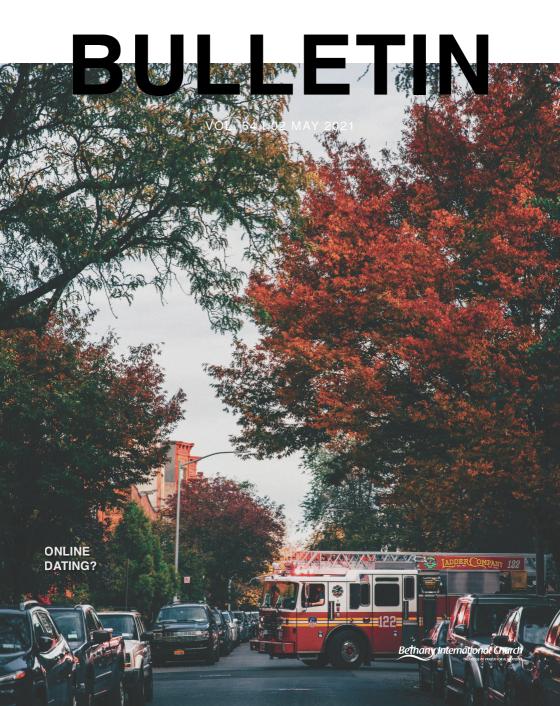
THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY



Vision

To be a "House of Prayer for all nations" - Isaiah 56:7b

Mission

A praying and witnessing church who have a close personal relationship with The Lord, to change the world for the glory of the Lord.



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Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan Ps Suzana Tahir

Next Generation Pastor

Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

Teaching Pastor

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

Office Manager

Ps Suzana Tahir



COOL LIST

MAIN

Canaan - Kezia, Freddie Ephratah — Steven, Henry Berea - Bethesda — Romy Bethlehem — Felix, Fransisca Jordan - Sony, Wilfred Horeb - Ferry, Febria Bethany — Paulus, Erina Bethel - Adel, Patricia Cana — Bobby Philadelphia - Pniel — Dwi, Vero Moriah — Elve, Calista Ephraim — Sonia, Kendrew Ekklesia - Edo, Ica Emmaus — Fabian, Priska Galilee - Kevin Y, Corine Gennesaret — Reinetta, Albert Gilgal - Carmel — Erika, Mike Hebron - Philippi — Yoseph, Rian Zion — Monica, Raymond

Eden — Jennifer

FAMILY

Antioch — Andy, Iwan
Tiberias — Andre, Albert
Gethsemane — Michael, Rudy
Jerusalem — Hestu
Mt Hermon — Lily, Unggul
Phillipi — Hariyanto, Ivan
Shekinah — Alice
Tabernacle — Sandi
Westal — Michael

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Macedonia — Eric, Alicia Shiloh — Daniel, Clarissa

NEXT GEN

Judea — Valentina, Sylvio Judah — Aldo, Kezia M. Israel — Catherine, Jerry Jeremiah — Sinta, Kevin W. Heaven — Pauline



Online dating?

By Jennifer Chandra

Swipe right, swipe left. Swipe-left to disregard. Swipe-right to show interest. Streams of pictures of singles are available at the tip of your finger. Tinder has been the frontrunner of online dating app with 66 million* users globally. Some people give Tinder a bad name as an app for a hookup or one-night stand kind of date. And if some prefer a tamer application, there are dozens out there. Bumble, Coffee Meets Bagel, Zooks, eHarmony, Hinge and many other dating sites.

If I successfully find a prospect partner through

online dating, I will write an article to promote online dating. However, I am still seeking the "unknown guy" and wonder whether he is hidden in a web of online dating. The questions arise as a young Christian whether we are allowed to use online dating. Is it okay? Is it biblical? Like how does swipe-liking the mere image of a potential mate fundamentally skew dating standards and expectations?

Let us take a step back and ask the fundamental question, the more important question and reflect on our current situation and heart. I asked three Christian women; a grandmother, a mother and a single woman to help me write this article which I love to share with all of you.

What is dating?

I squeezed all of three women's answers into one concise sentence.

Dating is a phase of getting to know better of each other with the

intention of marriage. They agree when we enter a courtship or dating, we need to have a serious intent of marriage. Often people are falling into selfish pursuit of short term romance which leads to a broken heart especially when you give your heart and body more than what you committed to.

Commitment-phobia term is raising lately. Overwhelming choice can cripple commitment. It encourages us to become never-satisfied consumers of relationships, always looking to upgrade. And if we suspect we can easily find a superior choice on the Internet, how might that knowledge negatively affect the desire to invest in our current relationship?

