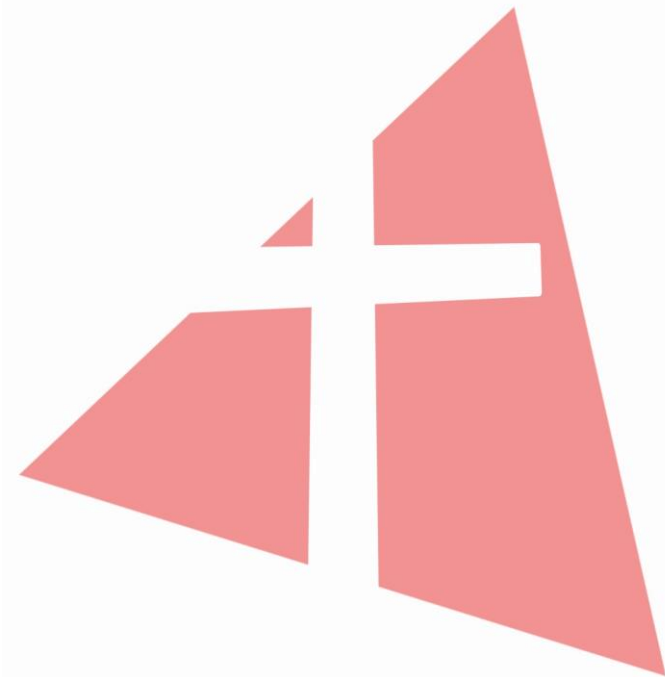


FROM FRIENDSHIP TO MARRIAGE

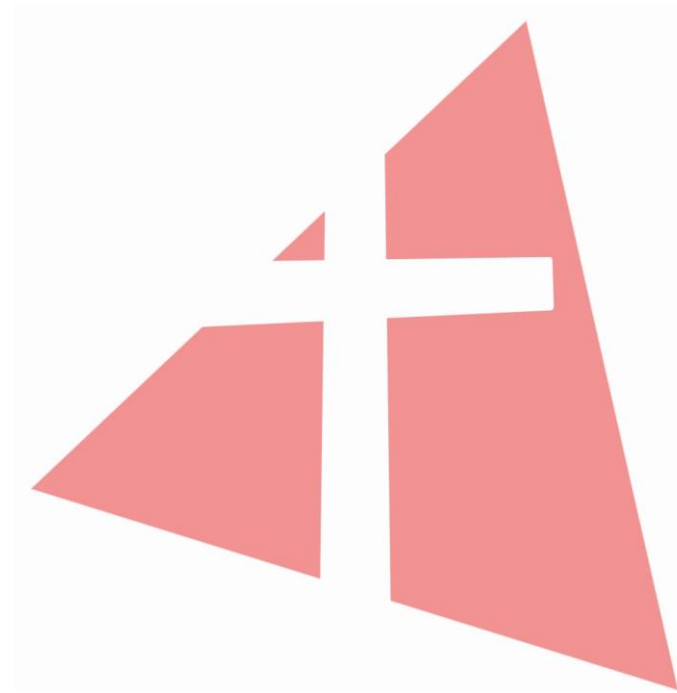
Relationships & Family Series

July 01st 2018



LAST 2 SERMONS

- **Boundaries**
- **The Bible on singleness**



TODAY

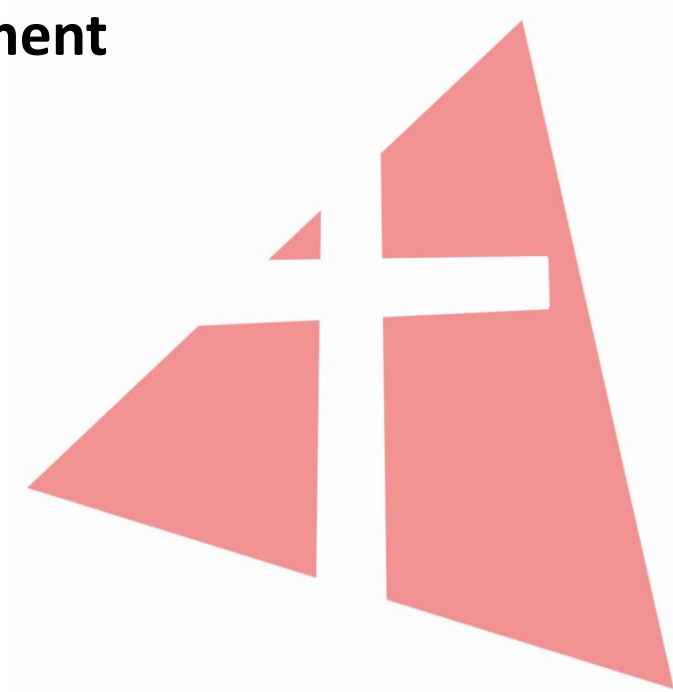
- **Moving from friendship to marriage in a biblical way**
 - We can only put this topic into practice AFTER we have embraced the principles from the last 2 sermons



DATING

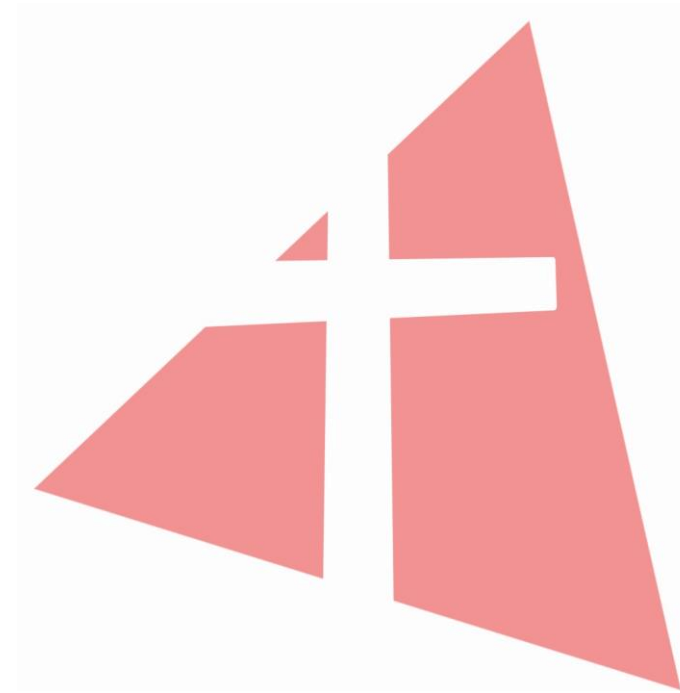
- **We cannot separate romance from commitment**

1 Corinthians 13:5 Love ... seeks not her own ...



SOME BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

- There's not a "10 steps guide"
- But there are biblical principles



SOME PRINCIPLES

○ Surrender

- Starting a relationship without “seeking God first” is sin

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for whatsoever things he does, these also does the Son likewise.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths.

