
THE REAL WORLD OF DATING



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Type the word "Single" into Google- and there will be no end to the onslaught of links: *Match.com*, *eHarmony.com*, *Singles.com...* etc, etc, etc People are making a fortune off of our insecurities and nationally experienced loneliness!

I have just as many war stories of dating as the next person. Back in the day, when I was 14, I once dated a girl for a month; just so that I could use her new CD player for a road trip (CDs were brand new back then- and I was too poor to afford one). I once broke up with a (different) girl because she lost one of my baseball hats. The real reason we broke up was that neither of us liked each other, and that was as good of an excuse as any to call it off. Looking back on all my dating fiascos it makes me think of why we got into "relationships" to begin with, what we thought these relationships were, and where they went wrong.

How do we go **FROM**: Talking on the phone all night, Texting every three seconds, saying things like "You complete me", "You light up my life," "I miss you and can't wait to see you" (when you just saw them 2 seconds ago) — **TO**: "It's not you- it's me." "I'm making changes in my life that don't include you." You're a great person, but I've got so many crazy things going on in my life, it's not fair to put you through all my craziness." "I'm discerning a vocation to the nuns of the Swiss Alps." "I want to spend more time with my pet chimpanzee that I adopted in Cambodia." "I'd love to stay with you, but I gave up dating for Lent." "You're just a sweet guy." "I'm just not ready for a relationship. I would love to date you, but you're such a great friend..." **so quickly?** [and yes... maybe I've heard some of these excuses before!! lol]

Never before has the concept of dating been so warped. With "reality" TV shows with names like *Rock of Love*, *I Love New York*, and that one with "Flavor-flav," as well as *The Bachelor*, *The Real World*, among all the other "reality" shows; it's no wonder our view is distorted. Entertainment has become a series of circus events set to "real life" with the most unstable and insecure individuals who can possibly be found.

The reality shows that crack me up the most are the ones that bring in thirty certifiably crazy people to "fight" for the "love" of one person. The funny thing is, whoever "wins" the heart of the person, also gets paid. It would be interesting to see how many of those

people would stay if the prize at the end of the show was really only to "win" that person's heart.

THE REAL WORLD: Whether it's dating someone for a CD player (or maybe a PSP now), to be on TV, or to make someone else jealous, or whatever the reason, dating has made a turn for the worse in Today's society. Some of these examples of dating may be funny, or "entertaining," but how true are they in our lives? Have you ever dated someone for the wrong reasons? Have you ever wanted to date someone because you thought they would advance your popularity? Have you ever wanted to date someone because you put too many expectations on them to do what you wanted?

Dating Expectations: Why do we get into "relationships"? Many times, it is because we expect that being in a relationship will make us happier. Many times we get into a relationship because we think that "that person" will make all our bad feelings go away. Often times we want to date someone to "make them ours."

When I say "make them ours," I'm not talking about the *lovey-dovey-sappy* stuff of "you're my one and only." I'm talking about when we start to objectify another person and really want to "own" them. When your "relationship" becomes all about *ME*: I want *YOU* to make *ME* happy, and that is all, you then need to rethink your situation. This is what media would portray as a normal or "reality" relationship.

Even if this is not the case, we often times we put too much expectations on our "significant other." These expectations are of them fulfilling our lives and making us happy. Sometimes we put them up on an emotional pedestal, we think they are "our world," and when they can not deliver on these expectations we all fall down.

We often put other people, things, or who-knows-what, in the place in our hearts where God wants to reside. We begin to expect other people to fill some void in our life. Christ has to come first, He is where we start and finish. Dating should complement your vocational discernment in where God is calling you. Otherwise, we will all continue to fall and fail at relationships.

This is one of the many things we will be discussing and exploring in this *Single Life* pages.
STAY tuned in to this site for more to come!!