

Modern Dating

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There is a fraud perpetrated on our young, promoted by peer pressure at school and by the popular image on TV and the Film Industry. Our adolescents are encouraged to give away something that they may never be able to recover: their hearts. They are to regard this act as training or preparation for marriage. What we are not seeing is that they are expected to do this several times until marriage and then stop doing it. Serial dating is good training for serial marriage. "All is fair in love and war," they tell us, and I used to believe it. Sounds good until you have a MyLai massacre in Vietnam, or Joab stabbing Abner before David's watching eyes at a moment of truce and surrender. All is NOT fair in war. NOR is all fair in love. It is a fraud to profess love to your date and then when she surrenders her heart to you, you withdraw your love and "break her heart." Paul writes, "That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter." (1 Thess. 4:6)

Just exactly how did God arrange Adam's first marriage? (first and only!) Did He make a dozen men and women and let them date around to see who would be the best match? Then after a few years of false starts and broken hearts finally Adam fell in love with Eve? How did Adam manage to fall in love with Eve AFTER they were married? They had no idea what they missed! God just brought Eve to Adam and said, "Meet your wife. You two shall become one flesh." Neither one had any say in the matter and yet they stayed married for 930 years (or until Eve died). They raised sons and daughters together.

Adam and Eve had security in their relationship the way God, their loving Father intended it to be. Even now when Daddy looks at his baby daughter, he wants to protect her and says things like, "My daughter will never get married." Daddy fears that some self-absorbed man is going to ambush her heart and then leave her broken, perhaps; damaged and less able to trust again in a secure marriage. Daddy fears divorce and a broken home and defrauded grand-children. Can you imagine Him telling his daughter, "Toughen up. This is life!?" Daddy is expected to just feed his precious daughter to the wolves without protest. He would not let her buy a used car alone because the "shark" just might defraud her. How can he let her "date" some "Fonzie" without at least limiting her exposure to the fraud that accompanies most serial dating couples? Wake up, Daddies! You have a right and duty! tp