



*A School Required Paper...*

## *2000 Year Old Religion Denounces Dating*

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**“I** think that you and that guy should go out. You two would look soooo cute together!”  
“Yeah, but it’s against my religion to date.”  
“It’s against your religion to do what!? You can’t date at all? I’ve heard of religions denouncing swearing and premarital sex, but dating? That really stinks. How are you supposed to get married if you can’t date? Do you have a planned marriage?” This is an average conversation between me and a friend who has just found out about my religion’s no dating policy.

**Most that I’ve discussed my religion and not being** allowed to date with always ask how I can live without dating. I won’t lie, in the past I had doubts about my religion denouncing dating, but now I strongly agree with it and I believe there are many good and beneficial reasons to not dating.

**To begin with,** you are probably wondering what in the world kind of religion am I in. I am a Coptic Orthodox Christian. Coptic Orthodox Christianity is a religion based in Egypt. Before Arabs came, Egypt was mainly Christian and the people that lived in Egypt were known as Copts, and any Coptic

Christian until now is still known as a Copt. The religion was founded by Saint Mark two thousand years ago when he came to Egypt to spread the word of Christianity.

**Coptic theocracy didn’t just make the no dating** rule up out of anywhere. In the bible Solomon, the wise prophet, said “To everything, there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted, a time to weep and a time to laugh, etc.”(Ecclesiastes 3:1-4). This verse means that a person shouldn’t jump ahead of themselves, but do everything in due time.

**Dating was originally created so that two could** get to know each other before they decided if they wanted to get married or not. If that is the original

purpose of dating then why are teenagers dating now? Do they plan on getting married anytime soon? My religion says that when you are ready to get married, and “ready” meaning one has finished with their studies and has a suitable job so that he/she will be able to build a foundation on which their life is to be built on, then that is when a



**Holy Gospel of St. Mark. 1511AM**



person can start looking for their life's partner.

**Don't get the wrong idea though, even when you** are "ready" to find your soul mate and settle down, dating is still not acceptable. How someone is supposed to know if a person is right for them if they can't date, you might ask. Here is a basic example of what exactly someone has to do in order to get to know a person before he/she decides if they want to marry a certain person or not. A guy sees a girl, he notices she is good looking, or maybe he's not interested in her looks, but he notices that she has an amazing personality and thinks that she might be the perfect person for him. Maybe the two are friends so he might have a pretty good idea about her, but not enough to decide if he wants to marry her or not. At this point he should go up to the girl's father and ask him for the girl's hand in marriage. The father then must get his daughter's opinion on the subject. If the daughter decides that she doesn't want to marry this guy (maybe he has a bad reputation or something) then she just turns him down and he has to go look for someone else, but if the daughter decides she is going to give it a chance then the two get engaged and after they are engaged they can start getting to know each other. That doesn't necessarily mean they can date, but they can go out with each other only under the circumstance that they must go out with a group of friends. They can't be alone. Once they get to know each other if they feel like they aren't compatible and that the marriage won't work, then they can break the engagement off and try and find a new person.

**When one thinks about why two fiancées, or any** boy and girl that are attracted to each other in some way or another, shouldn't be left alone, it makes a lot of sense. When two people are alone with each other, they are tempted in many ways. Impure thoughts and

even impure actions may occur. The way you feel about a person changes a lot from time to time. So how does one know that after getting to really know this person you won't feel the same about them as you did before?

**A person's emotions may change or weaken** unexpectedly, and if anything has already happened between the two then the situation becomes very uncomfortable and it makes it harder to break the relationship off. I have many friends that have come to me and told me about their boyfriends or girlfriends breaking up with them. It's very psychologically and emotionally damaging when someone you care about breaks up with you; which is another reason why you should wait until after you finish high school and college before you start looking for your significant other, because if one has to deal with a break up while they are still in the midst of their studies then you won't be able to concentrate on your studies and such. It is even more damaging when something serious has happened between the two people involved. One of the two often feels that they have given something special to their significant other and it meant nothing; that special something is pretty much ignored; hence, why the two mustn't be left alone; so they won't be tempted to give in to impure thoughts or actions.

**In conclusion, as crazy as many think my religion** is for denouncing dating, I totally agree with it. I believe that it's made me a stronger person, because I haven't had to deal with put down of a break up or the worry about if everything is working out between me and my significant other or anything such as that. My mind is focused on my studies. The teenage years are hard enough as it is without having to deal with the agonizing issues of dating and the temptation to do something I know is impure and wrong for me to do.✠