

Unsteady Dating: Resisting the Rush to Romance

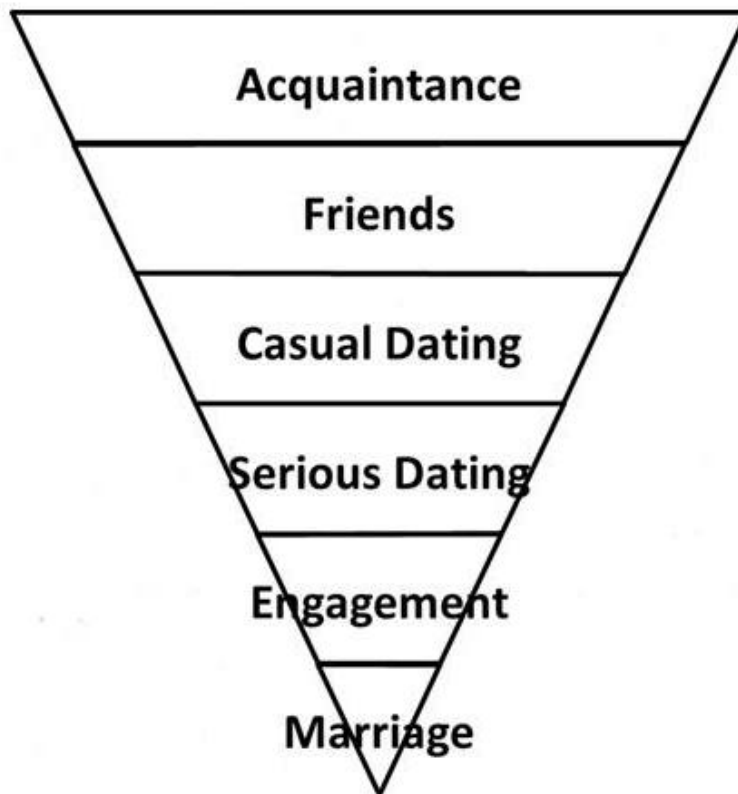
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The Funnel Theory



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“When you are young, do not get involved in steady dating. When you reach an age where you think of marriage, then is the time to become so involved. But you boys who are in **high school** don’t need this, and neither do the girls.

“Have a wonderful time with the young women. Do things together but do not get too serious too soon. **You have missions ahead of you**, and you cannot afford to compromise this great opportunity and responsibility. ” (President Gordon B. Hinckley, Priesthood session October 1997 conference, reported in Ensign November 1997.)

“It is better, my friends, to date a variety of companions until you are ready to marry. Have a wonderful time, but stay away from familiarity.....Steady dating at an early age leads so often to tragedy. Studies have shown that the longer a boy and girl date one another, the more likely they are to get into trouble.” (President Gordon B. Hinckley, Ensign, Jan 2001 p. 2)

“Dating should not even begin until you are 16. And then, ideal dating is on a group basis. Stay in group activities; don’t pair off. Avoid steady dating. Steady dating is courtship, and surely the beginning of courtship ought to be delayed until you have emerged from your teens.” (President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “You’re in the Driver’s Seat,” New Era, June 2004, 8.)

“Avoid steady dating with a young man **prior to the time of his mission call**. If your relationship with him is more casual, then he can make that decision to serve more easily and also can concentrate his full energies on his missionary work instead of the girlfriend back home.” (Teachings of President Benson p. 190.)

“Young men and women, not ready for marriage, should be friends with many others, but they should not engage in courting. Immaturity makes them susceptible to temptation.” (President Kimball Speaks Out p. 9)

“Parents can prevent a lot of heartache by teaching their children to postpone romantic relationships until

the time comes when they are ready for marriage. Prematurely pairing off with a boyfriend or girlfriend is dangerous. Becoming a “couple” creates emotional intimacy, which too often leads to physical intimacy. Satan knows this sequence and uses it to his advantage. He will do whatever he can to keep young men from serving missions and to prevent temple marriages.” (Elder Larry Lawrence, Courageous Parenting, Conference address, October, 2010)