



18 September 2022

HOW SHOULD CHRISTIANS DATE (PART 1)

In 1997, former American pastor Joshua Harris published “I Kissed Dating Goodbye”, a book that took the Christian world by storm. Harris encouraged Christians not to date, but to wait for the one person whom they would marry. Amid widespread criticism, he recanted his book in 2016 and renounced his faith in 2019.

“ **I would like to qualify that I am not an expert on dating. Instead, I approach this question from the biblical perspective ...** ”

Christians have always asked, “Should Christians date?” And if the answer is yes, then “How should Christians date?” In this two-part article, I will address both questions. But before doing so, I would like to qualify that I am not an expert on dating. Instead, I approach this question from the biblical perspective and my experiences as a husband, father, and an elder of the church.

While the Bible does not give specific instructions on dating, we can derive certain principles from it. But rather than framing them as principles, I will frame them as six questions to reflect on, starting with the first three this week.

Questions the dating Christian needs to ask:

1) What are your motivations for dating?

Are there some ungodly, impure, or selfish motives? The Bible does not offer the “right” reasons for dating. But generally, it is accepted that one can start to date when one

is ready for marriage. And dating should be done with a view to marriage. Perhaps some ungodly, impure, or selfish motives may be sexual lusts or the need to feel loved or wanted. These wrong reasons may end up hurting you and the person you are dating. It is prudent and wise to ask God to purify one’s motives before proceeding.

2) Is the love of God enough for you?

This is a rhetorical question, of course. The Bible tells us clearly that the love of God is sufficient for us (Eph. 3:14-19). But if God’s love is insufficient for you, that is, you need the love of another person for satisfaction, perhaps you need to ask yourself if you have fully grasped God’s love. If not, ask God to show you His “great love” for you (Eph. 2:4).

3) Do you love the person you are dating or planning to date more than God?

The Bible exhorts us to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength (Mat 22:36-38). This means that nothing, not even our future spouse, should take God’s place in our hearts. But if you do love the person you are dating more than God, you must repent and ask that God restore Himself as your first love. You see, God is not an egomaniac who demands that we love Him more than anything else. God is our loving Father who knows that if we place anything above Him in our hearts, we end up hurting ourselves and the person whom we place above God.

(Continued in Part 2 next week)

Elder Jeff Pang
Shepherding Elder



CHURCH HAPPENINGS

• VISIT COFFEE CONNECTS@ L1 MEZZANINE!

Come savor our handcrafted cakes and coffee! Located at L1 mezzanine, our cosy space is ideal for fellowship and connecting. All proceeds go to Gospel Light's mission work!

• KIDS BIBLE CAMP 2022 – GREAT BIG STORY

The bible is full of fascinating stories, amazing miracles and epic battles. But what is the Bible really about? What does it all have to do with me? Why should I read it? Come join in the excitement of discovering the answer at Kids Bible Camp (KBC)!

KBC is the perfect way for kids to spend their school vacation. With two days of interactive activities, games, quizzes and prizes to be won. Your children will have an incredible time of learning with our volunteers.

Invite your unchurched friends! You don't want to miss this opportunity for their children to hear the message of the gospel in an immersive and memorable way.

Date: 24 and 25 Nov 2022 (Thursday & Friday)

Time: 8:30am to 5:30pm each day

Venue: Light Auditorium (L3)

Fees: \$20* (inclusive of Lunch/ Tea/Camp materials)

Register: <https://bit.ly/2K4G5ee>

*Registration closes on **Sun, 30 Oct**

For more information, email: children@gospellight.sg

• VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR KBC 2022!

Kids Bible Camp (KBC) is Gospel Light's annual two-day kids holiday camp. We want to serve the unchurched children in the community and engage believing kids in church. We need volunteers to help us with facilitation, running games and supporting the daily activities.

Date: Thur - Fri (24 - 25 Nov 2022)

Time: 7:30am to 6:30pm

Venue: Light Auditorium (L3)

Register as a volunteer: <https://bit.ly/3qjl7Pj>

For more information, email: children@gospellight.sg

• BAPTISM

Those who have believed in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour are encouraged to be baptized.

Attendance at Baptism Class is a prerequisite.

Submission of written testimonies with completed application forms is a must. Register and download application forms via our website at

<https://bit.ly/3Ft6DEw>.

Registration closes on **Sun, 9 Oct**.

*Registrants must be fully vaccinated.

Classes are conducted on-site.

Baptism Class (English)

Date: Sun, 16 Oct

Time: 12:45pm

Venue: Light 1 (L3)

Baptism Class (Chinese)

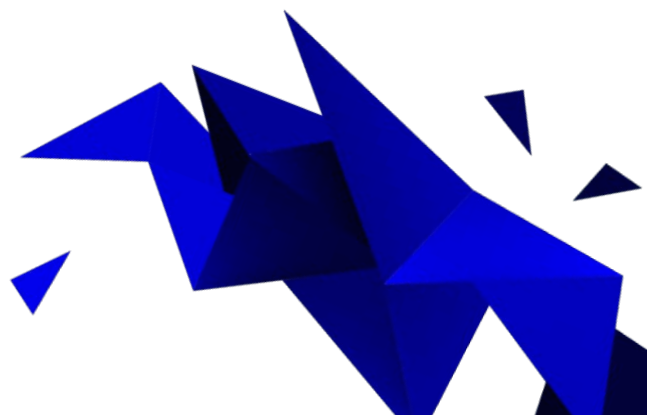
Date: Sun, 16 Oct

Time: 12:45pm

Venue: Hall 1 (L2)

Baptism Date: Sun, 18 Dec

Venue: Shine Auditorium (L4)





CHURCH HAPPENINGS

• YOUTH CAMP 2022 – SAVE THE DATE!

