;
BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GOOD REWARD FOR THEIR LABOUR.
FOR IF THEY FALL, THE ONE WILL LIFT UP HIS FELLOW.”**

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10



THE YOUNG MESSENGER

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