I do not say that we must 100% marry the person that we date. Though you are in a serious dating phase, some fundamental incompatibilities might be discovered later. We cannot force a life time commitment of marriage just because you're 'already' (terlanjur) in a romantic relationship or family/social pressure. Emphasizing the intent of marriage is important because it is more than just holding hands or having a plus-one person in a party or a companionship during a boring weekend or even a mere status change in social media.

So back again to our focus of online dating. Is online dating a place to initiate a healthy, long term relationship? Or a place to spark casual hookups with no commitment? I guess it is up to the users what you are looking for. On top of that, it is still hard to find good potential candidates, we assume that all profile data is accurate and no scammers there. In reality we do not live in an ideal world where all people are honest and sincere. Some profiles can be misleading; inaccurate or even big fat lies. Online dating apps are a jungle of various kinds of people and some of them might be a beast and dangerous.

On the other hand, I'd like to acknowledge there are successful stories of Christian couples who met online. You might find a compatible future spouse through the Internet. John Piper mentioned in his podcast addressing online dating that great importance is not on how you meet your future spouse but whom vou marry to. Online Dating can be an alternative avenue to broaden your circle of friends, to meet new people outside your local church environment. Especially durina COVID lockdown when it is getting harder to socialize. Some people prefer to do the introduction phase digitally.

The bottom line is we need to get to know each other well and very well. Spent focused time together one-onone, and also in groups of friends and family. Find out his or her intention, value, characters, background, personality and future plan. Be hopeful but also be cautious. Do not jump up into conclusions before you

really know the person. I believe the art of getting to know someone will be another discussion and another article to be written. In terms of online dating, my advice is being wise and smart.

How do we navigate ourselves in an online dating world?

1. Be yourself

Our profile serves as a resume; sort of a reference and specification of a person. A fraction of me felt a bit uncomfortable to sort of sell myself in front of public eyes. Unconsciously, we demand our selection of photos and our liking will get picked by someone. Seems like I am fishing for a prince charming then I must have a royal weapon to hunt a prince. But that is a thought distortion. A genuine self will attract another genuine person. We are looking for someone who will love us the way we are. We are not inflating our profile



and create a false façade just to be liked by someone. If we are falling into this category, we should reflect whether we have identity issues. We shouldn't turn into someone that we are not just because we want to be chosen. Thus, **be honest and be yourself**. You will draw a person to the real you not to a shadow profile that we created.

Rejection is almost guaranteed in online dating. It is discouraging at first but then again remember it doesn't define your worth. God does. Not being picked is simply just not a match yet. Our value and worth shouldn't lie on our digital profile or how many people are attracted to us. A wholesome self who knows exactly the true beauty will put their identity and value in God and God alone.

2. Tell a friend

Like all other romance related stories, we might experience chemical imbalance in our brain. If you heard that love is blind, love is deaf, love can make everything taste like chocolate or even the new slang of 'love slave'. We need a pair of objective eyes to judge someone. Keep your dear friends in the loop. They can spot a red flag faster and better than you can. Listen to their advice because your evaluation can be clouded by emotion.

Another advice, make sure you let a friend know that you are going on a date. In the Little Red Riding Hood tale, a wolf can put a disguise to harm the little girl. Of course not everybody is a criminal but make sure someone knows where you're going. On top of that, meet up in public places. Do not go to someone's house or apartment for a date. Keep yourself safe all the time.

So, should we try online dating?

I agree that online dating is not for everybody. Younger generation might have more positive association with online dating compared to our parent generation who prefer traditional meet-up or a match making style. I am not here to tell you what to do. At the end of the day, it would be your decision whether you want to give online dating a go or not.

One of three women that I interviewed said "You might not find the person you're looking for but guaranteed you'll learn more about yourself in the process." Speaking from my

own little experience on online dating, I'm still not fully convinced by it. But I truly learn something; I know more on what I am looking for in a man. I also learned that although I said I am not interested in finding a boyfriend online, I could invest a large chunk of time for it. Apparently I was wrong and I should reevaluate again my mind and heart.

Lastly, I want to remind every reader that God's love story is way more beautiful than human made story and definitely it is better than ours. Whether we find someone, through an online platform or not, or God calls us differently, be grateful and content. God invites us to pray for everything and in everything we put trust in Him.



MINISTRY LIST

Vocal — Jessica Sutiono

Musician — Raynaldo Ali

Multimedia — Budi Sendjaja

Lighting — Budi Sendjaja

Sound — Steven Santika

Usher — Elbert Pranoto

Translator — Elbert Pranoto

Caring — Felix Hariyadi

Dancer — Priska Sunaryo

Drama — Jennifer Chandra

Sunday School — Reinetta Tanujaya

Hospitality — Tasmin Ifah

Intercessor — Monica Haryanto

Mission — Felix Chietra

Media Art — Sonia Pranatha

Community Kitchen — Yolanda Tjong

Cultivated Podcast — Ravello Satria

Youth — Rio Susanto

