



# SUNDAYS IN JULY

9:40 | 11:05 | 5:00 PM



## QUESTION #5: *What Are My Deal Breakers?*

fb/ig: @thestoryhouston @pastorerichuffman www.thestory.church August 6, 2017

Throughout this series, we're rolling out Ten Ground Rules for Real Romance. Here are the first six:

1. SINGLE ≠ INCOMPLETE
2. CHARACTER > CHEMISTRY
3. FRIENDSHIP FUELS REAL ROMANCE
4. SOULMATES ARE MADE, NOT BORN
5. SEX IS OVERRATED...AND UNDERVALUED
6. PROFILES ARE PEOPLE, TOO

Today's Ground Rule: #7 People can change.

Whether you're single, married, or somewhere in between, today's question is one we can all relate to: What are my deal breakers? The dictionary defines a deal breaker as "a factor or issue that, if unresolved during negotiations, would cause one party to withdraw from a deal." The urban dictionary, however, gets a bit more specific: "A deal breaker is 'the catch' that a particular individual cannot overlook and ultimately outweighs any redeeming quality the individual may possess."

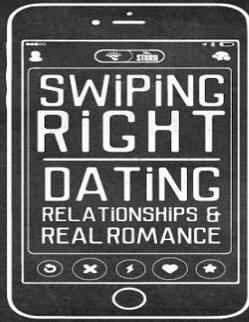
In terms of romantic relationships, what deal breakers (either yours or theirs) have you run into in the past? What was the underlying reason for those deal breakers?

*In other words, if your deal breaker was "no vegans", maybe one underlying reason was "I didn't want to always have to worry about choosing a vegan restaurant."*

How does the idea of *deal breakers* line up with the Bible? If God manages to look past our sins, shouldn't we do the same for the person we're dating (or the person we're married to)? And didn't Eric *just* give a talk about being humble and not too picky when dating?

Here are three things that aren't necessarily deal breakers:

1. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. - 1 Corinthians 4:18
2. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_. "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." - Jesus, in Matthew 6:24
3. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11



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What would you add to this list?

These three things probably should be deal breakers:

1. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_. Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? - 2 Corinthians 6:14
2. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_. You felt secure in your wickedness, you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me." - Isaiah 47:10
3. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. - Philippians 2:4

What would you add to this list?

What do the stories of Ruth & Boaz and Joseph & Mary have to say about how we decide when a relationship is worth the effort or not?

How does the "deal breakers" conversation change once you're married?

Do you believe people can really change? Why or why not?

Write your own notes, questions, and reflections here: