
RP Christians Sidebar Compendium

Single Digits - Advice for Singles

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1 Is Sex Outside of Marriage a Sin? An Official Stance.

This issue has come up countless times since this sub started, and I suspect it will keep coming up. For the purpose of enforcing Rule 7, let me be clear: any encouragement that someone engage in sex outside of marriage will be deemed a rule violation, the comment will be removed, and the person potentially temp or permabanned, depending on the context.

That said, legitimate conversation about the following are still perfectly acceptable: (1) whether or not it is actually sinful, (2) why God or the church believe it is sinful, (3) the practical and spiritual ramifications on life if one side or the other is true (ex. if it weren't sinful, let's explore what that would look like), etc.

Old Testament

The first thing to note is that marriage itself is defined by two things: (1) two people becoming one flesh (i.e. sex) and (2) a mutual covenant. The mutuality of that covenant in biblical times didn't even have to be between the people having sex - it could have been between the groom and the bride's father, for example. All that matters is that there is sex and a covenant.

Exodus 22:16-17 is a great example of this. The ordinary flow was bride price \rightarrow marriage \rightarrow sex. If someone violated this order by skipping straight to sex, he was obligated under the Mosaic law to go back and fulfill the first two, thereby legitimizing the sexual conduct through the bride price and marriage. Even if the marriage was refused (i.e. no covenant), the bride price for a virgin still had to be paid. This should make it clear that at least for Israel's society before the time of the Kings (i.e. when God made the laws rather than man), it was considered a violation of the law to have sex with someone outside of a (1) bride price and (2) marriage.

Note that this doesn't read like, "Park anywhere you want, as long as you're willing to pay the parking ticket." It's more like, "It is against the law to park there. If you do park there, you will have to pay a parking ticket." To that end, Exodus 22:16-17 is not an authorization to have sex outside of marriage as long as you're willing to pay the price; it's a condemnation of the practice, the penalty for which is the bride price and an obligation into marriage.

I should also note that I lean toward the view that if two people intentionally and with consent engage in becoming one flesh, then this intentional consent satisfies the "covenant" component. Accordingly, "premarital sex" isn't really even a thing - it's more "pre-ceremony sex." The reason I lean toward the view (I can still be persuaded otherwise) that intentional consent implies a covenant is because the act of becoming one flesh is clearly reserved for marriage (as this entire post demonstrates), and thus an intention to engage in such an act implies the covenants that are associated with the marriage context within which the sex is meant to occur. It's like going to the bar and ordering a drink. The context of your behavior implies that you understand and are bound to the covenant of paying for that drink. It is a contract by conduct (which is recognized even under most every modern legal jurisdiction and not just in ancient Israel) rather than by express words. Accordingly, if two people try to engage in sex without having a ceremony, they should be held to the legal requirements of marriage (under God's law, not man's) and treated as though they are married. This, if true, resolves the entire debate about premarital sex in full - because there would be no such thing as premarital sex, except in the case of non consensual sex.

New Testament

Now, there are several other OT passages I could dive into, but I don't like delving too much into the Mosaic law because that was really only applicable to Israel. Given that I'm not an Israelite in the time of Moses, there are certainly principles I can learn about God from the laws he established, but they are not by any means binding to me today as a non-Israelite. So, what else does the Bible say?

Jesus' framing of the issue is fairly telling. He gives the famous "except for porneia" line after which

the disciples marvel at the severity of the restriction. Accordingly, this concept of porneia - whatever it means - is not meant to be interpreted in a way that makes it easier to get divorced. That is; Jesus meant a very narrow thing when he said that, which would cause the disciples to have the sharp reaction they did. But more interesting is that Jesus' response to the conversation is to skip straight to indefinite celibacy, as if those are the only two options. Either you get married, or you remain celibate. We can't really read a middle-ground in the way Jesus is talking about this. This tells us that Jesus' frame of mind was that sex outside of marriage is sin.

In 1 Cor. 7:8-9 Paul says that the unmarried and widows should actually stay single. However, if two people are burning with passion for one another, it is better to marry. If they were able legitimately to have sex without getting married, given Paul's extremely strong language in the rest of this chapter against marriage, I can't imagine Paul would have recommended marriage in that situation when "sex while staying single" was an option. This tells us that Paul's frame of mind was that sex outside of marriage is sin.

Neither of them were quoting the old testament LAW when citing these conclusions or establishing the context for expressing their frame of mind. Jesus cited the order of creation as the context for his assertion and his only reference to the law was in response to a question that was asked - and then he creates a direct contrast from his position from the technical legal conclusion, demonstrating that the OT law is not the basis for his opinion and mental framework on the issue.

It is also interesting, of course, that prostitutes were condemned as sinners. Most prostitutes' only crime was that they had sex outside of marriage. We're not talking about bestiality or objectophilia or other perversions, for which they would not have been paid. We're simply talking about sex outside of a marriage context - and yet they were considered sinners. We don't see Mary Magdalene going back to her old ways after finding Jesus. 1 Cor. 6:15-18 actually notes a clear imperative not to have sex with a prostitute, stating that this would be like trying to unite Christ with her. Paul didn't contemplate that the prostitute might be a Christian because he assumes that any Christian would have repented from prostitution (i.e. a lifestyle of sex outside of marriage), further evidencing Paul's mental framework regarding sex outside of marriage while writing his epistles.

Reflecting the Image of God

Direct passages aside, there's also a general spiritual framework for understanding the issue. As Ephesians 5 informs us, the husband-wife relationship is parallel in scripture with the relationship between God and his people (today: Christ-church, but it also applied in Israel, per numerous OT passages). Accordingly, if we want to understand appropriate boundaries for physically reproductive acts (i.e. sex), we can look to the example God sets for us in how he engages in spiritual reproduction.

Simply put: God does not reproduce with non-believers. Matthew 7 makes it clear: "No bad tree produces good fruit." We do see God using non-believers for his purposes, but we don't see the Spirit indwelling them for evangelistic intent with any success. So, if a man were to enter into a woman in a reproductive act, this would violate the parallel image of God that our physical conduct should be reflecting about His character.

Now, one could easily argue, "That's why we use protection - that way we're not producing fruit outside of marriage" and that the "having kids within marriage" concept is what's really spiritually protected. But this fails to do justice to the effort involved and the uncertainty associated with many forms of "protection." We don't see God indwelling with a non-believer at all - not in the same way he does with believers, at least. We see an external drawing toward himself and subtle nudges in appropriate directions. But when Romans 8:9 references an indwelling Holy Spirit, that's only for believers who are known as Christ's bride - and by extension, a man entering into a woman is only for his bride.

Don't Fall Into the Linguistic Trap

Some will try to argue that the Greek and Hebrew words in the passages usually referenced regarding premarital sex are more general terms for "illicit sexual activity," and don't specifically refer to premarital sex, and therefore premarital sex isn't explicitly rejected. This fails for two reasons.

First, there are lots of things not directly mentioned in the Bible, which we know to be sinful today. In fact, the Bible contemplates this in Romans 1 where it says that the person with the depraved mind "invents new ways of doing evil." Watching videos of child pornography on the internet didn't exist in biblical times, but it certainly would have fallen under some other category of sin, including "illicit sexual activity." I can hardly imagine anyone making a case that posting videos of minor children engaging in sexual activity on the internet does not fall into the category of "illicit sexual activity." Virtually everyone agrees about this, right? So, who decides what falls under *porneia* (or other words used for "fornication") and what doesn't? It seems arbitrary for someone to determine that child porn does, but premarital sex doesn't. What standard is being used to create that distinction?

Second, and in partial response to the above, it matters what people would have understood by the words being communicated at that time. We must assume that Jesus believed his intended audience would understand what he meant when he used certain words. This is clear from Matthew 13:13-17, where Jesus says directly that there are some people who he doesn't want to understand what he's saying, but others who he does intend to understand plainly. We have no reason to believe that his disciples were among the crowd he intended to confuse with his words when he talked about sexual immorality. So, what would these people have understood by the word *porneia* and other other such words associated with premarital sex? They would have known the common use of those words at that time, which includes premarital sex as being within the scope of the word. This is evidenced by countless literary texts including those outside the Bible which utilize those words to reference sex among non married persons. We cannot ex post facto remove a common understanding of a word in one time period and say, "Well, today we don't mean it that way, so the meaning of the Bible changed when our human dictionaries changed." Whether premarital sex is considered "illicit" today has no bearing on whether it was considered *porneia* 2,000 years ago.

Conclusion

There are, of course, countless other arguments that I do not have the time or interest to go through. However, for the purpose of this sub: premarital sex will be deemed "sin" and it will be a rule violation for anyone to recommend it.

If anyone wants to debate the merits of this position, be my guest. However, in the absence of a retraction, this rule remains.

That said, there is also great grace and love for those who have engaged in premarital sex. The Bible gives incredible judgment and condemnation against those who continue in willful, defiant, unrepentant sin ... so don't go there. But if it's part of your past, it's part of your past. We'll take you as you are in the face of repentance and never look back, except to the degree that your past may have practical (as opposed to spiritual) ramifications on your future.

2 Getting Laid Like A Christian

2.1 Part I

Turns out I have far less time than I'd like to have to dedicate to writing. That said, I figured it was better to post something (even if not fine tuned) than nothing at all. The following is based on my own experience. I hope this generates discussion if nothing else.

You are single and want to get laid. If you didnt, you wouldnt be here.

Rule 1: You are not seeking to befriend, date, court, or even marry a woman. Those are simply the means to an end: sex.

It is vital to keep the end goal in mind.

This is lost on many and is actively discouraged in some circles. But it matters. For some messed up reason Christians feel like their interactions with the opposite sex have to be entirely asexual. Thats stupid and counter-productive. Sexual attraction is not generated through sanitized interactions, but by playful and confident frame. That doesnt mean go around verbally groping everyone with boobs. Simply put, purity is not the same thing as asexuality. If you are on a coffee date (how stereotypical) with a hot single Christian woman, you should be running game and actively building sexual attraction. If she goes to the bathroom and notices her panties are soaked, youre doing it right.

All of the tactics of game apply. You should be teasing her, dropping a neg or two if she is especially attractive or full of herself, and holding concrete frame as she throws tests at you, laughing as you turn it back on her with a pressure flip. Just because a girl is a Christian doesnt mean her vagina works differently.

Should you test for theological compatibility? Should you verify she is wife material? Yes, of course. But that can be later down the line. Start with getting her attracted to you.

