

## Introduction

Read: Ephes. 2:1-10

As middle school students you are beginning to notice the opposite sex not in term of who to avoid, but just the opposite, who I find attractive.

But as these feelings begin, we must ask, "How do I know what is right and wrong with these feelings?"

Where can I find real wisdom and guidance or is it just a guessing game you hope just works out?

We see the reality of broken relationships with the divorce rate being over 50%.

Reality is this: Broken relationships and divorce are a result of people being controlled by sinful passions and desires before marriage or people bring controlled by sin passions and desires after marriage.

- So the next several weeks I want to address what the Bible has to say about dating and the preparation for marriage and not be controlled by these destructive sinful passions and desires.

**ILLUSTRATION:** See a beautiful Lamborghini Diablo. Your heart says – Gimme.

So you just go over and drive it away. Right or wrong. What would happen?

So you go and sell all you have, quit school and work every minute to get enough money to buy it.

This is a time in life with opportunity for romance - to love and be loved, to cherish and be cherished, the compliment of being sought after and adored in the eyes of another. Great & overwhelming feeling.

V. 1-3 As Children of wrath, sin ruled our hearts making us follow its passions and desires.

V. 4-9 God mercifully made us alive by being in Jesus through faith alone – no work or action from us.

We were saved from the death of sin in us and its ruling us by its passions and desires.

V. 10 Now as Children of God, we are to live a life of good works as God intended for us.

**Feelings and infatuation are not expressions of God's will for you. Rather, your feelings and attractions to each other are driven from your inner being, they do not determine right and wrong only I like that I want that.**

**ILLUSTRATION:** Hungry and craving food, not considering health conditions – just feed me.

- But my mind and my heart are able to guide my desires to be obedient of God.

As children of God, we are called to pursue our romantic/dating with properly placed passions and properly governed passions.

**1 Cor. 10:31** So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

- It doesn't say, do all so that you are happy. Do all so that you have a great reputation.

- The only way to live to the glory of God is to live by faith in Jesus, who makes you alive.

- Faith in what He has done for you
- Faith in what he has given to you
- Faith in what He tell you to do.

All are commanded to have faith in Christ and to follow him, the Children of God are those who humbly submit to Jesus and willingly obey their Lord.

