**2-17-2018**

**Discussion Guide**

**What God Has Joined Together: Technically Dating**

***Instructions: Prioritize! (lots to discuss)***

How has dating changed from 40 years ago – 20 years ago – 10 years ago?

Have you been a part of the internet dating deal?

What was your experience?

What advice would you give to a sister/brother/friend/son/daughter about to venture into the dating by internet scene?

How is online dating positive and negative?

This message was framed as things Doug would want his kids to know. That doesn’t mean everyone would feel the same. Let’s process:

1. Being single does not make you a 2nd class person or less complete.

(Or what’s the difference between a toothbrush and a wedding ring?)

What does this mean? Why is it important? When do you think singles might feel second class? (Besides Valentine’s Day – although that counts)

Do you think this is a church problem or a larger problem in our culture?

What can we do to make a difference?

Doug said that singles need to remember that they don’t need marriage, but they do need intimacy, connection, and commitment in their lives. What does that mean? Have you felt those needs? How do we all find those relationships (other than marriage)?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

What do we learn about marriage, sex, Paul and singleness?

What was motivating Paul to advocate for remaining single? How was his perspective different so close to Jesus’ death and resurrection compared to ours 2,000 years later?

Doug said that singles should not be pitied by married people. Why would people extend that kind of pity? Why is that likely offensive? Why is unhealthy for everyone?

1. Doug said he would want his kids to know that dating is a search. Do you agree? Why? If it is a search, what are we really looking for?

What is the harm, if any, of dating just to have fun?

What is the difference between dating and just hanging out together or grabbing coffee and talking?

What does date really mean? (note: I don’t think your Bible will help you with this one)

1. On the topic of Soul Mates… why is it dangerous to look for your soul mate similar to hunting for treasure?
2. Doug said be picky about not only marriage – but about whom we date. What do you think? Is this important or is Doug just uptight? Why?

(verses Prov. 19:14, 27:15, 21:9, 21:19,

1. Doug said Marriage is choosing submission, sacrifice, and respect. How does this raise the seriousness of dating and marriage? How should it impact how we date?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-16 This is the key verses concerning the equally yoked principle. What do you think it means to be equally yoked in friendships, business dealings, marriage, or church? What is at stake? Why is this important? How can it be over the top?
2. Doug said – Be picky and as soon as you know this person isn’t someone you would marry (wrong pond) break it off. (We can try to keep the friendship – but let go of the dating/romance.)
3. Besides both being Christians… what other areas should people look to be equally yoked? If you are married, what is the most “unequally yoked” aspect of your relationship. (We all got ‘em.) - How does that play out?
4. Doug said he wants his kids to know **How you see yourself will determine more than you can imagine.** Talk about that. What connected with you?  
   How are you seeing yourself these days? Reviewing the glasses – (red solo, coffee mug, and crystal) how will each view date – marry – manage their sex lives? Why is this easy to confuse with stages of life? Why is it hard to see ourselves as God’s crystal?
5. What did you learn or were reminded of? Is there an application for you?