SOME PRINCIPLES

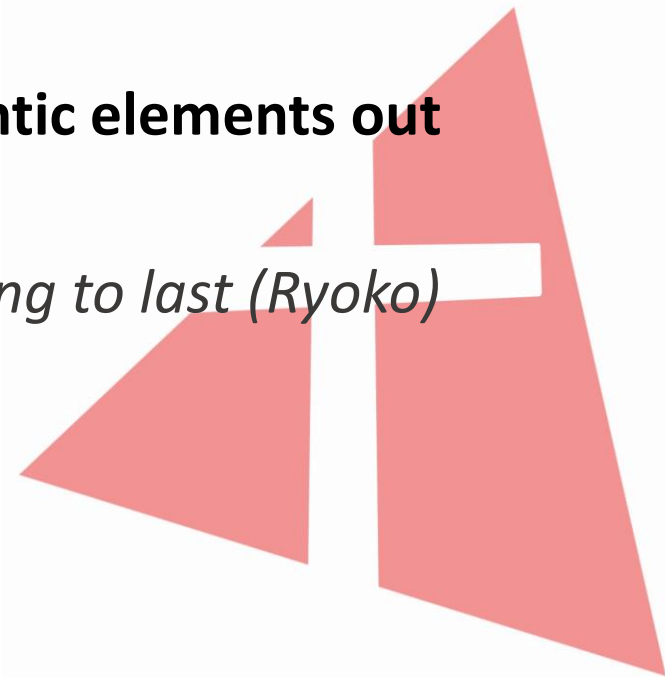
- Do not ask: “What can I get out of this relationship?”
- Instead, ask: “What is best for the other person, especially if the relationship does not work out?”



SOME PRINCIPLES

- **Heartbreak happens, when we have to take something back that we have given to another person for a time**
- **Get to know each other, but leave the romantic elements out**

I will not start a relationship until I know it's going to last (Ryoko)



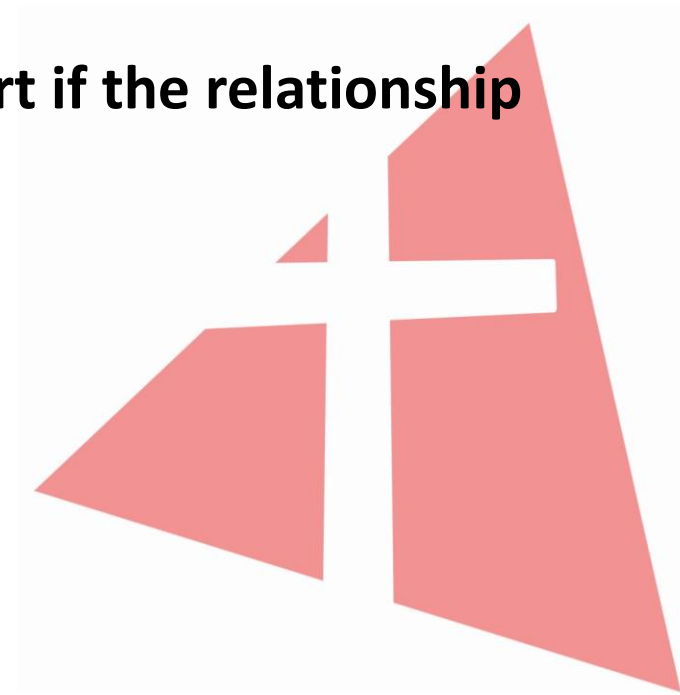
SOME PRINCIPLES

- **We need to avoid giving something to a person that we are not sure we can give for a lifetime**
- **Ask: If the relationship doesn't work out: Would I have to “take something back”?**



SOME PRINCIPLES

- Whatever we do, I don't want you to get hurt if the relationship doesn't work out



SOME PRINCIPLES

- **Get advice from people who have gone ahead of you**
 - Choose people you look up to

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

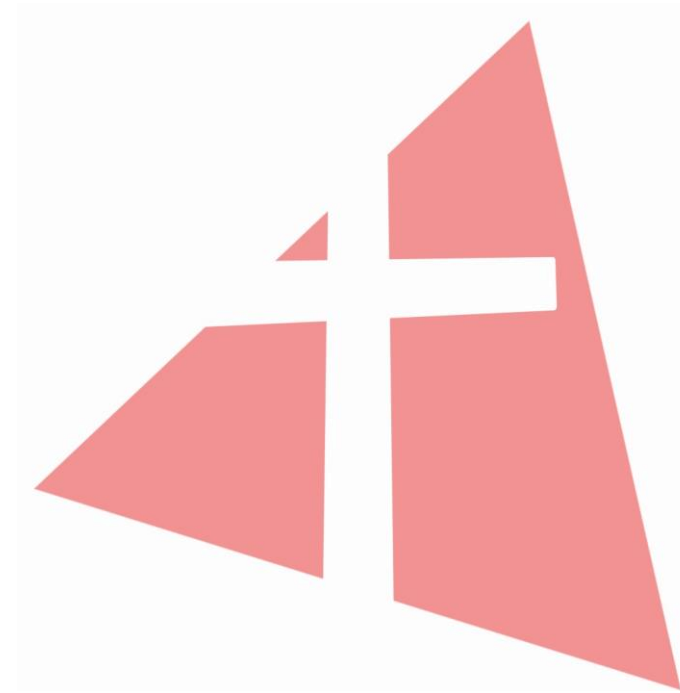
Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkens unto counsel is wise.

Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel plans go wrong: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

Proverbs 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.

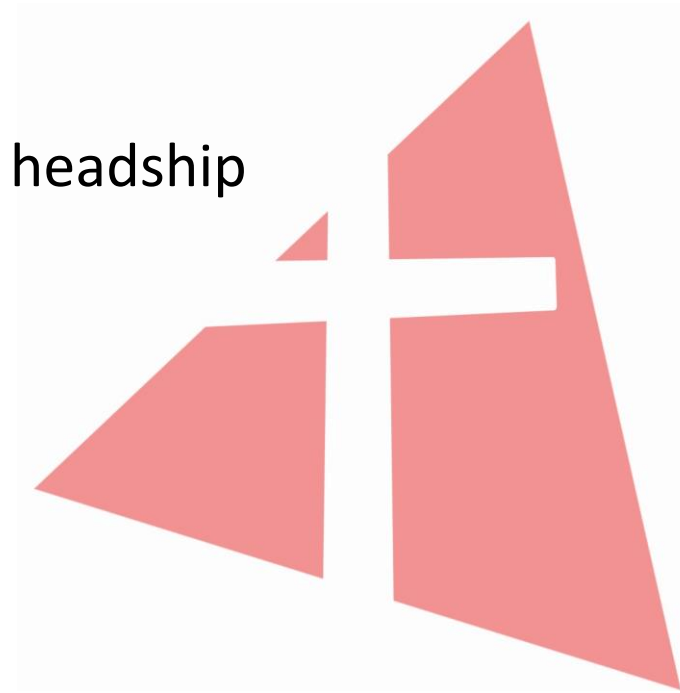
SOME PRINCIPLES

- Do a marriage-prep program together



SOME PRINCIPLES

- **Get her father's approval**
 - When a woman marries, she changes her headship



SOME PRINCIPLES

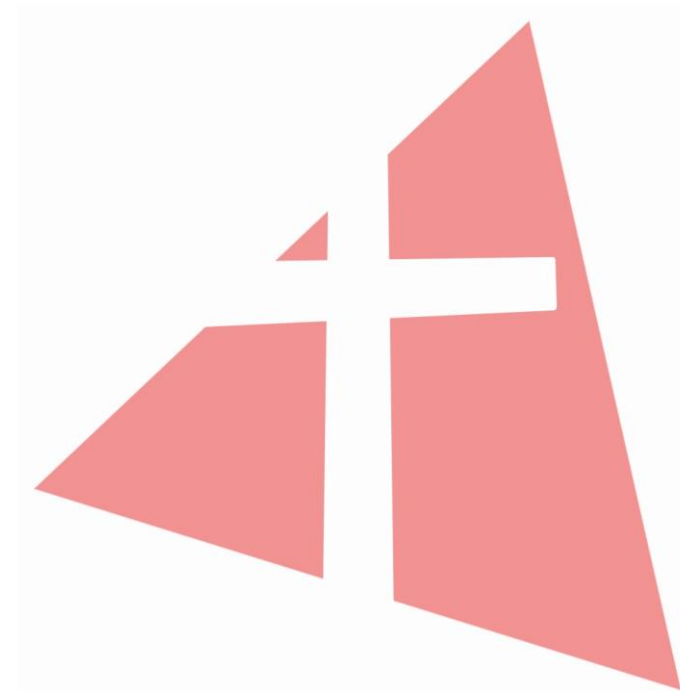
- **Proof to her father that you are willing to love her sacrificially**

Genesis 29:18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter.



