

COURTSHIP PROCESS

	PHASE 1: IDENTITY IN CHRIST	PHASE 2: MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT	PHASE 3: FOUNDATION BUILDING	PHASE 4: FRIENDSHIP LEVELS				PHASE 5: COURTSHIP & ACCOUNTAIBILITY	PHASE 6: ENGAGEMENT	PHASE 7: MARRIAGE
				Acquaintance	Casual Friendship	Close Friendship	Intimate Friendship			
SPIRITUAL Commitment	Commit yourself to being sold out to Christ. Be involved in activities that instill spiritual growth. Learn to be fully engaged to Christ before entertaining the idea of a relationship with another person. Be confident of who you are in Christ and gaining acceptance, worth and identity in Christ instead of another person.	Be involved in ministry opportunities to utilize the talents and gifts God has given you. Learn what it means to serve, love, sacrifice, and yield your rights to others as Christ did for you.	Anticipate marriage and lay the foundation for a secure Christian home by completing practical preparations in the following areas: - Spiritual maturity - Godly character - Accountability - Emotional health - Financial stability - Vocational training - Parent training - Household training - Commitment	Focus on being totally content as a single engaged to Christ. Develop a life vision and direction about serving God through ministry opportunities . Avoid spiritual involvement with another individual at this point except for witnessing the Gospel of Jesus.	May be involved in a church activity with another individual. Discuss Christ and His kingdom in group settings or Bible studies, but avoid deep spiritual one-on-one talk.	Share with each other God's vision for your lives. Discover each other's spiritual gifts, maturity level, and desire to serve God. Experience deeper spiritual talk but limited intimate one-on-one talk.	Begin intimate spiritual talk related at the deepest level. Discuss possibility of marriage and the purpose and process of courtship as it relates to your love for God. Discuss need for spiritual covering and accountability.	Begin the process of becoming one spiritually. Spend one-on-one time together through shared prayer time and church attendance. Commit your courtship to glorifying Christ and helping each other grow in Christ.	Continue to process of becoming one spiritually through shared prayer, Bible study, and church attendance. Discuss which church and Sunday school to attend as well as activities and ministry opportunities. Develop a vision for the marriage reflecting Christ and His Church	Experience quality improvement by becoming one through prayer, Bible study, church involvement, and ministry opportunities. Relate at the deepest spiritual level. Make marriage and family decisions as one in Christ.
Emotional Commitment			Before becoming emotionally intimate with someone else, rid yourself of emotional baggage left over from childhood and past dating relationships. Recognize that unresolved sin will influence your emotional health.	No emotional intimacy. Casual interaction. Limited shared feelings. No one-on-one activities.	No emotional intimacy, but share surface feelings. Share close friends or activities. No one-on-one activities.	Share deeper feelings but limit emotional involvement . Focus on external social activities instead of one-on-one intimate interaction.	Share each other's innermost thoughts, fears, failures, and hopes. Support each other in times of crisis and pain; share times of joy. Limit one-on-one emotional interaction.	Begin pre-engagement counseling. Seek your parents (or other godly counsel) to hold each other accountable. Discuss and write down boundaries and limits of relationship. Increase one-on-one emotional time together.	Begin becoming one emotionally. Spend one-on-one time-sharing deep emotional feelings. Develop deep levels of communication. Understand male/female differences and roles within a biblical marriage.	Continue to become one emotionally. Commit and plan on one-on-one time every day by sharing feelings and reflecting Christ's love through grace, mercy, and forgiveness to one another.
Physical Commitment						Side hugs (no full "body" hugs).	Side hugs plus holding hands.	Side hugs, holding hands and short kisses. Only limited cuddling.	Increase holding hands, kissing and cuddling with caution. Hand-to-body touching but not in intimate body areas.	Begin the process of becoming one physically. Share hugs, hold hands, kiss, touch sexual body areas.
Time Alone Per Phase						0 Hours	20 Hours	80 Hours	190 Hours	Forever