

Week of January 20-26

THE DATING GAME

Scripture Reading: Read Revelation Chapter 17

In the 1960's, a game show debuted and captured the attention of the nation. It was called:



In the show, a single woman would have the opportunity to speak with but not be able to see three bachelors. After asking a number of questions, she would get to choose which one she wanted to date. The couple would then have the opportunity to take a chaperoned trip together, usually to some exotic location. (In later shows, a single man would get a chance to question three bachelorettes). Many folks tried out for the show hoping to find true love ☺!

In Revelation chapters 17-21, we're presented with a choice between ladies too but this is no game. Our choice determines our eternal destination. It's literally a matter of life and death. The first lady is dressed to the hilt. She is glittering with gold, dressed in purple and scarlet. The other woman is plainly dressed in simple white linen. The first lady is the envy of the world. Everyone desires her. The second lady is the enemy of the world. Most people ignore her or, worse yet, persecute her. The first lady is confident, outgoing, powerful and proud. The second is humble, pressed down and poor in spirit. The first is a woman of the world. The second, a woman of the Word. The first is a prostitute. The second, a pure virgin. The first is drunk with the blood of the saints while the second has been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb. The first is destined for judgment. The second is headed for glory.

The apostle John draws a stark contrast between these two ladies for a reason. The temptation to cave when things get tough is strong. It is easier to find a way to compromise and date the harlot on the 7-headed beast than it is to resist her charms and remain steadfast, especially when standing firm might mean suffering and death. Two ladies. One choice. So, who are you going to choose to be the love of your life?

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Take some time to evaluate your life in prayer. Have you been dating the world by compromising in any area of your life? It's time to break off the relationship with the prostitute and remain faithful only to Christ.

Take-a-way: *"Dating" the world will end up costing you more than you think.*