SOME PRINCIPLES

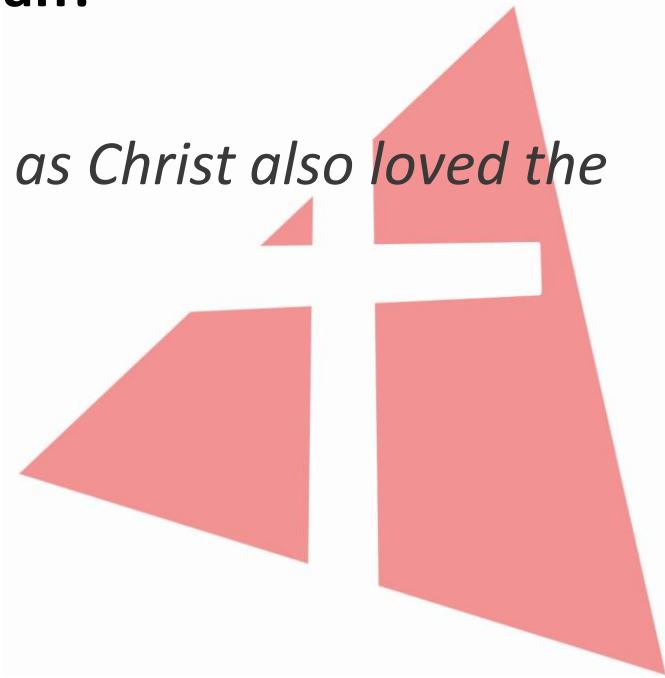
- **Men initiate, women respond**



FOR MEN

- **Am I willing to lay down my life for this woman?**

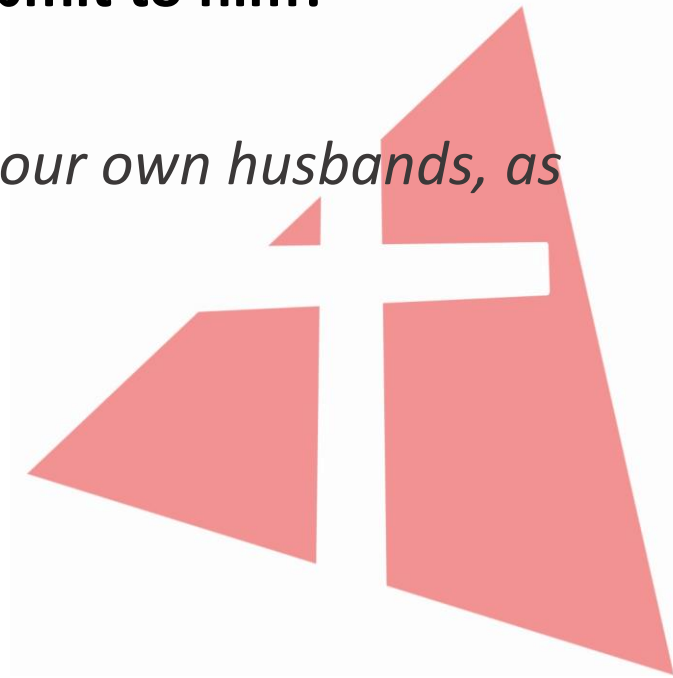
Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;



