



# SUNDAYS IN JULY

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## QUESTION #4: *Should I Be Dating Online?*

fb/ig: @thestoryhouston @pastorerichuffman www.thestory.church July 30, 2017

As a reminder, here are my working hypotheses for this series:

1. most single people are looking for a committed relationship
2. most committed relationships are moving toward marriage
3. most married people are looking for ways to grow deeper in love.

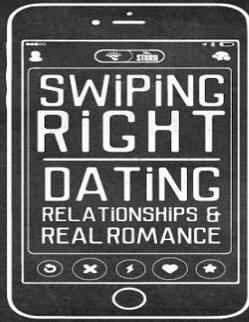
Throughout this series, we're rolling out Ten Ground Rules for Real Romance. Here are the first five:

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

### GROUND RULE #6: PROFILES ARE PEOPLE, TOO

Let's talk about Jesus and his behavior toward women. On your own or with your Chapter, look at some of his interactions with single, available women:

1. **Mary Magdalene** (Luke 8:1-3) Jesus went...proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women...Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna...Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources. See: John 20:11-18
2. **Mary/Martha** (Lk 10:38-42) She had a sister, Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to him. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me." But he said, "Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; you only need one thing. Mary has chosen the better part; it will not be taken from her."
3. **The Bleeding Woman** (Mark 5:24-34) But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."
4. **Woman Caught in the Act (John 8:1-11)** Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."
5. **Woman at the Well** (John 4) Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman...So the woman left her water jar and went into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"
6. **Woman Who Anointed His Feet** (Luke 7:36-50) One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, so Jesus went into the Pharisee's house and sat at the table. A sinful woman in the town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house. So she brought an alabaster jar of perfume and stood behind Jesus at his



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feet, crying. She began to wash his feet with her tears, and she dried them with her hair, kissing them many times and rubbing them with the perfume.

What do these interactions with women tell you about the character of Jesus?

Now, let's take what we know about Jesus to the world of online dating. What do you think are some of the "pros" to the advent of dating sites and apps?

...and what about some of the dangers and downsides? What should someone who loves Jesus watch out for when dating online?

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more important than yourselves. - Ephesians 2:3

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. - Romans 12:3

...whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. - 1 John 2:6

Write your own notes, questions, and reflections here:



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