



NJC FAMILY MONTHLY



# NewsLetter

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## Christian Courtship: A Christ-Centered Path to Marriage

In today's culture, relationships often begin casually and progress quickly, guided by emotion rather than purpose. Christian courtship offers a different approach—one rooted in Scripture, shaped by faith, and directed toward a God-honoring marriage. It is not merely an alternative to dating but a biblical mindset for forming relationships that reflect God's character and design.

### 1. What Is Christian Courtship?

Christian courtship is an intentional relationship between a man and a woman who are prayerfully discerning whether God is leading them toward marriage. Unlike casual dating, courtship emphasizes:

- Clear purpose from the beginning
- Spiritual growth rather than emotional experimentation
- Moral boundaries that honor God
- Accountability within family and faith community

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

Courtship begins with surrender—placing the relationship under God's authority rather than under personal desire alone.

### 2. Biblical Foundations of Christian Courtship

#### A. God First, Relationship Second

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." (Matthew 6:33)

Christian courtship recognizes that a strong relationship flows from a strong personal walk with Christ. Two individuals do not merely come together to complete one another, but to walk together in service to God.

#### B. Spiritual Unity

"Can two walk together unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3)

Shared faith, values, and mission are essential. Courtship carefully evaluates spiritual compatibility, not just attraction or personality.

#### C. Purity and Self-Control

"This is the will of God, your sanctification." (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

Christian courtship honors God with the body, mind, and emotions. Physical intimacy is respected as a gift reserved for marriage, not rushed or trivialized.

#### 3. Wisdom from Ellen G. White on Courtship

The writings of Ellen G. White provide practical counsel that aligns closely with biblical principles.

She emphasized that relationships should never be entered lightly, warning that marriage decisions shape one's entire life. She encouraged young people to examine character, habits, faith, and life purpose, rather than being led by impulse or romance alone. Ellen G. White also taught that true love is not merely emotional excitement, but a principled, thoughtful, and unselfish commitment—one that grows stronger through patience, prayer, and mutual respect.

|                     |       |                        |
|---------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Modern Dating       | ===== | Christian Courtship    |
| Emotion-driven      | ===== | Purpose-driven         |
| Casual or undefined | ===== | Clear intentions       |
| Often private       | ===== | Welcomes godly counsel |
| Physical focus      | ===== | Spiritual growth       |
| Short-term mindset  | ===== | Marriage-oriented      |

Christian courtship does not reject romance—it places romance under Christ's lordship.

### 5. The Role of Family, Church, and Counsel

Christian courtship values the guidance of parents, mentors, and church leaders.

"In the multitude of counselors there is safety." (Proverbs 11:14)

Rather than isolating the relationship, courtship invites accountability and wisdom, helping protect both individuals from blind spots and emotional pressure.

### 6. Practical Principles for Christian Courtship

A Christ-centered courtship will:

- Be grounded in regular prayer
- Maintain clear emotional and physical boundaries
- Encourage honesty and transparency
- Reveal character over time
- Support personal spiritual growth
- Keep marriage as the goal, not entertainment

#### Conclusion: Courtship as a Sacred Journey

Christian courtship is a sacred journey, not a social trend. It is a deliberate decision to honor God with the heart, the body, and the future. In a culture that often treats relationships casually, Christian courtship stands as a testimony to the fact that God's way leads to peace, stability, and lasting love.

When Christ is the foundation, courtship becomes more than a relationship—it becomes preparation for a marriage that reflects God's love and glory.