What if you generate a lot of attraction and she pushes boundaries? What if she wants you to sleep with her? Good. Shes a woman. Thats what they want (even the Christians women) in the presence of alphas. She will probably screw you enthusiastically if you marry her. Dont buckle. Brush her off with a smirk and make her keep qualifying herself to you. She will have to earn her way into your domain, your heart, and your pants. She will appreciate it more if she works for it anyway.

My wife, a Christian, occasionally was tempted with desire to have sex with me before we got married. I smirked and told her no each time. Sometimes Id tease her even more before pulling away and telling her that we wouldnt until we got hitched. I explained that my mission was more important than her. It made her wet. Her respect for me grew tremendously, even though it frustrated her too. Was it hard to turn down a horny, willing, foxy woman? Not really. I was firmly living in my own frame. Failing to resist temptation is simply breaking your own frame and succumbing to hers.

Did that make her less of a Christian? No. They are the weaker sex. She was behaving the way women should. They want sex. She was playing the cards God dealt her: seduction. Women are temptresses, praise be to God! You dont want a shrew without a sex drive of her own.

Think about it. This is why married men so often struggle with porn. They thought getting married would provide an outlet for sexual release and they would be fulfilled sexually. Perhaps that is how it went at first. Then the sex got stale. She started to give starfish sex. Even if she wouldnt refuse him, but she wouldnt initiate. Even if she initiated, it was out of duty, not desire. Then the husband sees a virtual library of women who are not only willing, but enthusiastic and euphoric about sex. Thats the real allure. Thats the catch: unlike the wife who tolerates sex, the pixel vixens all but beg you to plow them because they love it. Thats what you actually wanted all along, but you settled or let things get stale.

Dont misunderstand. I am not advocating for porn. I am simply explaining why it is so alluring for men, even the otherwise happily married kind. I am also not suggesting that a stale marriage bed will always remain that way. It can turned around by men stepping up to the plate. That said, you can make it far easier on yourself by being a high quality man and not settling for the first pair of legs willing to open for you, if only you sign on the dotted line and bind yourself to her for the rest of your life.

Dont make stupid trades.

So how do you find these magical unicorns (hot Christian women who want sex for their own pleasures sake)? That is a subject for a future post, but the first step is embracing your sexual urges and interacting

with women and intentionally generating sexual attraction.

2.2 Part II

In my previous post I went over Rule 1: *You are not seeking to befriend, date, court, or even marry a woman.* Those are simply a means to an end: sex.

I explained that having this clear goal in mind clarifies your mission and informs your interactions with the single Christian hotties (SCH) you are attracted to. So the question remains, where do you find these elusive SCH?

”Hot, Single, or Christian. Pick Two.”

If youve spent any time in church recently youve probably felt like you were faced with this annoying question. The hot girls and usually taken or not Christian. One of the reasons I find RPChristians to be a useful sub-community in the greater RP realm is because we Christians are faced with some long odds unique to people of faith.

How Rare is Rare?

Especially those of particular denominational preferences. For example: of the 320 million citizens of the United States, the Association of Religion Data Archives counted approximately 66 million members of main-line and evangelical churches. Only about 5.8 million were Reformed. So if you are a Reformed Christian in the United States, your pool of like-minded folks is roughly 1.8% of the population.

It gets worse.

You have to divide that number roughly in half because, limp wristed pansy liberal Christians aside, we dont marry other dudes. So we are talking about 0.9% of the population. Ouch. Then you have to take out the women who are already married, too old for you, and too young (edit: as in, below the age of consent), and you are left with a very small pool indeed. Oh, dont forget to take out the ones who you arent even attracted to.

This is some dirty back of the napkin sort of math, but the point is clear: we are talking about a very small subset of the population. See this¹ comment by /u/ruizbujc for a more precise analysis.

So who is ready to go unicorn hunting?

Pre-Requisites

Before diving into the topic of tracking down such a rare species, I need to clear something up. With this post I am going to assume that you:

- understand your own faith and have your own strong theological convictions
- have read the side bar(s)
- begun lifting and have gotten your fitness in order
- improved your overall appearance by dressing well
- figured out your hygiene and stopped smelling like rancid mule carcass
- killed off stupid unattractive habits like slouching, self-deprecating talk, picking your nose, etc etc
- built up a stable financial platform from which to launch your attack on life
- got your responsibilities in order and cleaned up your domain

¹https://www.reddit.com/r/TrueChristian/comments/3s17lr/do_dedicated_christian_women_still_exist_out_there/cwtr1hu/

- have practiced social interactions and built up a healthy social network
- have a good handle on intermediate game

If you havent done these things, you should stop reading this and go get it figured out. I may write about some of those topics in the future if I feel like I have something unique to add, but honestly others have done a great job dealing with those topics at length. No need to re-invent the wheel. Seriously though. Go figure it out. You dont have to be a master RP Jedi, but If you arent in a fairly solid position in those areas you arent going to attract Mrs. Unicorn even if you do find her. Dont go hunting if you dont know how to shoot a gun.

Warning: Christians are especially prone to oneitis and must guard against it. Because of the extreme mate scarcity of SCHs, Christian men are especially prone to overly fixating on one woman. It can be difficult to have an abundance mentality when there isnt much in the way of real abundance. We will talk more about it, but keep it in mind that you must be aware of oneitis much more than the frat bro who can go pump any other willing broad without losing sleep.

Lastly, dont get your panties in a twist because I am not offering the usual Christian platitudes: Just pray about it! Im sure youve heard more than enough of those and I am not interested in offering them. Yes, pray about it. Yes, read your Bible. Yes, talk to your pastor. Duh.

With all that said, lets talk strategy. The following is a series of tactics in no particular order. Consider these tools. Apply the ones that make sense to your situation.

Change Your Geography

In the famous words of Flo Rida, Where them girls at? Seriously. If you are a Catholic, and live in Tennessee, the least Catholic state in the United States (3,504 Catholics per 100,000 people) you need to get the hell out and move to somewhere like Massachusetts where there are almost 13 times more Catholics (44,905 per 100,000). Or you can literally get the hell out and repent of your erroneous doctrine and swim the Tiber. Happy belated Reformation Day.

In all seriousness, your geography has a massive influence on your ability to find a wife. You have no room to moan about not finding a SCH if you live in San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, or a similar unchurched city. After all, Abraham had to do some geography hacking to find a wife for Isaac.

Change Your Social Network

You can only make one first impression. How you present yourself to someone the first time will, so some degree, act as an anchor that can be difficult to change. If youve been involved in the same church, friend group, bible study, etc. for any length of time, there is a good chance you have a label of some kind. If you are seen as the desperate to find a wife thirsty guy, the barely makes ends meet guy, or some other negative image guy, this will play heavily against you.

The odds are, if youve done any sort of self-improvement while a part of the group, they will still see you as the guy you used to be. People hate change, even positive change can be difficult to accept because it is uncomfortable. Even those who want to see that change and celebrate it cant entirely cleanse their previous image of you. No matter how long you know them, some part of their image of you will be the guy who used to be. That is the anchoring effect working.

Imagine you have that image at your Bible study or church. A new SCH attends. She sees you and finds your well dress, confident, muscular self to be very attractive. Then she starts getting to know the other girls in the group. You know, the ones who cringed when they saw you crash and burn with several other women in church. They know who you really are and begin to tear down the attraction the new SCH felt. Later, when you confidently and winsomely approach her, she sees the old you even though she never met him. The worse you were as a beta loser, the harder this group think will work against you. Women are creatures who like to outsource their thoughts and conclusions to others. They resist making their own

decisions, so when a group of other women give them prepackaged judgments about you there is a very good chance they will latch onto the opinions of the group rather than form their own conclusions.

In a nut shell this is just the flip side of social proof. If this is holding you back, find other groups. You dont have to forsake your friends, but if youve worked a scorched earth campaign on your image with your friend group you will be better served finding more fertile soils to farm.

Lead Something at Church

You dont have to join the pastorate to get noticed, but having some sort of leadership role that contributes value to the people of God is both helpful to the kingdom and a manifest demonstration of your ability to exercise dominion. Whether it be the sound team, worship, a Bible study, or community outreach, if you take charge of something it wont go unnoticed. At the very least your pastor will be happy. Ive never met a pastor who didnt want more men to step up and help lead.

Look Outside Your Denomination

Theological differences DO matter. They can have a huge impact on your marriage and life. That said, women are designed to adopt the frame of a man if his is stronger. If you are rock solid on your theological position and can both defend it and make a good case for it, there is a good chance that she can and will be persuaded to change her mind. She is like water and will adopt the shape of the vessel she is poured into. Dont go do something stupid and marry someone involved in a cult or heretical schismatic group, but if she has some Pentecostal leanings but you are a cessationist, odds are you can persuade her.

My best friend married a woman who had been a Jehovahs witness before they dated. Another friend is a staunch Calvinist and his wife had grown up distinctly Arminian. Due to strong frame and God's grace both women are now theologically aligned to their men. Men lead, women follow. If she cant, next her before you commit.

Note that I am NOT advocating for missional dating. That said, Ive seen it work when the man had impeccable frame and she was at least open to matters of the faith. In fact, my wife just looked over my shoulder and read that last line and said well yeah, you did that with me and sauntered away with a smirk.

Get Involved In Non-Church Groups and Activities

Youd be surprised at who youd meet. Speaking of my wife, I met her before she was a Christian. I was swimming at the local watering hole and met her. We talked for awhile, I applied some minor game and got her contact info, just because. We didnt really communicate until she started attending church about six months later. Long story short, she eventually became a Christian and we got married 5 years ago. This is a story in and of itself, but the bottom line was that God can do some great stuff with people who were once strangers. Even if you dont find anyone of spouse potential, you will improve your social network, get a chance to practice your social interaction and game, and improve your perceived abundance.

Improve Your Perceived Abundance

You and I know the reality that finding your unicorn is a daunting task and the deck is stacked against you. But, like a skilled magician you can use some illusion to your advantage. One core RP truth is that abundance mentality is crucial for success with women. More than just a mentality, actual abundance is needed. As mentioned before, women (and many guys) prefer to outsource their judgments about other people, especially new people. If a woman walks into a room and sees a guy confidently chatting up a couple hotties and making them laugh, she will make a positive assessment of his overall desirability. After all, if those two gorgeous women are enjoying his company, he must have something special to offer, right? This is called pre-selection and it has a compounding effect: the more women who are into you, the more women will be into you. This is a good feedback loop to get working for you.

The magic to pulling this off is that it doesnt matter if the women who are into you are wife material or not. The SCH doesnt know that youd never actually marry the woman who is flirting with you, all she

knows is that she finds you desirable and so should she. Women love competition and the feeling of getting the shiny toy that all the other women fought her for. When I met my wife, I was leading a large young adult Bible study group at my church. There were about five other women there who were obviously interested in me. In addition, there were several attractive non-Christian women that I knew who were, lets just say very forward in showing their interest in me. To this day my wife gets a little gleeful thinking about me picking her over them.

