



A MAN & A MAID

Proverbs 30:18-19



SERIOUS BUSINESS

- There is only one honorable end to a romantic relationship (Prov. 7:6-27; Heb. 13:4).
- If you stop short, you are killing a passion (Song 2:7).
- The Bible doesn't have a category for romance that doesn't communicate marriage (Gen. 26:8-9).
- Is there a stronger influence for happiness or misery in this life than marriage (Prov. 21:9; 25:24)?
- And yet we almost entirely surrender the process over to children who we wouldn't trust to make decisions half as weighty (Prov. 14:12; 28:26).



UNDER THE LAW

- We obviously are not bound by the Law of Moses (Num. 36:6-13).
- But it remains instructive to us (1 Cor. 9:9).
- The father had authority over and responsibility for his daughter (Num. 30:3-16).
- Sons marry, daughters are given in marriage (Deut. 7:3).
- This is more a matter of protection than of ownership (Deut. 22:13-29).



SOME TAKEAWAYS

- Children who aren't ready to think about marriage aren't ready to date.
- Parents need far greater involvement in the process than they generally have.
- Fathers need to act as protectors to their daughters and leaders to their sons.
- If you want to have this role, you have to cultivate trust.