

What about Dating?

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Aim

- ✠ To understand the meaning of dating
- ✠ To understand where the Coptic church stands on the issue of dating

Key Verse

“To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted, a time to weep and a time to laugh...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)

Lesson

Class Discussion

- Why do people date? What is the purpose of dating?
- Is dating for the purpose of marriage or a social activity?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of dating? What are some problems that can arise from dating?
 - Lost time thinking about dating rather than building a sound future by building your spiritual life, your career and other things that will help build a good character and make you a good partner.
 - Doubts arising about partners in marriage if they have had previous partners.
 - Destroying your own or another person’s reputation and/or purity. Putting yourself and another person in the path of temptation.
 - Instability in emotions, comparing partners and dissatisfaction.
- What are the foundations of a sound marriage? Does dating help to build these foundations?
 - Spiritually prepared: A love that is giving, not selfish or self centred.
 - Emotionally stable: As a teenager, can you make a decision about your life partner while you are still changing?
 - Financially stable
 - Family blessing: Does your family know about your activities or does dating also lead to deceit?

Question to Bishop Mosses:

“Sometimes I feel pressured to have a boyfriend. Is it okay to have a boyfriend if I don’t do anything wrong?”

Answer: As His Holiness Pope Shenouda says, “Have many boyfriends and many girlfriends”, but if you couple off, you may start out clean and holy, but who can guarantee what may happen? Can you guarantee yourself, or your partner, or Satan? Each day we pray, “Lead us not into temptation...” (Matt 6:13) but by having a boyfriend or a girlfriend we are leading ourselves into temptation. Let your relations be in groups from within the church until the time comes for you to select your partner for marriage.

What about Dating?

Practical exercises

Have many friends of both sexes socialise as a group. Encourage and support each other to remain pure until you are ready for marriage. Be courageous and speak up to save your friends.

Prayer

Pray the “Prayer before making a decision” from the Agpia

Glory is to God forever. Amen.