As somewhat of a side note, this demonstration of abundance helped to establish a foundational level of dread in my marriage. My wife knows I get attention from attractive women and acts to keep me focused on her. She loves being the one who gets my attention because she knows that it is highly valued by others. I can say from experience and observation that it is far better to marry out of abundance than to marry out of scarcity.

Use The Internet To Your Advantage

Dont date online. LDRs are hell and I do not advise them at all. That said, the internet is a great sorting tool to meet people to be with in real life. Ive never used dating websites or met women online, but Ive known others who have been successful in this area. Most often I see people who met in special interest groups on Facebook or other social media get together as they already share a common, often rare, interest.

If I were advising someone thinking about going this route, I would suggest that the key to success is meeting them in person as soon as is reasonably possible. Once youve established a real life connection, treat them like you would any other person who you met offline. The online route is efficient in that it helps screen out incompatible people, but it can be costly. Be prepared to spend some time and money traveling to meet up.

When meeting them, assuming you find them attractive and want to pursue more, I would imagine you want to work it similar to a One Night Stand in that the goal is to quickly generate high levels of attraction. After all, you can get to know someone at a distance, but attraction is built in person and you only have a small window. You want to leave them wanting more of you, because it is that desire for more that would motivate a change in geography to be more suitable to being with you. You dont want to be the one chasing them, let them chase you. Beyond these initial thoughts on using the internet, I have little to offer as it isnt hasnt been in my experience. If you have some gems of advise to share, please do so in the comments.

Import

There is at trope of sorts that exists in the manosphere that to get a good wife you have to go to eastern Europe or some far flung exotic jungle to find a woman who hasnt been infected by feminism. While it is sort of overblown, there is something to be said about going hunting abroad. You gain all the benefits of changing geography and social groups in quick order. Plus, despite some negativity, Ive found that Americans are an exotic commodity elsewhere in the world. When Ive traveled, Ive found that people are immediately fascinated by me when they find out I am American. It is an easy icebreaker and the conversation can go anywhere. It can be loads of fun.

A friend of mine met his wife overseas (both are believers). After a few trips back and forth and some emigration issue, she moved to the States and theyve been happily married for years. Again, this isnt something I can write about from my own experience, but I think this has a lot of potential.

Look For Younger Women

Last one for now. I strongly recommend finding a wife who is a few years younger than you, especially if you are young. If youve established your life at all, it is likely you will have more wisdom, income, and experience than her. This makes it very easy for her to adopt your frame. Since, as /u/Red-Curious often points out, good wives are seldom found and often built, a young wife is much more easily taught and molded to suit you. Plus she will likely have a lower n-count and the odds of finding a virgin sharply decrease as you look further up the age scale. As an added benefit, she will retain her youthful attractiveness longer into the

relationship.

There are certain risks with this strategy. While there is risk with any woman, there is a greater likelihood that women who married young will wonder what if about riding the CC and the fear of missing out on her younger years may rear up later in life. There are some things you can do to mitigate this, but know that the risk may be elevated. Overall, despite the risks, I am an advocate for this position as I think the guaranteed upsides outweigh the possible risks.

There are more strategies to consider, but this is good for now. The bottom line is this: if you haven't run at least some of the plays listed here, I don't want to hear you cry like a little girl about not finding a wife. Try harder.

3 Screening For A Wife

3.1 Part I: The Foundation

***Disclaimer:** AWALT remains true. There is no 100% effective way to screen for undesirable female behavior. All women come equipped with both hamster and wheel. That said, the following post provides a framework to help screen out candidates who are most likely to be disloyal or otherwise unsuitable for marriage.*

Assumptions

In this post I am assuming that you have already familiarized themselves with, and put into real practice, the general concepts of The Red Pill. I am assuming you know how to be attractive and not be unattractive.

- **Faith** - You know what you believe solidly and can comfortably share it with others
- **Fitness** - Sub 15% body fat (at least), intermediate level lifts, or otherwise "built" or "shredded" look.
- **Finances** - Able to live comfortably on your own income.

If you aren't thriving in these three areas, you need to focus on improving them and come back to this post later. Missing those benchmarks will all but guarantee you are only going to attract low-tier women who you wouldn't want to commit to anyway. Lastly, assuming you have the "3 F's" in check, I am assuming you are able to attract and game women. If you aren't that far along, don't worry about screening for a suitable wife yet. Go back to the sidebars then go out and practice. Skipping basic training and heading to the battlefield before you are ready is a great way to get your face shot off.

Foundation #1 - Mission / Worldview

A family member of mine used to be a bank teller. Part of her job was screening currency for counterfeit. Rather than teaching her what counterfeit bills look like, her instructor taught her what the genuine article looked like. By becoming intimately familiar with what genuine greenbacks looked like, she was able to easily spot and screen out counterfeit bills.

Developing a solid and well defined worldview and mission works similarly. The better you understand this world, and your mission in it, the more capable you will be to screen out those who do not match up with you. A wife is supposed to be a helper. You cannot determine whether or not she can be a helper to you if you do not know what you need help with.

Having a robust framework of thought and conviction on matters of religion, family, politics, economics, etc. is likewise imperative. The better developed your worldview (the interconnected nature of these and other topics) the easier it will be for you to determine if someone else's worldview is compatible.

Finally, the more well studied you are the more fascinating and mysterious you will seem to others, which can be very attractive. Throughout my life I've been accused of being a "mind reader" because I somehow "get"

someone better than they understand themselves within an hour of meeting them. This is a consequence of being well studied and being able to see how seemingly disparate thoughts intersect. More than a party trick, this allows one to make close connections quickly and screen people far more efficiently.

Developing Your Worldview:

I cannot supply you with your mission, that is ultimately between you and God. That said, here are some tips on developing a solid worldview:

Tip 1: Take a stand on hot button / controversial topics. What is your position on:

- Abortion?
- Pre-marital sex?
- Credo-baptism vs Paedobaptism?
- Pre-destination vs Autonomous free will?
- Capitalism vs Socialism?
- Statism vs Individualism?
- The death penalty?
- Is smoking marijuana a sin?
- Etc. etc. etc.

If you are decidedly undecided, fix that. Take a stand. Don't be dogmatic about it and be willing to entertain arguments against your belief. Ultimately what you believe about these and other "theoretical" concepts will be the concrete and screws that hold your frame together. Frame, as you should know by now, is everything. A woman, especially your future wife, will constantly test your frame. Better build it with formidable solid stuff like theology and philosophy than with pop-psychology and bubble gum. Taking stances on controversial topics acts as an early screen. If you are outspoken in your belief that feminism is cancer, SJW feminist snowflakes will melt when they encounter you and screen themselves out.

Tip 2: Consume quality information in copious amounts. Don't just read blog posts and reddit comments. As good and helpful as many of them are, often the richest content to be found is in books. Branch out from the sidebar. Search for the most influential books in human history for any given topic. I would recommend getting them as audio-books and play them with a player that allows you to control the speed. Start with 1.25 speed, then once you adapt, turn it to 1.5 speed. Continue to incrementally increase the speed until you are used to hearing content coming at you at 2 times speed. This not only allows you to consume twice as much information and get far better use of your time, but it will train your mind to think faster which will aid you on thinking on your feet in real world conversations. I have been listening to almost all of my audio book and podcast content at about 2.25 speed for the last several years and have benefited tremendously from it.

Tip 3: Ask questions of the smart people around you. You probably know people who have studied a given topic in detail that could help you shortcut your learning. Sometimes the hardest part of developing your worldview is not knowing enough about the topic to know what questions to ask. Talking to a real life person will help distill down years worth of study into a few hours, which will dramatically reduce your learning curve. For example, I have recently begun studying the Civil War and the events leading up to it. A friend of mine has a small library of books he has read on the topic. Just talking to him about it for a couple hours has given me a whole new framework that makes the topic infinitely more approachable.

Tip 4: Teach or debate your beliefs to deepen your understanding and conviction. By having to teach your stance, or defend it against someone who opposes it, you will gain a far deeper knowledge and conviction on the matter. Deficits in your understanding will be exposed which then allows you to go back and fill in the gaps with better information later. Whether it be faith, politics, or anything else of substance, do

this enough and you will be rock-solid confident in your worldview. Even without discussing the topics, the mental confidence this rock solid conviction creates will naturally come out in your interactions with others and confidence creates wet panties.

Tip 5: Change your mind when you are presented with better evidence. Slavish devotion to a belief is mere dogmatism.

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it. -
Aristotle

That said, there comes a time when growth demands we abandon one belief for another. It is a humbling thing to admit that you were wrong, but there is power in knowing that you are more devoted to The Truth than an ideology.

Foundation #2: Abundance

Oneitis - An unhealthy romantic obsession with one person that leads to impaired judgement. Faults are overlooked and merits are exaggerated.

One cannot expect to reliably screen for a wife while experiencing oneitis. By focusing disproportionately on one woman, you experience tunnel vision and will lack the ability to objectively evaluate her faults and merits. Only by having viable alternatives will you be able to know for sure that a decision was reached out of reasonable evaluation and not out of skewed perception based on scarcity.

Imagine you were in the market to buy a car. Imagine that there was only one dealership in town, and that dealership had only one car in your price range. In such a scenario you are far more likely to overlook the vehicle's faults and settle. This is what scarcity does. What would any reasonable person do? They would expand their options (improve abundance) by looking at other towns and other dealerships. By expanding the range of viable options one positions themselves to make better decisions. This is basic economics: competitive markets provide more value at a lower price to the consumer. This is obvious on its face in the realm of purchasing a vehicle, but many fail to apply the same reasoning to their romantic efforts. Do not fall for the Disney fairy tale trap; there is no "one" until a ring is on the finger.

Not only will building abundance enhance your ability to make an informed objective decision, there is a compounding effect at play. A man who has several women interested in him reaps the benefits of social proof, pre-selection, and high-value status. Every woman attracted to him makes it more likely for additional women to be attracted to him. Abundance breeds abundance. Further, if a man has visible abundance when he selects a woman to marry, the marriage starts with a baseline level of dread. This baseline dread has an "anchoring" effect that works in the man's favor. She will always have the satisfaction of beating other women to *The Prize*(tm), but will know that the man didn't *have* to choose her and *could* replace her if he needed to. When I went exclusive with my wife, there were about six other viable women in our social circle who were clearly into me. Over five years later, my wife still gets giddy knowing she beat out the other women and has never doubted my high-status and ability to attract women, thus experiencing a low level dread that gets her panties wet to this day.

