

DATING RULES

The following are deliberations concerning dating reached by 77 students in a class on the Christian Family, Harding University, fall semester, 2000. These conclusions were reached anonymously and independently.

AT WHAT AGE WOULD YOU PERMIT YOUR CHILDREN TO BEGIN ONE ON ONE DATING?

16 was the unanimous answer.

WHAT ARE THE DATING RULES YOU WOULD GIVE YOUR CHILDREN?

The date must be introduced to the parents.

The date must be someone who meets parental approval.

No dating of strangers.

Some suggested parental or other chaperone arrangement at first.

Parents must be informed of the dating agenda and approve. There must be a specific plan. If for some reason changes have to be made, the parents are to be notified.

A curfew would be imposed...(some said at 9 PM for 16 year olds, and 12 midnight for 18 year olds, and others said 10 PM week nights and 12:30 on weekends), although it was suggested it must be flexible.

Occasional "check-ins" with parents during the dating period.

Not to ever be in a house without the parents or other responsible persons present, or in a room without the door being left open.

If they are going to be at someone else's house, must know who the people in charge are, and the phone number there.

They are never to become involved sexually.

The area between neck and knees is off limits except for holding hands.

They will encourage their children to pray and to remember who they are.

Must have a cell phone with them.

Must have a full tank of gas in the car.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER PROPER DATING ACTIVITIES?

Family outings, going out to dinner (sometimes with parents), group activities and double dating, day dating with other people around, movies (although some suggested not for a first date), bowling, ball games, high school events, go-cart racing, sports events, youth group activities, put-put, miniature golf, and church activities.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER IMPROPER DATING ACTIVITIES?

Parties with alcohol, drugs, and sex; going out to just ride around in the car, parking, going out with someone unknown to your parents, no dancing "bumpin n grindin", no drive-ins, no skinny dipping, no "make-out" parties, no bar-hopping or club-hopping, no going to hotel/motel rooms, no going to "make-out" point, no going to an unsupervised house, no overnight trips, no walk in the woods, no unsupervised pool parties, nothing illegal, no wrestling or heavy petting, and, early on, no movies alone without adult supervision.

Compiled by Carl Mitchell, teacher, 10/4/2000.