

Red Flags

Dating Advice

Sermon Recap

God calls believers to pursue relationships His way—not driven by feelings, culture, or momentary pleasure, but guided by wisdom, purpose, and holiness. Dating is meant to be a progression toward commitment, where emotional and physical intimacy follow trust, reliance, and covenant-level commitment rather than rushing ahead.

Using Paul's charge in 1 Timothy 4:12, Pastor DJ encourages listeners to evaluate both themselves and anyone they are considering dating by consistent patterns in five areas: speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Pay close attention to what someone says and how they say it, because words reveal what is in the heart. Look at what they do, not just what they promise—actions expose integrity. Consider what they love and how they love, measuring love by God's definition in 1 Corinthians 13: patient, kind, truthful, protective, and persevering rather than selfish or easily angered.

A key warning is not to be “unequally yoked” (2 Corinthians 6:14): relationships break down when two people are pulling in opposite directions spiritually and purposefully. The question isn't only “Do we get along?” but “Are we heading the same way with God?” Pastor DJ also challenges the mindset of dating “just for fun,” calling it immature and spiritually risky, and urges believers to be transformed by renewing their minds rather than conforming to the world's patterns (Romans 12:2).

Finally, the message points to Jesus as the greatest example of love and invites listeners to begin with the most important relationship first—a relationship with God—because a healthy, God-honoring approach to dating and marriage flows from a life submitted to Him.

You don't date potential, you date a person.

Discussion Questions

- How have your past relationships (or your hopes for a future one) been shaped more by feelings and cultural expectations than by a clear, biblical purpose—and what would it look like to realign your approach?

Feelings can be real without being reliable guides for covenant-level decisions. Talk about specific cultural scripts (like “follow your heart” or “don't overthink it”) and compare them to the

sermon's call to pursue relationships with intention, wisdom, and holiness. Consider one concrete practice that would help you choose based on direction and character rather than intensity.

- What do your words and “digital body language” (texts, tone, reactions) reveal about what is stored in your heart, and how might God be inviting you to grow in speech that builds trust?

Pastor DJ emphasized that “the mouth speaks what the heart is full of,” and that tone can either create safety or tension. Reflect on patterns like sarcasm, defensiveness, gossip, or avoidance, and how they shape the “world” of a relationship. Identify one change—like slowing down before responding or speaking with honor—that could reshape your relational culture.

- What patterns of conduct matter most to you when discerning character, and how can you tell the difference between someone's potential and who they consistently are?

Actions over time reveal integrity, repentance, and reliability in ways charisma cannot. Discuss which behaviors signal maturity—like honesty, humility, consistency, and ownership when wrong—versus patterns that should prompt a pause. Consider how you might evaluate consistency without becoming cynical or hypercritical.

- How does the Bible's definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13 challenge the way you tend to give or receive love, and where do you sense the greatest growth edge for you right now?

Biblical love is not primarily a feeling; it's a posture and a practice—patient, kind, truthful, protective, and persevering. Share which phrase in the passage convicts or encourages you most, and why. Then discuss what love would look like in a specific scenario you face (conflict, boundaries, forgiveness, or communication).

- What does being “equally yoked” look like in everyday decisions, and how can you discern whether two people are truly moving in the same direction spiritually and relationally?

Pastor DJ framed unequal yoking as pulling in different directions, not merely having different interests. Talk about practical markers of shared direction—like priorities, church community, submission to God's ways, and mutual commitment to purity and growth. Also consider how to have honest conversations about “Where is this going?” without pressure, manipulation, or fear.

Prayer 🙏

- May our relationships be shaped by wisdom rather than impulse, choosing decisions that honor God and letting feelings follow what is true and good.
- May our words—spoken and digital—create peace and trust, reflecting hearts being renewed instead of reactions driven by frustration or fear.

- May our integrity grow consistent in both speech and conduct, becoming the kind of person we hope to find and bringing good from what is stored within.
- May our love take on the patient, kind, truth-rejoicing shape of Scripture, protecting others' dignity and releasing the need to keep score.
- May our faith and purity align our direction with those we pursue, walking in shared devotion to Jesus rather than being pulled apart by competing priorities.