For the sake of brevity I will not elaborate here on how to build abundance. Perhaps that could be a future post if there is a demand for it. Suffice to say, the sidebar of this and other RP subs have plenty of material on the matter.

The following post will be less theory and much more practical in nature. (i.e., how to get her to reveal her thinking, how to assess her for consistency, etc.) Stay tuned.

3.2 Part 2: Methods

Disclaimer: AWALT remains true. There is no 100% effective way to screen for undesirable female behavior. All women come equipped with both hamster and wheel. That said, the following post provides a framework to help screen out candidates who are most likely to be disloyal or otherwise unsuitable for marriage.

Assumptions

In the previous post we looked at the two foundational elements that need to be in place before you are able to effectively screen for a wife; worldview (mission) and abundance. This second part post assumes you understand and are actively developing a robust worldview and are cultivating abundance. Once you've established options, the question we are seeking to answer is: how do I screen for the best viable option?

How To Screen Well

Before determining *what* to screen for, we need to discuss *how* to screen effectively. Effective screening requires collecting and analyzing relevant information about a potential candidate for a wife. You want this information to be as free from bias as possible. In the last post we covered how to protect yourself from your own bias (i.e., Oneitis) through abundance. Now we need to employ effective strategies for combating *her biasing* the information (i.e., pretending to be what she thinks you want her to be). There is no way to get 100% unbiased information, but with a thoughtful approach one can reduce the degree of bias considerably and garner enough reasonably objective information to make positive decisions.

Methods

The following is a list of considerations and techniques of gaining unbiased information to add to your tool belt. These skills, though fairly obvious and seemingly basic, can allow you to get a highly perceptive "read" on people. These skills extend beyond the Sexual Market Place and can give you an edge in the workplace, during interviews, and many other areas of life. In my career I have done hundreds (if not thousands) of interviews, and in another role I did some minor criminal interrogation. I used (and still use) these techniques frequently and can attest to their effectiveness. There are many more that could be added, these are simply ones that I have used to great effect; use what works, shelf the rest. Each item could be a post itself, so bare with the shotgun drive by. If you have questions, ask in a comment.

1. **Try not to let on to your own beliefs.** The less she knows about your own convictions, the less she can bias her answers in a way that she believes you will agree with. If a girl knows you are against abortion and says she is too, you cannot know if she is genuine or seeking your approval. On the other hand, if you've never indicated your stance and she says she opposes child murder, that is a much more reliable piece of data.
2. **Don't interview her.** Not only is it not sexy, but if she is interested in you and feels like you are interviewing her for the position of Wife / Sex Kitten, she will answer in ways that she thinks will please you. You don't want this. Don't rapid fire questions, space them out over time. Serious questions should be rare and on topic. Remember what she answers.
3. **Ask her the same questions again later.** By asking the questions again in a different setting and at a different time you can check for patterns of consistency. If she said she wanted a big family when you asked her around your friends, but then wants few kids, if any, around her friends, that is a Rosie O'Donald sized red flag.
4. **Watch what she does more than what she says.** This should be obvious, but actions speak louder than words. Words are cheap. If her actions do not line up with what she says, make a mental note of this as it can be a major data point. Sure, women often say one thing ("I like nerdy sweet guys") and then do another (Hooks up with bodybuilder Chad), there are degrees of inconsistency. If she says she is not a night person, but stays up super late to hang out with you, this is could be a positive inconsistency where she is adopting your frame. On the other hand, if she says she doesn't like it when guys objectify her but she constantly wears super sexy outfits that leave little to the imagination, this can be a red flag.
5. **Make sure your questions are organic.** If you are having a conversation about favorite foods, and you throw out a question about her political leanings, you will raise her suspicions that she is being interviewed. Also, who does that? Don't be a sperg.
6. **Hang out with her when she is inebriated.** This obviously depends on your theological convictions, but a little liquor can loosen the tongue and lower inhibitions to the point where she may be more honest than she otherwise would be. This is often best done in a group setting or in public to

prevent obvious sexual overtones. I've heard women admit amazing things after a couple drinks. If the woman you are screening becomes a completely different person when inebriated, you should be cautious. Sometimes people loosen up in a positive way, other times they may shock you with their "real" uninhibited self.

7. **Be less interested in what she believes, and more interested in why she believes it.** While women tend to be emotionally driven in their beliefs, logic, to varying degrees, still plays a significant role. The more logical a woman is, the easier her erroneous beliefs can be changed.
8. **Look for consistency in her "belief network".** If she believes animal cruelty is wrong, but abortion is okay, she isn't thinking coherently.
9. **Ask presumptive questions.** Don't ask, "Have you ever lied to someone you love?" but "What is the biggest lie you've told and got away with?" Don't ask, "Do you enjoy physical touch?" but "Where is your favorite place to be touched?" etc.
10. **Ask crazy / silly questions.** Keep it light, but pay attention. When she asks you in turn, answer in a silly way. "What would you outlaw if you were emperor of the world?" You: "Skinny Jeans!"
11. **Try to change her mind about something unimportant.** Is she teachable? If she can't be persuaded that The Foo Fighters is super over-rated and is actually a terrible band, can you expect to convince her of anything substantial?

What To Screen For

Now equipped with the screening tools above, we can turn to the question of what qualities to be screening for. This list could go on forever, but here are some of the big ones that are both high scope in importance and readily ascertained.

Desirable qualities

Low N Count This should go without saying, but women who aren't accustomed to riding the CC and engaging in promiscuous behavior are less likely to engage in such behavior in the future.

Teachability/Openmindedness In our day, perhaps more than ever, good wives are made, not found. You want to find a woman who is flexible enough to adopt your frame without too much difficulty or protest, but isn't immature and "tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." (Eph 4:14).

Responsiveness to dread A woman who sees you as the prize from the get go and fears losing you will be much happier in marriage. Dread is a tool and the more responsive she is to it, the less of it you may need to employ. That said, overly jealous behavior is just plain annoying, so there can be too much of a good thing with this one.

Genuine Faith(tm) Duh. This is r/RPChristians after all. There are many ways to screen for this, but you can't know the genuine article if you don't have a good understanding of your own faith, so start there. Keep in mind that many women have Genuine Faith(tm) but may be less articulate in explaining doctrine. That's usually okay, but if they resist theological teaching be very wary.

Political agreeableness Leftism is evil. 'Nuff said.

Family oriented She doesn't need a desire to compete with Octomom, but she should like kids and want her own. Better yet is if she has a history of babysitting, being a nanny, or caring for younger kids. If she doesn't want kids or hates the idea of being a parent, next her.

Red Flags

Too numerous to list seriously, you'll know them if you see them. If you are unsure, post about it here and get outside perspective. If you have to ask, it's a good sign it's a serious red flag.

Finally, one quick rule of thumb when screening for a wife is this: "If it's not a 'Hell yeah!' then it's a no."

Happy hunting, may the Lord be with you.

4 Should Christians Care About Physical Attractiveness?

In a recent post u/macmeeler asked an interesting question: how much (should you) value physical attraction in dating? This is a great question and I wanted to post a full response. This is my opinion, so take it or leave it as you will.

Summary

Physical attractiveness in a potential spouse is extremely important for Christians, perhaps more so than for non-Christians

Body

Imagine you moved to a country and were going to buy your first house there. As you begin the process you are shocked to discover that you were only allowed to buy one house in your entire life, and that selling it or buying another would lead to a life long prison sentence. How picky would you be in that situation?

Though it is a poor analogy, it illustrates a serious point: Unlike first time home-owners who often buy a starter house, Christians who enter marriage dont get do-overs. Barring a few narrow circumstances laid out by in scripture (which vary somewhat depending on who you ask), divorce simply isnt a faithful option for the Christian. This should make us pause before rushing into a lifelong permanent commitment.

It gets worse. In the fictitious permanent home ownership scenario above, you can at least redecorate or remodel however you please. Not so with spouses. Unlike a house, a spouse has a will of their own and cannot so easily be renovated or reshaped. In many cases, unless you have a highly pliable spouse, who you marry is who you get.

Simply put: You cannot go into a marriage resting your hope that certain attributes in your spouse will change favorably. You have to decide on what is, not what may be.

Ever person has preferences in attributes in a spouse, and everyone will rank or weigh those attributes differently. For some, orientation towards family life or the desire to be a stay at home mother are highly desirable attribute in a potential wife. For such a person, settling on this issue and marrying someone who does not match this is likely to be utter foolishness. Certainly, no person is perfect. We are talking about two sinners pairing together after all; at some point everyone who marries settles. We all have a cross to bear, but in this area we do get some input on how much that cross weighs.

I knew enough about myself when I was dating to know that I place an inordinate premium on physical attractiveness and overall sexuality. I also knew how competitive I was. Healthy or not, I was aware that if I did not find a top tier wife in terms of looks, I would have always wondering what if? and questioning my decision. To bring back the house buying scenario, why settle for a shack when you know that with some effort you could secure the funds for a mansion?

Is this just vanity? Somewhat. But consider this: much of our outward appearance signals our inward self. This is what I mean:

Being overweight signals:

- Poor health and potential risks of expensive complications
- Doesnt value healthy living

- Will struggle keeping up with me in my hobbies
- Likely to pass on unhealthy genetics to my kids
- More likely to die young from preventable causes
- Lacks discipline in eating, exercise, or both
- Laziness, lack of concern for the value good health brings to a relationship

Ugly clothing / makeup signals:

- Unaware of social dynamics or conventions
- Lack of confidence
- Over-developed sense of shame; may indicate frigidity in the bedroom
- Laziness, lack of concern for the value good aesthetics brings to a relationship

Poor hygiene:

- Laziness, lack of concern for grossing the crap out of people around them
- Being gross and horrible in general (seriously, how hard is it to shower daily and brush your freaking teeth??)

You get the point. Being basically healthy and attractive has never been easier in the history of humanity, so why not expect that someone you are going to PLEDGE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TO avails themselves of the opportunity? These outward attributes reveal inward realities that I care little for. Seriously, gym memberships are CHEAP. Learning how to eat and workout more effectively than 80% of the population takes like 30 minutes of googling and reading. Makeup, dental work, clothes, etc have never been cheaper or more accessible. The kind of woman who has no desire or drive to take advantage of the situation and put in even a modicum of effort is not the kind of woman I find myself interested in.

