

OASIS FALL CELEBRATION 10/20/18

“Dating: What To Know Before You Go!” Daily Action Plan

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In dating, singles often blame problems in their relationships on those they are dating. But the Bible teaches us to look at ourselves first.

“How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye” (Luke 6:42).

We will build our lives based on what we believe about ourselves. Neil T. Anderson says if the devil can get you to believe just one lie, he can control your life through it.

“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.” Proverbs 23:7

Before we came to know Christ, we had long standing thinking patterns based on our circumstances, the devil’s lies and being dependent upon ourselves as our source. God has set us free from that old way of thinking and living. Do you realize you have been set free from yourself?

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free...” (Luke 4:19).

We no longer have to strive to get our needs met independently of God. In fact, to do so is sin.

“For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.” (Rom. 6:6).

The enemy will continue to use these deeply engrained thought patterns to tempt us to live independently of God (sin) and use our flesh to meet our own needs.

“...but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me” (Rom. 7:23).

Here is the last thing the devil wants you to know about yourself:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Cor. 5:17).

What is your new way of living? It is allowing Christ to live His life through you.

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

In order to live this new way of life, you will have to change your old way of thinking. We do that by reading the Bible and listening to Christian teaching.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2).

Dating in the Spirit Rather than in the Flesh (self-life)

First we must understand that our need for love comes from God who is Himself love. He has created us with this need so that we will need Him and have a love relationship with Him. “God is love.” 1 John 4:8

Because He loves us He wants to be our Provider. As we put Him first in our lives with Bible reading and prayer He becomes the unshakeable foundation from which we live. We begin living life from the inside out rather than by our circumstances. “But seek first his kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matt. 6:33

He has given us a choice, moment by moment, to walk (live) in the flesh or walk (live) in the Spirit. Here is what we can expect when we choose life in the Spirit. Note the verse does not call these the fruit of the Christian.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Gal. 5:22

As we date we should keep in mind that God is the original Architect of marriage which is why it is called Holy Matrimony.

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined inseparably to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh” (Matt. 19:20).

As we navigate through dating we will want to go to Him, first and often, with whatever is on our hearts. Not only is He available 24/7 with His counsel but He has called Himself a Wonderful Counselor.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

As we become mindful of the truth that the One who calls Himself the Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace lives within us, we will begin to trust Him to meet our needs. One practical way to do that is on date night itself. We can take the pressure off ourselves and ask God in prayer before we leave the house to give us the very words we need to speak. As we do that we will be walking in the spirit and not in the flesh. And we will be enjoying the life Christ died for us to live.

“When they bring you before the synagogues and the magistrates and the authorities, do not be worried about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” Luke 12:11,12

**Suggested Resources to Help You Walk in the Spirit and Not in the Flesh
Teachings: The Victorious Life, Strategies for the Victorious Life, Overcoming the Flesh, Secrets of the Flesh.**

Book: Lifetime Guarantee by Bill Gillham. All available at lifetime.org.