FOR WOMEN

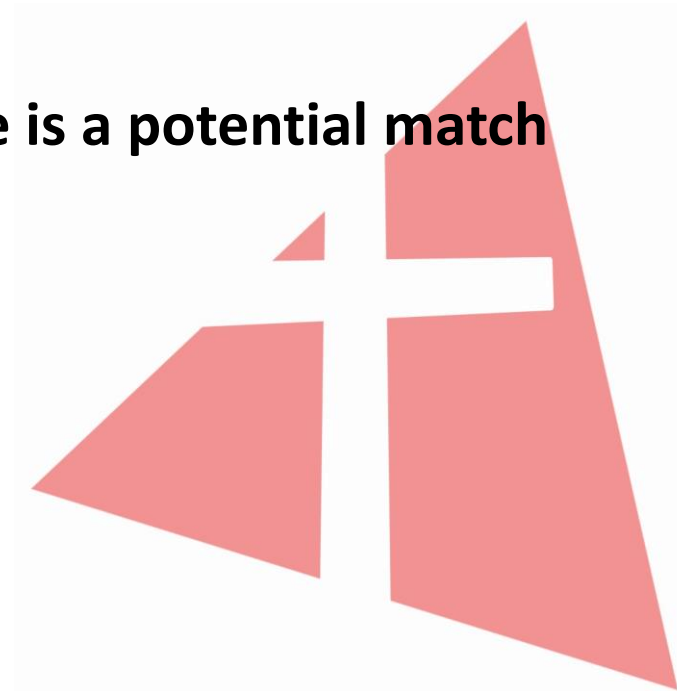
- **Do I trust this man enough to completely submit to him?**

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.



SOME PRINCIPLES

- **Share about your life visions and see if there is a potential match**



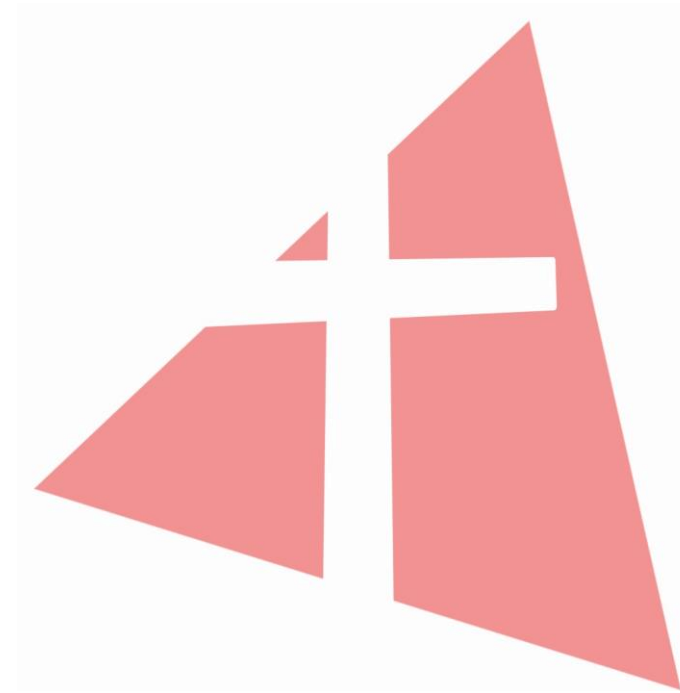
SOME PRINCIPLES

- **Get to know your potential spouse's parents**
 - There's a good chance that the other person will treat his/her husband/wife the way he/she treats his/her parents today




SOME PRINCIPLES

- **Get to know your potential spouse's friends**
 - Try to get to know each other in groups