Am I being ridiculous? I dont think so. Seriously, a woman (or man) who wants to marry, but doesnt take steps to improve their physical attractiveness is saying this:

Uhm, yeah, so, despite it being easier and cheaper to be fit, well dressed, groomed, and generally attractive than just about ever before, I dont really want to bother with it. In fact, even though there are entire industries, YouTube series, even charities, designed with the express purpose to make the process of being attractive as easy as possible, its just too much for me. So heres what Im offering: pledge yourself, for your ENTIRE LIFE, to me to be your sole sexual outlet forever, forsaking all others no matter how attractive or motivated sexually they may be. Oh and this still applies even if you get jacked and model tier hot. In fact, I hope you do because that would be good for me because I know you cant ethically justify leaving me because you want to be faithful to Christ. How does that sound?

Screw that deal. Talk about not loving your neighbor.

Being unattractive and trying to find an attractive spouse is not only selfish and short-sighted, its a violation of the Golden Rule: treat others as you would have them treat you.

I plan to be fit, healthy, well dressed and groomed, and sexually vibrant. I like presenting that as a gift to my wife. Knowing this, I found a wife who would to the same in turn.

Bottom Line

So is sexual, physical, attractiveness important for Christians? Unless you really dont place a high premium on it as most guys do: yes it is.

Now a caveat: people age, disfigurement happens, and life doesnt always turn out as expected. That said, there is a world of difference ethically speaking between someone who is unattractive because of a maiming accident and someone who eats themselves to death. Someone who strives to maintain their attractiveness as they age, is not the same as someone who gains some baby weight and somehow never lost it decades later. Again, its about what externals reveal about internal character. I get that my wife and I are going to age. I am also highly confident that we will be fit and look good for our age.

Physical attractiveness is important and its okay to discriminate against spousal candidates based on it. Who knows, maybe some of the lazy folks in the congregation would get motivated if the lie of looks dont matter wasnt so pervasive.

Or maybe Im just an unsanctified jerk.

5 Social Influence And Defying Context

This originated as my first and only post on TRP (also posted on MRP) a few months ago, which was fairly well received, but for some reason I never actually posted it here. Anyway, given the request for content relevant for single guys, here's another one for you to dive into. It does talk about marriage issues too, but the overall concept is more useful for singles looking to meet new people.

In the last week alone I've had 4 or 5 guys approach me with issues where the root of their problem is their inability to defy context. Consider:

- "I really like this girl, but I can't come up with a good reason to start a conversation."
- "I really think a boundary needs to be set with my wife, but the issue is in the past, so I need to wait until it comes up again to talk about it."
- "I want to do something, but it would be out of character and people might think I'm weird."
- "I really do/don't want to do this, but it would be socially awkward or unacceptable for me to do/not do it."

These (and more) are signs of a person who is controlled by social constructs.

Social Influence Matters

Given the frequency with which I see this as an issue on RPChristians, I'm going to have to dive into this some more over there too, but social influence and the size of your social circle matters.

When I start mentoring guys one of the first things I tell them is that if they want to earn influence with people, they must advance their social network - and I'm talking in the real world, not on reddit or facebook. Social networking is how I make most of my money. It's how I advance my mission. It's how I increase my sphere of influence. It's how I dread my wife. Etc.

A guy once told me, "I'd like to meet more girls, but I'm just not good at initiating conversations. How can I have more girls in my social circle?" The answer seems too obvious: *Increase your social circle*. He replies, "But I'm not good at meeting new people?" I point to a couple sitting at the table next to us and said, *There you are - new people. Go introduce yourself*. He couldn't do it (at least not back then). "I can't, he says." *Why not?* "Because it would be weird."

What he meant was: "There's no context for me to talk to them."

The Non-Importance of Context

I have spent most of my life practicing the art of defying social norms when it would advantage me to do so. Don't get me wrong: **defying social norms absolutely can be disadvantageous to you in many circumstances**. But complying with social norms against your own interests can be equally disadvantageous. Why do we do it? Because it's "safe." Screw safe. Women don't want safe. Safe is not sexy.

Consider many of the Blue Pill PUA strategies. A lot of them revolve around creating context or leveraging an existing context. Why? Because they're too scared to break context. Examples: (1) Spill something small on her and try to clean it up, then start a conversation. (2) Bump into her, apologize, and start a conversation. (3) Take something innocuous going on in the room and use it as a context to start a conversation. The list goes on.

This happens in blue pill marriages all the time too. Examples: (1) Guy takes wife out on a date to create a context for sex afterward. (2) Guy puts on a racy movie/TV show or encourages his wife to read the Twilight/50 Shades books to create a context for his wife to get a little horny. (3) Guy starts massaging his wife's shoulders while they talk on the couch after dinner, hoping to transition that into sex. The list goes on.

Yes, context can be utilized for your advantage. But the one who has no qualms with breaking social niceties to get what he wants - that is an attractive man, not only to his wife and other women, but to prospective employers, reporters, social media junkies, and passive follower types all across the world.

What To Do?

One of the things I've recently started assigning guys to do: *Go start a 60+ second conversation with someone you've never met before and without context.*

One guy came back saying, "I had a few dates with girls I met online, and those conversations were over 60 seconds each," so he thought he'd done well. But that defeated the point of the exercise. He had context for the conversation. She expected him to talk to her on the date. I sent him back out to try again. The point wasn't for him to have conversations - it was to stretch him past his comfort zone. I wanted him learning to be comfortable engaging with people in new ways, whether it made sense to do so or not.

In my younger days this type of task was scary. In college and law school I started mastering it as an art. Today, I have no-context conversations with people almost every single day.

- In the elevator? *How's it going?*
- At the grocery store? *You're definitely going to want to pick up a box of these.*
- Walking down the street? *Nice day. Heading anywhere interesting?*

Yeah, people think I'm weird sometimes. More often they're thinking, "That was really cool that someone I don't know wanted to talk to me." Initiating without context often makes people feel good about themselves - especially if you employ charm in the midst of your context-defying conversations.

But even beyond making them feel good about themselves, it makes them feel good about you. They think, "Most people just stick to themselves, but that guy is actually interested in talking to people. He just does what he wants. I wish I could be like that." The phrase "I wish I could be like that" is a stone's throw away from, "I'll buy whatever he's selling." If I'm selling sex, she's buying.

After you've been doing this a while, you'll be surprised how many people you end up recognizing around town. I live in a suburb of 35,000 people. No matter what side of town I'm on, if I walk into a grocery

store there's about a 75% chance I'll run into someone who waves to me because they remember me from a past conversation, and maybe 50/50 that one of these people re-initiates a new conversation [and this is not counting the people who no-context initiate with me]. *THEY* are the ones initiating now. Why? Because they had a positive experience talking to me, even though the only other times I've talked to them have been at a restaurant or in a store at the mall or whatever. I once overheard one such acquaintance asking another, "Oh, how do you know him?" with the answer, "I don't really know, I just see him around a lot and we chat."

I suppose if I wanted to, I could really leverage this for some money-making opportunities. For now, it's enough that most places we go, my wife sees that people know me - and she wonders how. I'm not going to the movies with these people. I'm not going to meals. I'm not calling them on the phone. I'll let her hamster spin on that one.

What's Holding You Back?

Are you living the life you want? If not, what's stopping you? You ever just walk up to your wife and grab her crotch? "No! I could never do that. I have to kino her first. Then I've got to get her into bed. Then, once it's clear we're going to have sex, that's when I have **context** to grab her crotch." Screw context. If you want to do it, do it. Is it always going to be wise? Probably not. Oh well. Figure out discretion as you go.

Did she cross a boundary in a restaurant? You going to do something about it? "Not yet. We're in public. Strangers might see how I'm talking to her - that's a double-whammy. It's poor social etiquette to have a confrontation in public, and I can't let anyone know that I set boundaries on my wife's behavior." So, you decide to wait until you're home to bring it up, but the conversation has long since moved on and you think, "Well, things are going well now, so there's really no **context** to bring it up and it might spoil the mood, so I'll just let this one slide." Then you fester some resentment. If it's important to you, just bring it up. Screw social norms. Let the people at the table next to you gawk at the fact that you're not ashamed.

In fact, social norms are the constructs your wife utilizes to keep you in control. They're how she creates her expectations for the relationship. They're also what establishes a sense of monotony in many dead bedrooms because they make you predictable. If you learn to defy social norms, she will never know what to expect from you. That's exciting. That's sexy. That's what lets her know you're worth being with - because you'll do what others won't, which makes you far more suitable as a protector and provider. It simultaneously adds healthy instability and reliability in the relationship. Screw context, screw your wife.

6 Finding the Girl You Can't Keep Yourself From Banging

Someone recently PMed me about the single life. I know OZ has more of his incredible wisdom on the way for single men, but given that I just made this write-up anyway, I might as well share it more openly, with tweaks and adjustments to generalize and refine the content a bit.

Marriage Orientation

Are your life aspirations right now oriented toward marriage or away from marriage? There are all kinds of secular reasons for why you'll find an orientation away from marriage is ideal, which you can read about from TRP/MRP and the many comments by u/Whitified (not to say he doesn't have biblical reasons as well). Marriage laws, emotional complexities, risk factors, and all kinds of other things tell us that modern day marriage is a bad idea. But let's set that aside for now and just consider a biblical aspect.

I am an extremely firm believer in Matthew 6:33 - "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well." In other words, if God wants it for you, then he'll give it to you ... if you seek His purposes first in your life. The implication is, of course, that if you're not seeking God, he's under no obligation to provide "all these things" to you. Jesus didn't end that verse with, "Or don't seek him, it doesn't really matter ... he'll still give you all that anyway."

1 Cor. 7 can in relevant part be summed up this way: *Don't look for a spouse because she'll distract you from your mission to God. If you're pursuing God first and find yourself about to engage in sexual sin with someone, then go ahead and get married. But even when you're married, you should live like you're single, fully devoted to God.*

For singles, take Paul's words to heart: don't pursue marriage at all. "Monk mode" should not be an X month thing for you. It should be with the mindset: "This will last until I'm in a context with someone where I know I won't be able to stop myself from sleeping with her for much longer." You're not pursuing a relationship (or even necessarily in one); you're pursuing God and finding yourself with women swarming you anyway - **BECAUSE** of your faithfulness to God.

This sounds counter-intuitive to many because you might secretly maintain your blue pill ideologies. It's hard to kick the idea that marriage is an ideal that should be sought after, as it was in the Old Testament times. But physical marriage was replaced by spiritual marriage to Christ. It and sex are no longer, in a post-Gospel world, the epitome of human existence. In fact, under current marriage laws, modern marriage doesn't even resemble Old Testament marriage anymore anyway, so even that is no longer a realistic ideal.

