



How Not to Kiss Dating Goodbye

Part 1

Injecting Fun into Purposeful Dating

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There are many singles who for various reasons decide that dating is not worth the time, hassle and effort that it requires. One comment I hear often is, "I am so tired of telling my story to new people! I just want to meet someone and not have to go over the details of who I am anymore." This feeling may resonate with you as well and as a former matchmaker, I do acknowledge that sometimes it can be redundant to retell your background each time you have a date.

However, these experiences in dating shed insight on areas one may still need to work on. Dating also allows you the opportunity to figure out what you really deem important in a permanent relationship. Sometimes personality preferences, specific looks, and characteristics that look good on paper turn out to be not as important in person.

From the work I have done with Christians in particular, I know there is a great deal of peer pressure to not date – meaning Christian singles can fall into the trap of not going out with anyone – for years – all because they are told to guard their hearts (which is the correct thing to do) but end up taking it to the extreme and avoid the opposite sex altogether. They are told that dating should be bypassed and only to give their time to those they know upfront are looking for a serious relationship leading to marriage. The years end up passing them by and they wonder when God is going to answer their prayers for a mate. Without your action, God cannot bring that dream to pass.

So let's take a look at How Not to Kiss Dating Goodbye and embrace purposeful dating. My first suggestion to start your journey is:

Display your "Available" Sign

I believe most of us know when we put up our "unavailable" sign to the world. We go about our day with a look that says "Don't even think about talking to me - and stay away!" When you have an attitude that puts a barrier between you and everyone else, you are ensuring that no one will approach you. You'll never know how many opportunities and doors God could have opened for you if you had been the willing participant. I know how easy it is to live in your head and go through the motions of everyday life on automatic, thinking about all the things you need to get done without really paying attention to those around you. But living in an unavailable mode keeps you isolated from others and narrows the chances of you meeting new people to date – and which ultimately can lead to your relationship dream goals.

When you place the unavailable sign in your window, you are not exercising your faith that God will take care of you and protect you from harm. Anxiety is not from God and His plans for you

are for good to give you a hope and a bright future. When you place that shield up, believing in that protection, you will find that the wrong people come into your life because they are attracted to that particular persona – which really isn't you at all. I understand the amount of trust it takes to open up and be vulnerable to others, but also know that is the first step in embracing the process of getting to your relationship goal.

I encourage you to continue reading the rest of my series on **How Not to Kiss Dating Goodbye** so you can incorporate these steps into your life starting today. Two-thirds of God's name is "go" and I believe He wants us all to take those first steps of faith and but action behind our relationship goals and dreams so He can do His part to make it a reality.