

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Shocked, she said to him, "Who is this?" The woman replied, "I'm his wife. Who are you?" She said, "I'm his wife, too."
- Some cautions especially for women: if you meet someone who wants you to loan him or give him money—**RUN!**
- There are success stories too.

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The Hard Questions

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Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

Dear Joy...

Last month we answered a lady who wondered about Christians and online dating. I want to continue in that vein this month for her and the many others who asked to know more. First some stories that really happened, then some cautions.

A woman met a man online. She lived in a great apartment near downtown. They dated for a while until she got comfortable with him in her life. He worked when they met but since then lost his job, he said, but not to worry, he had an inheritance coming so didn't need to look for another job. She loaned him money in the meantime and occasionally her car. He eventually moved in with her as he lost his apartment, however they were careful not to become sexually involved. Before too long she found out that while she was at work he was entertaining other women in her apartment, having sex with them and using her money to take them out for lunch! She'd been had.

Another woman met a man online and after the initial getting acquainted time, they began dating seriously. She thought nothing of the fact that he said he had no land line at home and he had

only given her his cell phone number. Also she never met any of his friends. At first she decided he loved her so much, he wanted to spend all his time with only her and no one else. But after a few months she discovered that he was married.



Long distance relationships are seldom a good idea if you meet online. It is truly best to confine your search to those who live locally. These two, who lived across country from each other, met online. At first they emailed, then talked long hours on the phone. After three or four months of this they arranged to meet. He flew to her home state to meet her. All went well. After three days of closeness they got even more serious decid-

ing to move in together.

She sold her home and moved across the country to Colorado and there put the thousands of dollars from the sale of her home in a savings account. But as happens many times, in about a month they developed relationship problems. She rented an apartment then and followed his suggestion that she see a marriage counselor, which she did.

He kept in touch with her even though they didn't date during this time. After a few sessions with the marriage counselor she told him they'd fallen in love and were dating. And before too long she had an engagement ring on her finger. They decided to move into a lovely mountain home but he told her that business was slow so he needed to borrow the down payment of several thousand dollars for their love nest which she gladly gave him from her savings.

She told her friend later that her fiancé arranged for the minister to marry them,



It is the things in common that make relationships enjoyable, but it is the little differences that make them interesting.

Todd Ruthman



Resources & Info:

Books:

Marriable: Taking the Desperate Out of Dating

By Hayley & Michael DiMarco

The Art of the Chase:

Because Dating's Not a Science, It's an Art

By Hayley & Michael DiMarco

Websites:

[Christian Mingle Online Dating Site](#)

[Christian Café Singles Site](#)

got the marriage license, and planned their wedding in the mountains at the home he had bought for them. They had a lovely ceremony and a brief honeymoon on her funds.

After their marriage and her life began with him in their mountain retreat, she found he was gone most weekends. His explanation was that he had speaking engagements which made sense to her. But one day she needed to see him during the day so went to his office on a Tuesday. As she opened the door to his office, she discovered him and a woman standing behind his desk in a passionate embrace.

Shocked, she said to him, "Who is this?" The woman replied, "I'm his wife. Who are you?" She said, "I'm his wife, too." Then the truth came out. He had faked the whole "marriage" using a friend for the minister, fake marriage license and a rented mountain cabin. He had drained her of most of her savings in the process and left her with nothing but a lost dream. She sued him and the case is still ongoing.

Some cautions especially for women: if you meet someone who wants you to loan him or give him money—RUN! RUN! RUN!

Always check out his work history. Does he keep a job? If you were to marry him can he support you and your household? If he's always changing jobs, he will probably always be changing relationships.

You might want to talk to his friends to find out what kind of person he is but beware of putting too much stock in the picture they paint of him. They may not be the best source to find out who he really is as they may color their answer by whether they like you or not.

Check out how he treats his friends and family as this may be how he will treat you and your family.

Does he make excuses or have valid reasons when he makes mistakes? Does he always blame others for what happens to him? Does he keep his word or not? Perhaps he breaks dates with you for no good reason and with a lame excuse.

Keep in mind these are good indicators of his character and personality. If you don't want your bubble to burst after getting emotionally involved with him, check him out carefully.

Now, lest you think online dating or any kind of dating is fraught with obstacles and potholes without any redeeming qualities, there are success stories.

A middle-aged fellow lost his dear wife to cancer. After being alone for about two years he longed for companionship so he geared up his nerve and tried online dating. After two failed attempts he met and started dating a woman who was looking for the same things in life as he. Soon their friendship developed into love and they married and remain married to this day.

A woman I know had been divorced for many years. She raised her children by herself then after they went off and established their own lives she decided to start dating and chose several websites to post her profile. After several dates with different men, she too found someone and they came to love each other and they, too, married and are living happily ever after.

A guy and a gal, both lonely and longing for a companion, met on a Christian dating site. They first talked on the phone then met for coffee. They talked for hours that first night and met the next day. From that day on they were inseparable. In a few months, believing God brought them together in answer to their separate prayers, they married in a beautiful, simple ceremony before their loved ones and close friends. They each learned as they were together and became acquainted that they could trust each other and they built their relationship around their love for each other and their mutual love for God. If you're careful and keep God in the equation, there can be happy endings to meeting online. I've heard countless reports of dating success when done in a godly and prudent manner.



¹⁰ I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.

Song of Solomon 7:10

Genuine Joy Ministries

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Helping you find genuine joy!

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Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

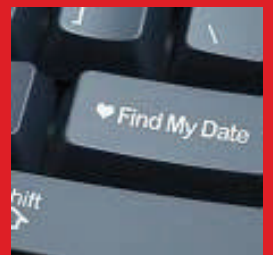
Write us—Email us

Just for Fun 10 of the Worst Real Pick-Up Lines

10. My love for you is like the Energizer bunny, it keeps going and going.
9. I'm new in town. Can I have directions to your house?
8. I misplaced my teddy bear, will you sleep with me?
7. Wow, your legs must be really tired, you were running through my mind all night!
6. What's that in your eye? Oh, it must be the twinkle from when our eyes met.
5. Are you lost? Because heaven is a long way from here.
4. If I told you, you had a great body, would you hold it against me?
3. Hi, my name is Justin, Justin Credible.
2. I may not be Fred Flintstone, but can still make your Bedrock.
1. Is your name Visa, cause you're everywhere I want to be.

"Instead of getting married again, I'm going to find a woman I don't like and just give her a house."

Rod Stewart



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