5 Steps To Finding A Wife (by not trying)

Here's my general guide for single guys:

ONE: Find a mission in life. I personally believe this mission must involve the calling to make disciples as Jesus did (as opposed to the modern dictionary/church definition of "discipleship"). For further reading: Master Plan of Evangelism, by Robert Coleman, and Lost Art of Disciple Making, by LeRoy Eims. Master Plan casts the vision, Lost Art gives you practical tools for getting it done. You can also ask me for a copy of my book on discipleship and I'm happy to share it free of charge. Also listen to the sermon Born to Reproduce, by Dawson Trotman, which can be found here (top link). It's old, but still probably the best sermon I've ever heard. I listen to it at least 2-3 times per year.

TWO: Start living your mission. Start making disciples in the context of your particular skill set, interests, hobbies, spiritual gifts, etc. For me, that involves a lot of TV watching. I kid you not ... I'm a writer and love different plot structures, so I utilize TV as an opportunity to hone my craft, but also to connect with friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Watching shows together is an easy way to build a connection with someone and to start a conversation with new people.

This, of course, doesn't distract me from lifting, reading, studying/memorizing Scripture, working full-time, spending time with my kids, etc. It just means that I focus my hobby time into things that help advance my calling to make disciples, creating relational bridges that can be leveraged for the Gospel and raising new believers into spiritual maturity. About 95% of America is addicted to TV and I'm not aware of a more universal hobby, so it makes sense to fish with the widest net.

THREE: Develop orbiters. As you live out your vision I guarantee people will take notice. I have never known an active disciple-maker (especially in a college setting, as the original question-asker was in) whose efforts didn't get noticed. Join a campus ministry (Navigators is my preferred, if you have one locally) or local church and utilize their meetings as an opportunity to find believers to disciple. Let the leadership know what you're doing. That leader will likely partner with you, which will drastically increase your social network alongside his (which is usually large if he's good at his job), and place you in front of plenty of women (possibly even the object of your ONEitis - **NOT THAT YOU SHOULD CARE**) who will take notice of your spiritual maturity and lifestyle for Christ.

Once the orbiters start to take notice of what you're doing and the fruit your life is bearing for the Kingdom, they're going to want to do three things: (1) Follow in your footsteps, modeling discipleship in their own lives; (2) Learn from you on how to accomplish that; and (3) "Leech" off of/help in your successes in your own ministry for God's Kingdom. Note that this process will typically also naturally weed out most of the

women who don't take their faith very seriously, which means the types of orbiters you'll be amassing (as I did over a decade ago when I did this in college before I lost my alpha post-marriage) are the types of quality women you'll be looking for with low or 0 n-counts and who are likely to take their faith seriously. Admittedly, post-college the attractive draw of this becomes more difficult (a lot of the people you'll be attracting will be married), but it's not entirely negated in value. The real goal here is to be sorting out which women can actually be on board with your mission and not.

FOUR: Cultivate your orbiters. Your mission and lifestyle will be an inspiration to others, including those women, who will want to latch onto your life. In a TRP sense, it could be argued they want to "leech off of your spiritual credit." For example, I recently asked my wife why she's with me as opposed to some other guy (there was appropriate context for the question). Her answer: "Because I know on judgment day you're going to be the one God's impressed with and I want to be able to tell him I helped you do it." I'm not trying to toot my own horn, but to give you an idea of the female mentality - and this is *how spiritual marriage SHOULD be*. A great external reference (I'm a musical junkie) is the song A Part of That from the musical The Last Five Years (Anna Kendrick sings the song in the movie, which is on Netflix). Long story short, you're going to find plenty of women who want to "leech" off of your spiritual credit ... or more theologically accurate: "be your helper" alongside the mission you're on. For the record: the reason my marriage sucked for 7 years is because when I got married I made my mission secondary to my marriage. HUGE mistake. Again, 1 Cor. 7 says, "Let those with wives live as if they had none." That means putting your mission first. Read 108 on the sidebar (I think that's the "life-cycle of a relationship" post), as that goes into more detail on the point and why the mission cannot be something internal to the home, like making enough money or buying a big enough house. Your real goal in all of this part of the process is to be finding an orbiter (or many) who is on the same mission you are (which likely will be caused by your influence in the first place) and to work together in tandem toward the fulfillment of that mission.

- Let me be abundantly clear here. This coop mission is what creates the context for your being together. This is what will put you in proximity enough to start having those sexual desires for one another - not because you're chasing tail, as if you needed a relationship to keep you happy and fulfilled.

FIVE: Start the relationship. Once you've got your flock of orbiters/plates/whatever you want to call them, eventually you're going to start feeling strong sexual urges toward one of them that surpasses the rest. When you feel that, do your best to avoid it. If she keeps pursuing you and you're getting tempted into a lustful relationship, then start orienting yourself toward marrying her.

Orientation Of The Pursuit

Bear in mind that this is different from the blue pill ideologies put out by the church, which suggests that the man must pursue the woman. Note that the verses that imply God chasing after people are usually with his bride in a post-marriage context - and it's not in an "I was wrong! I neeeeeed you! Please come back!!!" kind of way, but a "Hey, get back here. Stop wandering off!" way. It's usually a pattern of, "So and so was in the fold, then they left, then God pursued them and they returned." even to that end, there are still several examples where God lets people walk away and doesn't necessarily pursue them relentlessly to force them back.

But before marriage we see things more like Psalm 14:2, "The Lord looked down from heaven ... to see if there are any who ... seek after God." Jeremiah 20:12-13, "You will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Deuteronomy 4:29, "But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him." 1 Chronicles 28:9, "If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever." 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people ... pray and seek my face ... I will hear from heaven" (really, every few chapters of 1/2 Chronicles has passages about this). Doing a word search is producing virtually all examples of us seeking God, almost never in the reverse.

Skipping to the NT ... Matthew 6:33, 7:7, 28:5; Mark 3:32, 16:6; Luke 5:18, 11:9, 12:31, 19:3 (interestingly, when Jesus says "the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost" - a counter example in verse 10 - it's given in the context of Zacchaeus first seeking Jesus); John 6:24, 7:34, 8:21, 13:33, 20:15; Acts 15:17, 17:27; Romans 10:20; Colossians 3:1 ... and in all of this I found only one use of the word "seek" related to

Jesus seeking us: John 4:23. But as with Luke 19:3 (Zacchaeus), this is the woman at the well and Jesus prefaces his conversation with asking for a drink from her, then saying, "If you knew who I was, you would have been the one asking me, not the other way around." Long story short: this feminized notion that God is just always seeking after us is only referenced in a few places, whereas there's an overwhelmingly greater amount of passages referencing the idea that Jesus' bride and those he wants to draw into relationship with himself are expected to seek Him. Now, the Spirit does have to draw us to God (John 6:44) - we can't seek him on our own. But that "draw" from God's Spirit is the same as a godly man having a spirit about him that is alluring women, drawing them to seek after him.

If you pursue something, it means you value it more than what you presently have or who you currently are - you're beneath it. If you are content in what you have, you'd have no reason to pursue anything else. As Christians, we are called to be discontented with a yearning in our soul for the size of God's Kingdom until all nations have been reached. But in relationships, we ARE called to be content in Christ. If you're pursuing relationships with women as a high priority in your life, that tells me you're (1) not content in your relationship with Christ, and (2) that you're "lesser" than (or status-wise: "beneath") the woman you're pursuing.

Conclusion

I guess what I'm saying in all of this is that you shouldn't be worrying about finding a wife. You should be the kind of man who makes women worry about whether or not they can find a guy like you. Be that man and women will come. But "that guy" isn't chasing tail all the time. He's on an independent mission for Christ. James Bond never said, "Hold on, MI-6 ... let me go find my girl first, then I'll go do my mission for you." He found her as part of his pursuit of that mission (not a perfect example, but you get the point).

7 Plate Theory and/v. Christianity

This comes up a lot, so let me finally address it somewhat officially. Nothing here is necessarily new from what I've said in comments of other threads, but I'll spell it out in more detail anyway.

Defining The Term

I always have to quote Rollo on this one because the secular guys like to take this concept further than it has to go. In Rational Male Year One ¶ Plate Theory II ¶ 2nd actual paragraph:

Spinning Plates doesn't necessarily mean you're f— all of your plates. It's more of a spreading out of your efforts across a wider pool of subjects.

That's it. For anyone who wants to know my definition of spinning plates it's just that: *Exerting effort toward a relationship with a woman = spinning a plate.* Exerting effort toward multiple women = spinning plates (plural).

The Basics

The whole point of secular RP's sexual strategy is to **fix yourself** so that you're high enough quality of a man to have either a sufficient **number of plates** or a sufficient **quality of plates** to keep you sexually satisfied.

Now, for every married guy out there, your wife is a plate, whether you like to think of her that way or not. She's a woman who's in a relationship with you and you're exerting effort toward that relationship. Even in a secular context, if she's nothing more than a sparring partner to you - that's still effort. You're still testing all your RPness on her to see how well you can spin that particular plate.

Secular RP says that if she is your only plate and you're not sexually satisfied (which is where most men are when finding MRP), you can do one of three things:

- **Fix Yourself:** There's a good chance you're not a high enough quality of man to warrant the type of sexual satisfaction you're looking for. Fix this, fix your problem.
 - **Up the Quality:** If you've already got your "RPness" in top-notch order and she's just not a high quality plate, you can train her to be higher quality (they use the phrase: "create your slut").
 - **Up the Quantity:** Just give up and find someone else.
-

The Purpose

In his first post on plate theory, Rollo appropriately starts off the whole series with this:

the essence of plate theory is that **a man is as confident and valuable as his options**. This is the essence of the abundance mindset - confidence is derived from options.

Spinning plates is a sexual strategy of its own right, but a man without an abundance mentality won't be able to keep those plates in the air. You can put in a lot of effort, but get no return. Spinning plates only works with an abundance mentality. Incidentally, spinning plates is also how you get an abundance mentality. That's where "fake it til you make it" comes in to resolve the Catch-22.

Once you have an abundance mentality, the need to spin plates decreases proportionately to your increase of abundance mentality. With this in mind, "**Fix Yourself**" includes developing an abundance mentality, and spinning plates is one method of doing this. With that abundance, the quantity of plates doesn't matter as much because you already know you are the quality of man who could keep them spinning if he wanted to.

Effort

There are different levels of effort required to spin different plates:

- Some plates require no effort, spinning themselves. We call these orbiters. You get IOIs that are totally unprovoked.
- Others require little more than natural exposure to you. Simply saying "hi" with a smile is enough to get some IOIs back.
- Others require intentional exposure. If you're both in the same conversation she wouldn't care much, but if you were to isolate her or otherwise escalate with her while in the group dynamic, she'd start giving IOIs, having seen your intentional displays of interest toward her.
- Others require high effort. This is usually where your wife is. She takes for granted the fact that you're supposed to be interested in her, so getting IOIs back requires more than you'd need to pick up the girl at the bar - especially since she already knows all of your moves.

