So, You Want to Date My Daughter?
A Primer for Dad's of Young Girls

Do you want your daughter to have a dating experience similar to the one you had when you were a teenager? For many of us this is a sobering, if not terrifying, thought. The subject of your daughter’s dating is one of your least favorite subjects, right behind “The Talk.” This column is specifically for fathers with young daughters, but if you are a single mom, or a father of daughters who are already dating, this column will address your situation in the coming weeks.

Preparing Your Young Daughter for Her Dating Years

It is never too early to begin considering your daughter’s dating years, because it’s never too early to establish your role as her trusted, loving protector. Here are a few ways to build this foundation:

- **Be the kind of husband you want your daughter to eventually marry.** Oftentimes, a girl dates, and eventually marries a man much like her father. Be the kind of man you’d want for your daughter.

- **Date your daughter.** Dating your daughter is an irreplaceable way to build your relationship with her. Dates don’t have to be expensive, but they should reinforce the notion of how precious she is to you.

- **Talk about the purpose of dating.** Most teenagers treat dating as a vehicle for their surging hormones. This leaves a wake of broken hearts, emotional baggage, and worse. If you let your daughter know that dating is a way to determine if that boy has potential to be her future husband, its takes on a much more meaningful, intentional role.

- **Pray with her for her future husband.** Her future husband is already out there somewhere. Begin praying for him; for his honor, integrity, and faith. You may not know who he is, but God does.

- **Let her know about The Interview.** You would interview a prospective employee to determine their qualifications of a certain job; this is even more critical for your potential future son-on-law. This topic warrants its own column…coming soon in a few weeks.

Other Resources

- **Interviewing Your Daughter’s Date,** by Dennis Rainey.
- **Aggressive Girls, Clueless Boys,** by Dennis Rainey
- “Passport to Purity” DVD set, produced by Family Life.
- For these and other resources, contact Marriage & Family Pastor, Bill Reinke at BillR@FCFchurch.com.

Coming this Fall; Middle & High School Father-Daughter Dance

FCF Church plans to host a dance for middle and high school girls and their Dads. This is a new event, and we would love your help in planning it. If interested, write DANCE on your communication card.