

## What Am I Doing Wrong?

☐☐☐When two non-Christians find each other attractive, they "date". Why? Well...because somehow dressing to impress, spending money on overly expensive food or show tickets, and presenting a manufactured self-image through rarely worn "date clothes" while wearing perfume is the best way to find a companion for life. At some point "the talk" happens and the two parties tell each other how they really feel. This happens after a fair amount of games, deception, and "heart-hiding" occurs on both sides. Of course this path can lead to something long-term, maybe even marriage. But what is a marriage, a long-term relationship, or even a friendship built upon, if not Jesus Christ. He is love. Without God actively working and living in our relationship, the love experienced is earthly, carnal and dead. 100% of newlyweds claim to have found true love, but the divorce rate in America is near 50%. Something is going wrong.

☐☐☐Understand that divorce doesn't happen by chance. Our "dating" years offer plenty of practice for us. From middle school crushes, high school sweethearts, to college romances, the routine of

1. Dating
2. Becoming Physically & Emotionally Attached
3. Breaking Up
4. Recovery
5. Go to Step #1 & Repeat

is commonplace in our life, despite becoming a new creature in Christ. Perhaps we let God reign in our lives everywhere except relationship, because, well, we got that area totally under control. Flirting is fun. The chase is exciting. Kissing is a real hoot. However, if God is not in the relationship, it will fail to bring you real joy ☐☐☐

☐☐☐Friends, God has a better way. He has relationships for us that have their roots in his love, with his blessing. Ending a Godly relationship will still hurt. Nobody likes to break up. Still, done correctly, the friendship may be saved and guilt will be a distant memory.

☐☐☐So, flirting is fun. But if your flirting leads to a relationship (one night hook-up, year long romance, etc.) without waiting on the Lord--Prepare your heart for failure.

☐☐☐Accordingly, if you allow God to work in your relationship, be prepared for spiritual success and joy. Maybe you won't get married. Maybe you won't get any play. Maybe you'll let God grow and reign in your life so much that it won't even matter.

**i get it already! i need help!!**

## why **DTR?** define the relationship?

### Honoring To God

God-Honoring relationships that both publicly and privately glorify him have roots in a Christian Friendship, supported by the Word of God, and are nurtured by Prayers. Open and honest **DTRs** keep a couple on their knees with their hearts open to God's Will for their relationship.

### Honest Communication

Having **Honest Communication** with a **DTR** leaves doubt and confusion out of a relationship.

### Lasting Friendships

As the Body of Christ, the community and the friendships we make in it are our support. A blindly entered or poorly conceived relationship can put a **Lasting Friendship** in jeopardy. Carefully used **DTRs** in a relationship can help keep a Good Friend (**DTR** #4.0) after a break-up.

### Future Focused

Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18). A **Future Focused** relationship with agreed upon, understood steps and discussed goals lends direction and order to the relationship.

### Understood Intimacy Levels

Predetermined positions on the Friendship Progression for each and every Intimacy Level (hugs, kisses, etc.) can help prevent "mistakes" and "being swept up in the moment" issues that can tempt the strongest Christian in a God-Fearing relationship. (see Love Level Progression for more insight)

**need a change?**  
**nope. doing just fine.**  
**are you sure?**

"Hi, Rachel?...Yeah it's Jethrol. Hey, it was real cool meeting you at the Conexion retreat. Wanna go see a movie?"



"Rachel, these weeks have been the most intense ever....I Love You Too....I know it's midnight, but come over anyway? OK! ....bye"



"Not a good idea anymore? But Rachel....okay, but maybe just a timeout?...no timeout? well, okay. Goodbye Rachel....sigh"



"Joe, I haven't talked to her since! I miss her. I think. I need to talk to her..It's just I did, we did, things maybe we shouldn't have...I know! Maybe it all happen too fast... IUCCC retreat? I'll be there!"



"Hi, Maria?...Yeah it's Jethrol. Hey, it was real cool meeting you at the IUCCC retreat. Wanna go see a movie?"



**maybe you should reconsider?**  
**maybe you're right.**

read on...