Now, this scale actually only makes sense under two conditions: (1) you're not the highest value man in her relational network, and (2) you accept practical realities of interpersonal relationships.

I say the second simply to note that no matter how high value you are, some women might stop thinking about you as soon as you're out of the room. I'm sure even Channing Tatum meets women who aren't still swooning over him 3 days after he said hi to her. Sometimes they just move on.

But the first point is more relevant in that the higher value you are, the lower effort you need. A girl who would require intentional exposure from you to garner her interest might naturally orbit Channing Tatum if he was in her relational network, even if he never went out of his way to say hi to her. Why? Because he's probably higher value than you are. As your value rises from the "fix yourself" category, the amount of effort you need to exert to spin a plate goes way down.

This is why many blue pill men exhaust themselves trying to make their marriages work, only to end up in divorce. They are low-value men, so they have to put in an incredible amount of effort and at some point they simply say, "It just isn't worth it." To be fair, most secular RP men come to the exact same conclusion: "If I have to put in actual effort to get my wife to screw me, it just isn't worth it," and they go onto the "up the quantity" category.

How To Spin

This section is more of a joke. Spinning = effort. It's that simple. How do I spin? Say hi to a girl and let her orbit me = low effort. Put my hand on her back and start to flirt and suggest another meetup = moderate effort. Isolate her and follow-up with her on subsequent days = higher effort. Buying her crap, frequent compliments, and a bunch of other beta stuff that rarely works = high effort.

Remember: showing that you need to put in a lot of effort to get her spinning for you is a real obvious display of who has the higher value in the relationship. Also remember that just because you can spin doesn't mean you should spin. Ergo ...

Responsibilities and Boundaries

Do I sin when I say "hi" and smile to a random girl on the street who isn't my wife? Have I intentionally led her on? Have I done anything designed to cause her to lust for me? Of course not. There's nothing wrong with saying "hi" to someone with a smile, but if you're a high value man this is going to generate interest anyway. That interest means her head is *spinning* with thoughts about me. I can't control what she thinks about.

Girls Do It Too

Now, girls do this constantly. Even among church girls, we constantly see them interested in different boys, and they'll spend time with each of these boys to figure out who they might want to start dating or "court-ing." Nobody condemns these girls for spinning plates, but that's what they're doing - and the church even encourages this. That's the whole point of the "courtship" model - be friends with lots of people in group settings so you can get an idea of who you might be interested in and what you want to look for in a man. Sometimes they're spinning multiple man-plates because they're not sure which, or if any, of them will ultimately ask her out, so she keeps building new relationships and meeting new guys until one of them finally has the guts to take her to dinner.

Of course, women often get shamed in the church for causing men to think lustful thoughts. So, we get overly prude girls who are afraid of their sexuality. But many people in the modern church are finally starting to realize that this isn't what the Bible meant when it said not to cause a brother to stumble into sin. Women are now being appropriately empowered in the church: "What men think about you is not your responsibility ... (unless you're acting in a way uniquely designed to cause them to think that)."

Responsibility

The same goes for men and "Christian plate spinning." If you say hi and smile to a girl, most will simply be put in a good mood and that's about it. Although I have abundance, I'm also conscious of reality: I'm not Channing Tatum. Even if I was, it's not my fault if a smile makes her go home to gab with her friends about the cute guy at the gym and she starts planning her wedding day. That's not your responsibility how emotionally invested she gets ... with certain limitations.

Specifically, if you are a married man with no intention of having an affair with her, yet still wink at her while cupping your junk and flashing her your tattoo ... now you're responsible for generating whatever reaction she comes up with to that.

Guidelines

If you want to have a general guideline to know what's okay and not, here's my suggestion:

- **Don't put yourself in a position where you're tempted to sin.** Suppose you made a funny comment to a girl on the street and she starts walking with you to continue the conversation. She gets to her house and invites you inside. If going in will cause you to sin, don't do it. It's that simple.
- **Don't put her in a position to want to tempt you to sin.** Even if you have a high threshold for temptation, if you're engaging with her in a way that makes her want to test your boundaries, that's bad news and leading her on. You're trying to "awaken love before it so desires" with her, per Song of Songs.
- **Don't do anything likely to cause her to believe you would do something sinful with her.** Simple enough.
- **Be up-front about your limitations.** When I get IOIs, I often make passive comments that let her know where I'll cut off a relationship - things like referencing my wife in a positive way, mentioning my faith (evangelism purposes there too), etc. From there, if she wants to make false assumptions about where the relationship might go, it's not on my head.

Female Friends

If I follow these guidelines and never hear from her again, so be it. If she doesn't care and continues to engage with me anyway, suddenly I have a female friend.

I can hear it now: *Ooooooh ... there goes that Christian guy who is actually friends with a girl! Shame on him! Whoop-ti-do.*

Can guys and girls ever truly be "just friends"? I don't care. That's a philosophical or psychological or biological question ... and I'm not a philosopher, psychologist, or biologist (though I pretend to be all 3 at times). As long as she's aware of where she stands with me, and I'm not doing anything to cause her to think she can go further, and I'm not doing anything to cause her to tempt me to go further ... let her do what she's going to do.

If being "just friends" is possible, then I've just made a friend and my life is presumably better for it (otherwise I wouldn't keep her as a friend). If it's not possible, then we have the illusion of friendship and she's technically a romantic plate - but as long as I'm not responsible for the degree of her romantic feelings for me (acknowledging that in this worldview those feelings will always be there no matter what - whether positive or negative), I can continue in the illusion without fault ... particularly if I can keep my romantic feelings toward her in check, which goes back to the point about not putting myself in the way of temptation.

For Singles

When you're single, some of this changes. The "sniper" approach of singling out a target who you really want to be with (i.e. ONEitis) is obviously a bad idea. It doesn't work. It also carries with it the false theological implication of "soul mates," which we only see in Scripture as the exception to the rule (like Hosea and Jacob), whereas the overwhelming majority of marriages in Scripture seem to have been formed by whatever social construct prevailed at any given time throughout history.

In modern social dynamics, plate spinning makes sense. It's how a lot of people operate. *It's how most women themselves actually operate!* Single girls are trying to get male attention all the time. They don't pick one target and say, "I will ignore every advance from every other man except him." They keep their options open. If you're a single guy, you need to do the same. The concept of "spinning plates" as a single guy really isn't all that much different from the stereotypical "group courtship" model - you hang out in bunches and see who piques your interest.

Once you're in an LTR, I still call you "single" for these purposes - and I would encourage you to keep your options open until you actually marry, or are at least engaged. Sure, at some point if you do decide to go through with it, there is value in changing this dynamic. But until that vow is taken, don't leave room for regret. Don't be the guy who meets the girl of his dreams the day before his wedding, ignores her, then secretly thinks about her every time he's in a fight with his wife - "If only ..."

Example

I once said "hi" to a hot girl at the gym and smiled at her. I asked to use the weights that were behind her and made a comment about how busy it was. She smiled back and obliged with a typical response. I move on to another area of the gym.

Now, I could have just squeezed behind her and grabbed the weights while avoiding any actual communication. I decided to be friendly instead. I put the plate up and give it a couple small taps, then left it alone.

A few minutes later, she comes over to the bench I was at and starts talking to me. That plate is now spinning a lot faster than what my slight tapping would have warranted. Next time I'm at the gym, she approaches me and chats again - and this continues several times, often with "wow"s and compliments at how much I lift, hair swishes, giggles, and other IOIs.

- Is she into me? Probably.
 - Have I given her any reason at all to think I'd be into her? Not really - I was just a high value man around her who decided to be friendly rather than cold. I knew that this was "effort" at the time, but not unnatural effort for my character. I knew that it might generate interest, but not at an inappropriate level.
 - Have I taken appropriate measures to let her know how fast/long she can keep spinning in my world? Absolutely.
 - Does she keep coming back anyway? You bet.
 - Does that help me keep abundance? At first, but not anymore because I already have abundance even without her IOIs.
 - Am I responsible for her ongoing emotional connection to me? No. I maintain boundaries (ex. not letting her touch me, passive references to affirm that I'm not interested).
 - Is her interest in me affecting her relationships with other men? Doubtful.
-

Summary

Spinning plates = effort toward a relationship with someone.

Some plates spin on their own. This is not you spinning that plate - it just spins and that's not your fault. But she is your plate nonetheless.

Even mild and innocuous forms of interaction are effort and can start a plate spinning, but that's okay. You can't be expected to avoid all contact with anyone who might possibly lust or obsess over you.

As your value goes up, the amount of effort you put in goes a lot further in starting/keeping a plate spinning. Be ready for that by knowing your limits and establishing clear boundaries for what you will/won't do.

The more effort you put into keeping a plate spinning (like your wife), the more you are communicating low value to that plate. She assumes she's worth the effort and that, implicitly, since you're putting in

effort to get her, she has no reason to put in effort to keep you spinning as one of her plates.

If you're single, keep your options open until you actually create a covenant with someone, lest you regret what could have been.

8 Q&A Guide to IOIs

Here's another one for the single guys out there. How can you tell if she's interested?

Mental Framework

The first thing I want to say is that you shouldn't care whether she's interested. You should be the one to decide if she's interested in you or not. I know it sounds weird and is not technically accurate, but it's a lot closer to the truth than the inverse - that you're at her whims. If she's interested in you or not is a lot decided by whether or not you think she's interested in you. If you assume she's not interested in you, I guarantee that even if she is interested in you, she'll start questioning that interest when she sees your insecurity (an exception to be made for low-value women who are desperate).

More to the point: if you assume she's interested in you, even if she's not interested, your confidence in that assumption makes her interested. It might not be enough interest to get you a date, but at least you're starting to register on her radar at all.

So, if you're asking whether or not someone is interested or if something is an IOI, this shows a fundamental breakdown in your mental framework. The answer is always: "Yes, she's interested in me," followed by, "So, what am I going to do about it?" When you get a hard no, that's when you can feel free to move on. Of course, if you're single and not in a committed relationship you should always be moving on, not stopping to wait for someone who may or may not give you a hard no.

This is where I've written in the past about "Christian plate spinning" and the shotgun/sniper mentalities. Girls - even devout Christian ones - build relationships with many guys who they hope will ask them out. Likewise, it's your prerogative and imperative, if you're a marriage-seeker, to build relationships with many women to figure out who you might want to ask out and possibly commit to. It's not wrong when girls do it. It's not wrong when guys do it. It's just being wise instead of putting all your eggs in one basket.

