



Life Relationships Notes

From: The Center for Marriage and Family Studies

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Are you dating or in a serious dating relationship? If so, did you know that when your heart is heavily involved you might miss some red flags regarding your relationship?

Consider the following:

? Perhaps he's/she's not what you're looking for spiritually. But you think, *The Lord could really do wonders with him/her.*

? Perhaps his/her ambition and drive to get ahead is a bit lacking. (That's an understatement.) *But he's/she's just waiting for the right opportunity to come along.*

? Perhaps the person you are dating has emotional outbursts a bit too often for you. But you think *you will be able to help him/her get a handle on that anger and depression eventually.* It doesn't matter that his/her friends tell you the mood swings have always been there and are getting more intense as the years go by.

? Perhaps the way that the person you are dating eyes the opposite sex doesn't seem to reflect the depth of your relationship. *But once you're committed, he'll/she'll only have eyes for you and no one else.*

? Perhaps the way he/she handles his/her finances is a bit scary, especially with all those credit cards maxed out. But you think, *I'm sure he'll/she'll learn responsibility once we're married.*

? Perhaps he/she doesn't communicate very much or share with you on an emotional level. But you rationalize, *who would, coming out of that abusive, alcoholic, dysfunctional background?* You've met his/her parents and in time you expect to fill in all those gaps for your partner and he'll become a whole person.

? Perhaps the reason he/she has jumped from relationship to relationship is that no one has ever really cared for him/her enough, been truly accepting of him/her, or encouraged him/her to grow spiritually. You think that: *Getting him involved in my church and Bible study should make a difference.*

~Adapted from: Wright, H. N. (2004). *101 questions to ask before you get engaged.* Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers

If you would like to explore these and other aspects of dating, The Center for Marriage and Family Studies is offering a workshop for seriously dating couples on October 21 in the Dye Lounge. If you would like to attend email Amy Merrell at amerrell@jbu.edu by October 16th.