Calling all youth from P6 to Poly and JC. Gospel Light's Youth Camp is happening this year.

Date: Tue - Fri (20 - 23 Dec 2022)

Stay tuned for more details!!

• CHURCH CAMP 2023 – SAVE THE DATE!

Church camps can be huge catalysts for change. Studies show that convictions for change happen best in environments away from day-to-day life. A 4-day camp can possibly reignite your spiritual flourishing more than just months of church attendance.

Date: Wed - Sat (7-10 Jun 2023)

Venue: Four Points Sheraton, Desaru

Registration begins in January 2023. More details to follow.

• CHILDREN'S SERVICES!

There are two children's services at 9am and 11am for:
(i) Primary Levels (7 - 12 years) at Level 3; and
(ii) Playgroup (~ 18 months till 2+) at Hall 3 @ Attic

Preschool (3-6yrs)* will remain @ 11am due to a lack of volunteers

*If your child is born in 2019, but not yet 36mths of age, a caregiver must accompany the child for the duration of the service.

• VOLUNTEER FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!

Children are precious to Jesus and they must be precious to the Church. Our Children's ministry is in urgent need of committed and devoted volunteers. Apply today or find out more by contacting Hannah at children@gospellight.sg.

• SHINEKIDZ EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT

If you or anyone you know would be interested to serve with us for the above position, please contact Benita Teo at benita.teo@gospellight.sg. Details of the job position are available via our website at [Careers](#).

• EXPOSITORY BIBLE STUDY – BOOK OF ROMANS

This Tuesday, 20 Sep 2022, we will have an in-depth study of Romans 10:1-13 and learn that faith brings salvation. The Zoom dial-in details for our session are as follows:

By: Brother Jerry Koh

Date: Tues, 20 Sep 2022

Time: 8pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/3QEwzkl>

Meeting ID: 851 8603 0760

Passcode: 211761

Leading Generations into a Life-changing Relationship with Jesus Christ





WORSHIP SERVICE

- **Wednesday Prayer Meetings – 8pm**

Venue: Hall 3, Attic

- **Sunday Prayer Meetings – 8:15pm**

Venue: Cry Room at Shine Auditorium (L4)

If you are interested to receive our weekly prayer list, please email shine@gospellight.sg

(A) Worship Services for Vaccinated Worshippers ONLY

Congregational Service	Day and Time	Capacity for On-site	Livestream Link
English @ Shine Auditorium (L4)	Sunday at 9am and 11am	800 pax	http://bit.ly/38BU0rA (only available at 9am)

- Vaccinated individuals refer to those who have:
 - o Been fully vaccinated, i.e. has received the appropriate regimen of World Health Organisation Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) vaccines including their respective duration post-vaccination for the vaccine to be fully effective, and had their vaccination records ingested in MOH’s national IT systems; or
 - o Recovered from COVID-19 within the last 180 days
- From 14 February 2022 onwards, persons aged 18 years and above who have completed the primary vaccination series of COVID-19 vaccines and are eligible for booster vaccination will be considered as fully vaccinated for 270 days after the last dose in their primary vaccination series. The same will apply to persons aged 12-17 years old from 14 March 2022. Persons who have recovered from COVID-19 and have completed their primary series vaccination do not require an additional booster dose at this point in time.
- Only vaccination records that are available via HealthHub app or TraceTogether app/token are accepted.
- We seek your understanding that worshippers who do not fulfil the above vaccination criteria will be turned away on-site.

(B) Worship Services for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Worshippers

Congregational Service	Day and Time	Capacity for On-site	Livestream Link
Chinese @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Sunday at 9am and 11am	240 pax	http://bit.ly/2Ng0TXT (only available at 9am)
Filipino @ Gospel Auditorium L2	Sunday at 2pm	240 pax	http://bit.ly/30FjYFU
Youth @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Saturday at 4:30m	240 pax	https://bit.ly/2AaF8C3
Varsity @ Light 1 & 2 (L3)	Sunday at 2:30pm *no service on 5 th week	140 pax	Subscribe to Varsity announcement channel https://t.me/+WDu3myEwjpcxZWU1
Bahasa @ Hall 1 (L2)	Alternate Sunday at 10:30am	20 pax	<u>Nil</u>
Telugu @ Gospel Auditorium (L2)	Sunday at 5pm and 8pm	240 pax	http://bit.ly/30G4fXI

(B) Children Service

For details on Children's Service, please refer to page 3 of this bulletin.



GIVING ONLINE

You may give your offerings in the following ways:

1) PayNow

Under the UEN/Bill Reference No. section you can:

- State "NA" - Offering will go towards General Fund
- State Missions - To designate the offering

(a) Via "Scan and Pay"

- Open up your bank app and select "Scan and Pay"
- Scan the QR code below:



(b) PayNow UEN

You can also opt to key in the UEN:

S88SS0082AGF1

2) Internet Banking

- Add payee as Gospel Light Christian Church
- Account Number: **033-021695-5**
- Name of Beneficiary Bank: DBS Bank
- Under the Remarks section, you can leave it blank for the offering to go towards the General Fund or indicate Missions if you want to designate the offering.

3) Cheque

- Crossed cheque made payable to "Gospel Light Christian Church"
- On the reverse of the cheque, write **Gospel Light Christian Church** and the respective bank account numbers:
 - General Fund - **033-021695-5**
 - Missions Fund - **001-042653-2**
- Cheques can be deposited at any POSB or DBS bank into the church's accounts.

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