With that framework in mind, your goal should simply be to initiate and approach as if she's just been waiting over there, longing for you to say hi. If you have that level of confidence, you can garner interest that wasn't objectively there before. At best, you meet someone new who could be your future spouse. At worst, she says no and you move on. I suppose it could get worse if you have a garbage frame, letting her "no" be a condemnation over you and your sense of self-worth, but that's for you to figure out. Go read the 400-series to nip that issue in the bud before it even starts - your satisfaction comes from Christ, not from getting a date with a pretty girl. Whether she says yes or no, your excitement meter should remain relatively stable. The more variance you see in your emotional state from a girl's response to your initiation, the more power she has over you in the relationship, the harder it will be for you to feel like a leader over her because you'll want to supplicate to her to keep her bumping that meter higher and higher for you, which isn't sustainable in the long-run.

Q&A

Okay R-C, that's great, but it doesn't help us figure out whether she's actually interested.

That's what many of you are thinking, I'm sure. My point is that it shouldn't matter if she's actually interested or not. You initiate with her as often and whichever way you feel like it until you don't feel like it anymore.

A hard no should make you not feel like it anymore because you won't get any return on your investment in the relationship. But if it's a soft no, you have to figure out for yourself when the odds of things working out will finally be outweighed by the time and effort your putting in. If all you're doing is texting once every couple weeks, that's pretty low effort, but it might be worth it long-term. But if she works at Starbucks and you're going in there to buy a coffee everyday just to say hi and strike up a conversation, that's a lot of time and money you're investing for an indeterminate probability.

Cool, but you're still dodging the question. How can I evaluate the "probability" of her giving me a positive response down the road?

My gut reaction is simply to say: if she's not showing interest up-front, move on and don't look back. Your probability is pretty low - odds that I wouldn't bet on. But I do know that sometimes legitimate things can come up that don't necessarily mean "disinterest" or that sometimes good relationships need to be cultivated from very little - a seed, if you will - before they can blossom into something beautiful, just as is true for those God intends to make part of his bride. So ...

1. **Touching.** If she touches you at all, she's probably interested. Physical contact is a clear violation of personal space in most contexts. Nevertheless, people will violate your personal space as a means of showing you that they're okay with you violating their personal space. That's a clear sign of interest.
2. **Verbal Affirmation.** If she directly says she's interested, she's interested. This is one of the few times where you can ignore "trust what she does, not what she says." This, of course, does not apply to married men, where their wives have an internal sense of obligation to say they are interested in and love their husbands when, in fact, they do not. When a woman does not have this obligation, but communicates it anyway, that's often reliable, despite the fact that they could be intentionally deceptive just to screw with you, which they can do with their actions too (in high school I had a girl do that to me, so I do admit it's a real thing).
3. **No Context Initiation.** If she initiates a no-context conversation with you, this is a good sign she's interested. Girls don't start random conversations with creepy guys. If she does start one with you, you've just graduated to "he's not a creep" status. To be clear, a "context conversation" is when there is some socially normative basis for initiating with someone - like a food worker chatting with you while you order, or a girl asking you if you're done with a set of weights that she wants to use. As such "no context" is when no normal person would initiate with you unless they had an internal desire to want to talk to you independent of everything else going around. Some people will create a context to initiate with you, like bumping into you "by accident" or pretending to notice something innocuous and relevant, but which didn't really need to be mentioned, like how warm a pair of boots might look on a cold winter day. "Created context" is the same as "no context."
4. **Availability.** People don't make time for things they don't want to do. They do make time for things they're interested in. A friend recently asked a girl out to coffee and she said something like, "Okay, but I want to be clear up-front that I'm only interested in being friends." He went anyway. She made time for him. This means she had some interest in getting coffee with him. What was that interest? It was either (1) preserving her own self-image as being a nice girl who is friendly even toward men she isn't interested in; or (2) she is interested in him, but wants to deflate any of his expectations to give herself more control over the future of the relationship in the event she changes her mind during the meet-up. He stressed about which one it was. But, actuality aside, this is a good indicator that she's open-minded about his interest in her. Remember that indicators are not absolute proof; they're simply factors we consider when trying to assess what may or may not be true. If she makes herself available once, this might not indicate a lot. If she makes herself available again, that adds a lot of strength to the belief that she's interested.
5. **Mannerisms.** This is where "look what she does, not what she says" comes back. If she's smiling a lot, playing with her hair, primping herself when she thinks you're not looking, using a flirty tone of voice, etc. - those are all good signs. I put this last on the list, though, because guys often misread these "signs," thinking she's doing one of these things when she isn't. Why might guys misread these signs? Because of selective perception.

Woah, Red, you're telling me that if she taps my shoulder to ask me to move out of the way, that means she has the hots for me?

No. Obviously you have to use some common sense here. Basic social niceties are not considered an entry into one's own personal space. We assume that on a crowded subway you'll be bumping into people or that if you're in someone's way, they might tap you and ask you to move. Nobody feels like their space has been entered when that happens. But when someone stands unusually close to you during a conversation, or touches your hand or arm, that's somewhat unusual and often takes a bit of courage to do that. I know that some people are touchy-feely people in general ... but again, it's still an *indicator* - and only one of many.

Do any girls actually verbally admit that they're interested in you?

Yes. This guy (Andrew Hales)² does a lot of videos about cold-approaching people in various prank-like contexts. In this particular video he's testing whether or not acting like a douche will actually yield positive reception. In the very first clip, he is walking by a girl, stops and says, "Hey, are you a slut? Do you want my number?" She laughs and says yes. He says, "You're hot." She says, "Thank you! I love when guys say that." She asks what he's doing, he says, "Just picking up chicks. I'm bored." She says, "What a fun thing to do on a Sunday. You picked the right one!"

So yes, it doesn't matter how ridiculous you're being - if she's interested in you, she very well might tell you. She may not either, but it does happen - and it should not stop even when you get married, although your effort in seeking these types of responses should change drastically.

That's a cool video, but he's initiating with them. That's what I've always been taught is the man's job. Are you saying I should wait for girls to initiate with me?

No. I'm simply saying that if she does initiate with you without context, she might be interested in you. You should still be initiating separately. Even more so, if you initiate once and she initiates after that as a follow-up, even though there's now a context due to your first contact, this is another very strong indicator that she's interested. People don't follow-up with people that they don't care about or who they have no interest in seeing again.

What if I'm getting the impression she's interested, but she's just really busy and isn't available on the days I try to get together?

Some people are advance planners and don't work well on spontaneity. You have to account for this. If you're stopping in the coffee shop and asking her to hang out when she gets off, she might legitimately have plans. Or maybe she's interested, but doesn't want to get together without having the time to get primed for the date. If this happens 3 or 4 times in a row, it might be a bad sign; but it could also just be a sign that she needs to plan things in advance.

Of course, she also might just be using a "busy schedule" to avoid actually having to spend time with you. The way you test this is to ask her about something 3-4 weeks out and not on a holiday. Short of vacations, most single people don't schedule things that far in advance - or if they do, it's usually flexible. Another way is to offer an alternative time a few times. If she wants to hang out with you, she'll suggest another day.

What you shouldn't do is ask her to give you a day. It sounds RP because you're making her pursue you. But she might give you a day just because she feels pressured to do so, and then you're still in the dark. Try a few weeks out and give a few options and if she responds to any of your dates or with a different suggestion of her own, she's interested.

Okay, but what if she gives me a day, but she just looks kind of awkward and not into it? Should I even bother?

Yes, you should bother. Some girls don't know how to feel. It's your job to ease their anxieties about the approach into something comfortable. For girls who are used to getting asked out or who know they're

²<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtjBt4Ou9SY>

hot, this is somewhat natural. But for many Christian girls it's not. They're shy and not used to putting themselves in social situations where they get approached like this. Accept that it's awkward for her, go on the date, and gauge how she is after you've had time to smooth things over with your conversation skills.

What if she doesn't text me after the date and it's been a week already?

So what? Do what you want to do. You want to ask her out again? Do it. If you don't, don't. The key is that you're doing what you want to do, inviting her along as often as you feel like inviting her along, and moving on when she stops responding to your initiation. Your job isn't to pursue her; it's to initiate with her and invite her to pursue you, just like Jesus did when he said, "I'm here to fish for men. Come with me and I'll make you a fisher of men too." He was doing his thing, asking others to come along, and moving on from place to place whether those people joined him or not.

Wait, when you say "doing what you want to do, inviting her along" - does that mean I shouldn't be trying to schedule special dates?

If you're trying to impress her with your date, you're going to fail. Sure, it might work, but you're still setting a bad precedent for the relationship: that it's all about impressing her. For my first date with my wife, I simply said, "I'm going to grab some food. Want to come?" and we went to the local Skyline Chili - a pseudo-fast-food place that's delicious. I'd asked her this before and she didn't come. This time she did. Regardless of whether she came or not, I went anyway.

Other times I said, "I feel like going on a walk. Want to join me?" and she did. Or, "I'm going to church. You in?" and she'd say yes. Or, "I'm discipling a guy and need some time to process how I can lead him. Want to help me talk through it?" and she would. Or, "I'm about to have a quiet time/pray/fellowship with other Christians/etc. Want to join me?" and she would. Nowadays I say, "I feel like renting a movie and microwaving some popcorn. You in?" or "I want to take the kids to the pool. You coming?" or whatever ... and sometimes she joins, sometimes she doesn't. Either way, I'm moving. I'm doing things. I'm living my life. I'm inviting her to be a part of my life. I'm leading.

Between these times - from when we got married and for about 7 years after that - I did something totally different. I said, "What do you want to do?" "Where would you like to go eat?" "What movie would you like to see?" Even when I made plans, it was, "I bet she would love doing this!" and I'd craft the "perfect date" week after week. That got me nothing except a wife who showed contempt against me.

As I often say, you've got to be a man on a mission. Your mission is what's going to create the foundation and context for your relationship. That mission should keep you on the move. The direction you're moving should be the direction you're inviting her to join you in moving. I kid you not, sometimes it's even as simple as going to the grocery store. "I'm out of bananas. Want to go shopping with me?" [Emphasize the first A in banana instead of the second and do this habitually - recurring obvious mispronunciation of words is a fun little game that for some reason many women find endearing as a humorous quirk - especially when they know you're doing it on purpose.]

If you're moving and she's joining, that's the best IOI. How much effort you put into inviting her to join you can be assessed by contemplating all of the above.