

**The most important single thing that any Latter-Day Saint ever does in this world is to marry the right person in the right place by the right authority.** (Elder Bruce R. McConkie, Speeches, 3 May, 1996, 2)

**"Right marriage begins with right dating."**

(President Spencer W. Kimball, Miracle of Forgiveness, 241)

### **High Standards of Dating**

"When you are old enough, you ought to start dating. It is good for young men and young women to learn to know and to appreciate one another. It is good for you to go to games and dances and picnics, to do all of the young things. We encourage our young people to date. We encourage you to set high standards of dating.

"When are you old enough? Maturity may vary from individual to individual, but we are convinced that dating should not even begin until you are 16. And then, ideal dating is on a group basis. Stay in group activities; don't pair off. Avoid steady dating. Steady dating is courtship, and surely the beginning of courtship ought to be delayed until you have emerged from your teens." (President Boyd K. Packer, "You're in the Driver's Seat," New Era, June 2004, 8)

### **The Right Person for You**

"One good yardstick as to whether a person might be the right one for you is this: In her (or his) presence do you think your noblest thoughts, do you aspire to your finest deeds, do you wish you were better than you are?" (President Ezra Taft Benson, Ensign, May 1988, 51)

### **Steady Dating**

"The Lord has made us attractive one to another for a great purpose. But this very attraction becomes as a powder keg unless it is kept under control. It is beautiful when handled in the right way. It is deadly if it gets out of hand.

"It is for this reason that the Church counsels against early dating. This rule is not designed to hurt you in any way. It is designed to help you, and it will do so if you will observe it.

"Steady dating at an early age leads so often to tragedy. Studies have shown that the longer a boy and girl date one another, the more likely they are to get into trouble.

**"It is better, my friends, to date a variety of companions until you are ready to marry.** Have a wonderful time, but stay away from familiarity. Keep your hands to yourself. It may not be easy, but it is possible."

(President Gordon B. Hinckley, New Era, Jan 2001, 13)

### **Guard Rails**

"How foolish is the youth who feels that the Church is a fence around love to keep him out. Oh, youth, if you could know! The requirements of the Church are the highway to love and to happiness, with guardrails securely in place, with guideposts plainly marked, and with help along the way.

"How unfortunate to resent counsel and restraint. How fortunate are you who follow the standards of the Church, even if just from sheer obedience or habit. You will find rapture and a joy fulfilled." (President Boyd K. Packer, New Era, June 2004, 6)

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