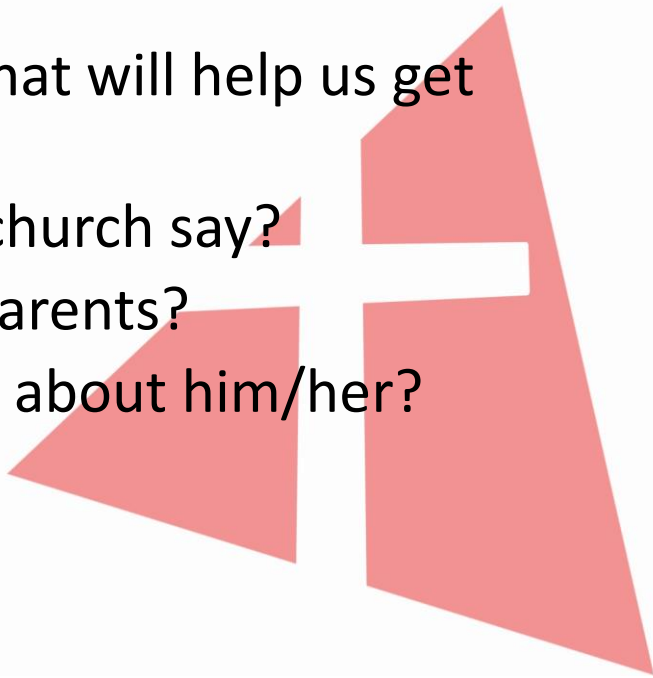
HOW TO MAKE A DECISION

○ Put it all together

- What does God say?
 - How can we bring Glory to God in a way that we cannot as two individuals?
 - Does this relationship help us get closer to God?
 - What do other married couples/mentors/friends say about us?
 - Do our life plans and vision match?
 - Are we willing to love sacrificially/submit unconditionally?
 - Do I have peace about this marriage?
 - Do I have any major concerns about marrying this person?
- 

HOW TO MAKE A DECISION

○ Put it all together

- Do my emotions allow me to still make a rational decision?
 - What is the purpose of this relationship?
 - What is that thing that can never change that will help us get through tough times?
 - What do our parents say? What does our church say?
 - How does the other person treat his/her parents?
 - What do the other person's friends tell me about him/her?
- 

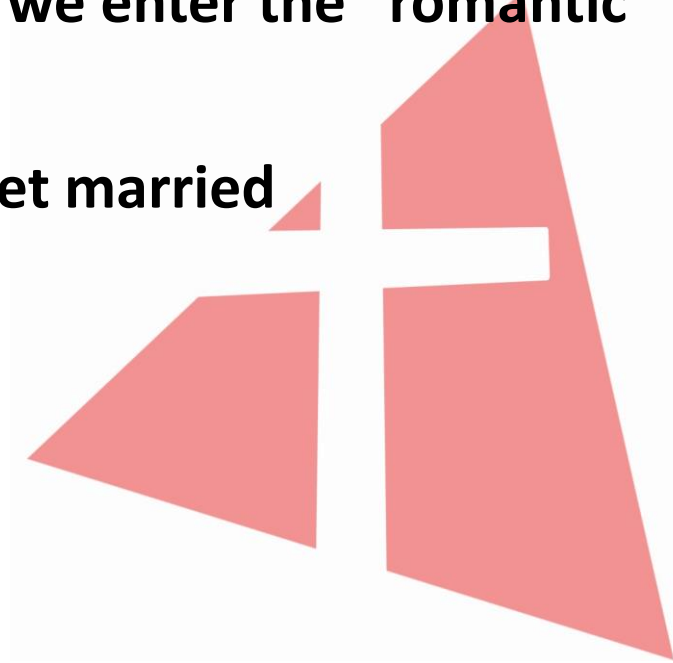
MY PERSONAL CONVICTION

- **There's no need for dating**
 - We can get to know each other without being romantic
 - The Bible only mentions friendship, betrothal and marriage (no dating)
- **We can consider marriage without dating**
 - If things don't work out, nobody gets hurt
 - If things do work out, we can enjoy the blessings of "having waited for the right time"



MY PERSONAL CONVICTION

- Prepare yourself as much as possible before we enter the “romantic stage”
- Get married quickly once we know we will get married



IN CONCLUSION

- **The world's way of "dating" has nothing to do with what God says**

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- **We pray that this church will be a light for God's glory in this area**

