**Questions for the Dating & Courtship Panel**

**Intro:**

Welcome to the final week of the Dating and Courtship core seminar. After today each of you will be certified as dating experts! Not really…

But we do have the privilege this morning of a panel discussion. As I’m sure they would each say, no one up here is a “dating expert,” but each **sought** to conduct their relationship in a manner that **honored** God and **aligned** with the principles held out in scripture. So our hope is that this time will prove **practically** fruitful, by allowing you a chance to ask specific questions of friends who have gone before you.

Let me pray and then I’ll provide an overview of our time together.

**Pray**

I will begin this morning by providing a recap, like 3 minutes, of the material we’ve covered over the last seven weeks. Hopefully this will bring us all up to speed, and give an overview to our panelists.

Once I’ve done that, I’ll ask each couple to provide a **brief** **overview** of their dating relationship, followed by a few questions I have. Then, I’ll turn it over to you, so be thinking of your questions that would be good for you and potentially edifying for the group. And, as added incentive, the first person to ask a question **will** receive a copy of this book, Marry Well, Mary Wisely.

Sound good?

## Week 1

In our first week, Deepak walked us through the history of dating, tracing the modern idea of courtship back to the early 1900s. And he provided a definition of courtship we’ve used throughout this class. He defined courtship as “*a relationship between a man and a woman who are* ***actively*** *and* ***intentionally*** *together* ***to*** *consider marriage*.” It’s a relationship ***on purpose***.

## Week 2

With a working definition, Deepak proceeded the following week laying out the various “Stages” of the relationship:

1. Friendship
2. Early Dating: Figuring out who the person is
3. Intermediate Dating, during which you really build the relationship as you get to know the other person better
4. Making the Decision, “What questions do I need to answer before I can get engaged?”
5. Engagement

## Week 3

In week 3, we sought to refute the question, “how far is too far,” replacing it with a Biblical understanding of sex and other forms of intimacy, both emotional and spiritual, highlighting how God made them good, but good within their proper context, and emphasizing the need for accountability in these areas.

## Week 4

So what are good things to be talking about as you seek to get to know each other and begin nearing that stage of engagement? In week 4, Deepak provided 10 Fs as topics of conversation: Faith, Family, Finances, Future, Fun, Friendship, Fights, Feedback, Foolishness, and Fears.

## Week 5/6

In weeks 5 and 6 we tried to tried to determine what the Bible says about the characteristics we should seek in a spouse, or even a prospective dating relationship, and how that affects the notion of chemistry and compatibility.

## Week 7

Finally, last week, as a word of caution, we presented a number of things that can go wrong as we seek to cultivate a courtship culture, but perhaps take it a bit too far.

That’s where we’ve been. Now we want to turn it over to our guests this morning. Can you start by giving a brief overview to everyone of your dating relationship…(e.g., where you met and dated, how long you dated, and a few things about your relationship that would be useful for the audience knowing what to ask you).

1. Give a brief overview of your dating relationship.
2. What were the best parts of dating in this church?
3. What were the hardest parts of dating in this church?
4. MEN: What did it look like when you initiated the relationship, and how well was it received? (WIVES are welcome to comment also about how the husband/fiancée initiated and how it went.)
5. Generally, what do you think scares men from taking risks both in initiating a relationship?
6. What temptations do women face while they wait for a man to ask them out?
7. What are the joys and difficulties of being a woman in a church that teaches biblical courtship?
8. WOMEN: In what ways did your husband/fiancée lead you *well* during the dating process? In what ways did he lead you *poorly*?
9. MEN: In what ways did your wife/fiancée show that she was responsive to your leading in the dating relationship?
10. One of the comments made throughout this class is to date in community, especially if you can find an older, wiser couple in the church who is willing to get to know you and provide wise counsel for you. Can you share how that has looked in your relationship?
11. How easy or hard was it for you to make the decision to commit yourself to marrying your spouse? What exhortations or warnings would you give others?
12. Talk about how your chemistry and attraction has grown in marriage?
13. How have you grown in insight and understanding by seeing life through your spouse’s eyes?
14. What does compatibility look like in your marriage?
15. Knowing what you know now, what would you say to those who are now in the stage of dating someone in or outside of the congregation?