



# Family Dating Covenant (Example)

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This covenant exists to help you date in a way that honors Christ, protects your hearts, and strengthens His Kingdom. Its commitments are not meant to restrict joy but to preserve it, so that your relationship will glorify God and bless one another.

We believe the biblical purpose of dating is to discern whether God is leading you toward marriage. Until marriage could be reasonably pursued in your current stage of life, you should not pursue a romantic relationship. Dating is not for entertainment or experimentation, it is for seeking clarity about marriage under Christ's lordship (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17).

## **The Covenant Commitments**

### **1. Love God First, Above All**

We will love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). We will seek first His kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:33), remembering that no human relationship can be rightly ordered unless Christ remains our first love (Revelation 2:4). Our devotion to Him will be the source from which our relationship flows.

### **2. Lean on Counsel and Community, Not Isolation**

We will not date in secrecy or isolation, but in the safety of Christian community. We will welcome the wisdom of mentors, parents, and spiritual leaders (Proverbs 19:20; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 13:17). We will avoid isolation, which Scripture warns against (Proverbs 18:1), and will pursue shared fellowship with others who strengthen our walk with Christ (Hebrews 10:24-25). Accountability and community are not burdens but blessings of protection.

### **3. Pursue Christlike Conduct**

We will treat one another first as brother and sister in Christ (1 Timothy 5:1-2). We will clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience (Colossians 3:12). When we speak to and about one another we will use words that build up rather than tear down (Ephesians 4:29) and will love as Christ loved (John 13:34), showing mutual respect and honor (Philippians 2:3).

#### **4. Practice Wise Protection**

We will guard one another's safety and well-being in all circumstances. We will walk carefully, not as unwise but as wise (Ephesians 5:15), and we will ponder the path of our feet so that we may turn away from evil (Proverbs 4:26-27).

Protection is more than physical; we will avoid settings, influences, and choices that could compromise our spiritual health.

#### **5. Guard Purity in All Areas**

We will honor God's will that we abstain from sexual immorality and control our bodies in holiness and honor (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4). We will avoid even the appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22), keeping our conduct pure in body, thought, and reputation (Philippians 4:8). Among us, there must not even be a hint of impurity (Ephesians 5:3).

#### **6. Guard Hearts While Pursuing Clarity, Not Intimacy**

We will not let our hearts or imaginations run ahead into marriage before God has given covenant. We will guard our hearts (Proverbs 4:23), remembering that they are deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9). We will not stir up love until the proper time (Song of Solomon 2:7), nor make covenant-level promises outside the covenant of marriage (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5).

At the same time, we affirm that the great prize of marriage is Christ-centered intimacy, but the great prize of dating is Christ-centered clarity. Intimacy belongs in covenant marriage, and marriage is safest when entered with clarity. Therefore, we will focus our dating on discerning whether God is calling us to marry. We recognize that intimacy may grow as clarity grows, but we will guard against moving too quickly or naively. We will be intentional and outspoken: intimacy before marriage is dangerous, but clarity is precious beyond measure (1 Corinthians 13:4-6; Psalm 27:14; Hebrews 13:4).

#### **7. Respect Family Boundaries and Curfews**

We will honor our father and mother (Ephesians 6:1-3), recognizing that in this stage of life, honor may not always mean absolute obedience but always means respect, humility, and inclusion of parents as God-given spiritual authorities (Proverbs 1:8-9). We will treat their boundaries as safeguards, not burdens. If difficulties arise, we will communicate promptly and respectfully (Romans 12:17-18), remembering that honoring earthly parents prepares us to honor our heavenly Father (Hebrews 12:9-10).

#### **8. Be Clear About Our Intentions**

We will speak with clarity and integrity, letting our "yes" be yes and our "no" be

no (Matthew 5:37). We will not foster confusion or false expectations, but will give honest answers (Proverbs 24:26) and pursue this relationship with truth and order (1 Corinthians 14:33).

## **9. Prioritize Christ Above the Relationship**

We will remember that whoever does not carry his cross and follow Christ cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:27). We will not look to one another for identity, security, or ultimate joy, but to Christ who lives in us (Galatians 2:20). If this relationship ever draws our hearts from Him, we will repent and realign, guarding against idolatry (Jeremiah 17:9).

## **Our Shared Commitment**

These commitments are not fences to keep joy out but walls of protection to keep joy in. They are meant to help us honor Christ, protect one another, and walk wisely in this season of discernment.

If we approach dating with this seriousness, our relationship will either end in a Christ-honoring marriage or a Christ-honoring friendship—both of which glorify God and bless His Kingdom.

We therefore covenant before God and family that we will seek to:

- **Guard our hearts** (Proverbs 4:23).
- **Seek wisdom in counsel** (Proverbs 15:22).
- **Pursue purity and clarity** (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 1 Corinthians 7:39).
- **Above all, honor Christ** (Colossians 3:17).

May the Lord grant us clarity, patience, and joy as we walk together in this season.

“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act” (Psalm 37:5).

## **Living Out This Covenant**

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read these guidelines, that we understand their biblical foundation, and that we commit to honor Christ, respect family authority, and pursue clarity above all else in this relationship.

**Couple's Signatures:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_.