

Before You Start *Dating Again*



Ashan R. Hampton

Before You
Start *Dating*
Again



Wit & Wisdom for Modern
Christian Women



Ashan R. Hampton

Introduction

*A wink may get you in trouble
and foolish talk will lead to your ruin.*
Proverbs 10:10

In your quiet moments, you realize it has been quite some time since your last date. After praying, meditating and reading, “*Some Bitter, Some Sweet: Becoming a Single Woman God Can Use*,” heaven did not express a divine soulmate to your front door with a note signed, “From God, with love.” A handsome Christian man did not happen to fall madly in love with you at the post office in the most romantic meet-cute ever.

In fact, on a Friday night after work, you sit and literally struggle to recall your last date. A *real* date where the guy picked you up, paid for dinner, dropped you off, gave you a little smooch and left without lingering in your apartment, because he had an early morning sales meeting. Wow. A traditional date. A brother with a job. Was that *four* years ago? No. You went out a few times after that, so when did you see him last? Huhmmm...about a year ago? Almost *two* years?

For you, counting the years since your last physical contact with a man is just as embarrassing as telling the gynecologist the last time you were sexually active. In both cases, you and your medical professionals are horrified. What is wrong with you? Why have you not had any dates

or relationship prospects in so long? How much longer before God answers your prayers for a mate?

Your desire to get off the couch, fix yourself up and give love and dating one more try is the answer to your prayer. Faith without works is dead. James 2:20 (NKJV) reads, “But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?” This scripture not only applies to getting your dream job or your dream car, but to your love life as well. Basically, you can pray all day for years on end to date, meet and marry a good Christian man, but if you put no effort into it, after you have prayed, then you will probably remain single until you figure this out.

If you never leave the house and smile at a dude every now and then, you will not get the opportunity to change your relationship status on Facebook. Adding some activity to your prayers for a mate does not equate to chasing a man. It means that you are beginning to cooperate with God in getting your prayer for a mate answered. For example, a lady I went to church with a few years ago met her husband through online dating. He moved from another state to live with her and get married. They seem to be happy and very involved with her current church. You might not want to date online, but you must do something with the intention of drawing a dateable man to you.

Now, the difference between how you date *now* and how you dated *before* truly giving your life to Christ is in the preparations you make before you get back out there. This book, “*Before You Start Dating Again: Wit and Wisdom for Modern Christian Women*” serves as a guide to ready you for

the real-world 21st century dating scene inside and outside of the church.

As you read, you will gain insight into the definition of a traditional date through pop-culture references, your reasons and purposes for dating, as well as what you might encounter on today's dating scene. Chapter four answers those nagging questions you might be embarrassed to ask aloud and provides scriptures for your consideration. The latter half of the book comprises the '*real talk*' section where you will discover 25 things a good Christian woman should never do, not even for a Christian man.

Lastly, you will browse 70 descriptions of red flags that prompt you to move on when it appears that Mr. Man is not the one God wants you to settle on. Picture your cool mother, worldly aunt, sassy grandmother or quirky best friend talking to you as you read through these concluding sections. So, it is in the spirit of sisterly love that I release these words to you, hoping that you avoid the frogs—even the *Christian* frogs—and receive God's best prince for you!

Be safe, be loved, be blessed!

What exactly is
a Date?



Wit & Wisdom for Modern
Christian Women



What is a Traditional Date?

*Two people will not walk together unless
they have agreed to do so.*

Amos 3:3

Believe it or not, lots of women do not know what to expect on a traditional date. Some women have birthed children, but have never been treated to a nice social outing with a respectable gentleman. On old television shows like *Leave it to Beaver*, *Happy Days* or *Laverne & Shirley*, the characters either met at the malt shop, the burger joint or whatever affordable restaurant a blue collar worker could afford. In either case, the male characters called upon girls they were interested in for dates. The female characters accepted and were picked up and taken out by men they found attractive.

One of the most popular sitcoms featuring a single career woman over age 30 still looking for love and marriage is *The Mary Tyler Moore* show. Although it first appeared in the 70s, the reruns and DVDs are still very popular. Mary was a sophisticated, fashionably dressed news reporter whose fiancée called off their wedding. The show chronicled her work and social life. As an attractive woman with her own apartment, job, benefits and money, other attractive, professional men asked Mary out for dates quite often. So what happened when Mary accepted a date?

1. Usually at work or during the course of an interview for a news story, a man would find Mary physically attractive enough to compliment her appearance.
2. The man would express an interest in seeing Mary outside of work. He would ask, “Can I take you to dinner?” If Mary felt some romantic interest, she would accept and confirm a specific day and time. If she wanted to keep things nice and professional or let the guy down easy, she would suggest meeting for lunch instead.
3. After accepting the dinner invitation, Mary would dash home to shower and change into a cute and classy dress that did not resemble her work clothes. Her best friend Rhoda would usually come over to talk while Mary got dressed.
4. The man would arrive at the door. Rhoda would make a witty remark about their impending date and excuse herself from Mary’s apartment.
5. Based on the playback Mary always gave Rhoda when she returned home, the date definitely involved dinner and other entertainment like a theater performance or a movie.
6. Even if Mary gave the guy a sweet good night kiss in the doorway or invited him inside for coffee—if things went well—the man never stayed very long in her apartment after the date. In most cases, he bid her goodnight at the door without ever going inside.