

SPRITUAL *Covering*



A MasterClass with Dr. Conway Edwards

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A spiritual covering is a spiritual guide and authority in a person's life in the place of—or in addition to—a godly, involved biological father. He is the person who provides wise counsel through his words and sets the example for godliness with his life.

COVERING | MENTORSHIP | DISCIPLESHIP | COACHING

But what does the Bible say?

From the beginning, God established the family (Gen. 2:24) as man and woman. He then declared that for the purposes of starting His own family a man should leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife. Merriam-Webster defines cleave as "to stick to, to adhere firmly and closely or unwaveringly."

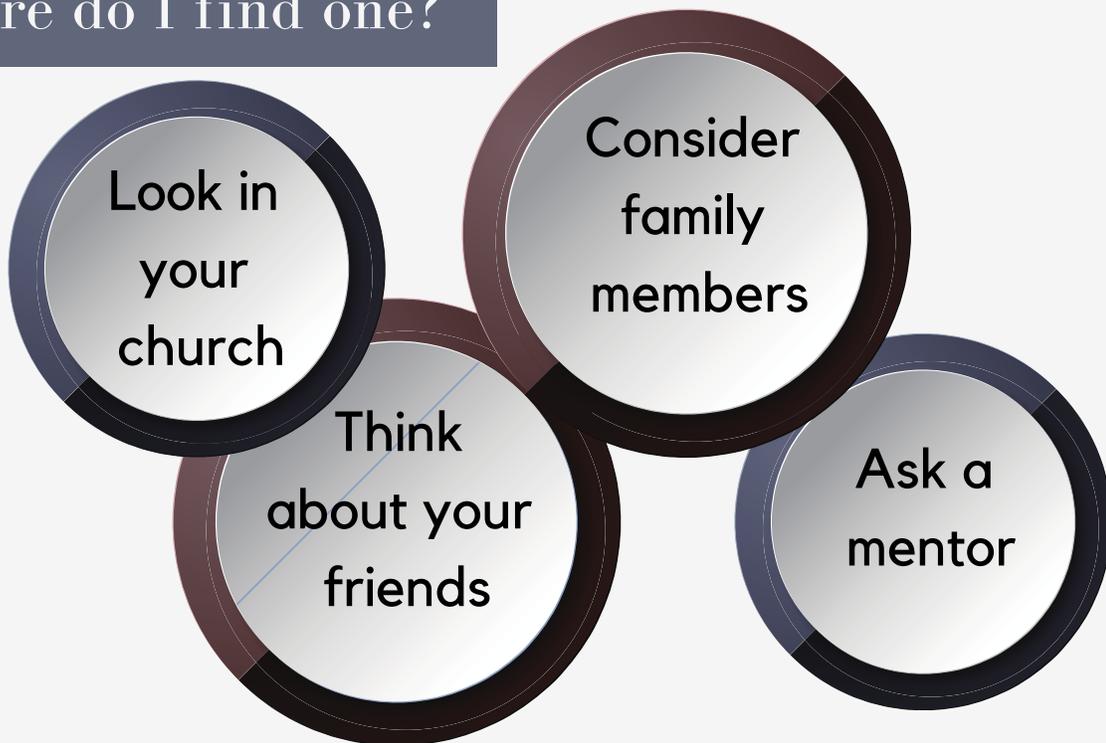
Fatherlessness significantly impairs our ability to make good decisions and can easily set us up for relationship failure. We can only begin to combat this struggle with authority and rebellion by returning to God's original design for the family. For singles—especially those without godly biological fathers—that means having a spiritual authority or spiritual father to cover you until God provides a spouse for you.

Biblical Examples





Where do I find one?



Seek the Lord and ask Him to bring a spiritual father into your life. Then ask for His wisdom and sharp discernment in choosing the right covering.

Characteristics of a Spiritual Daughter



4

Categories

in which to
observe
character
qualities

IDENTITY

INTIMACY

INTEGRITY

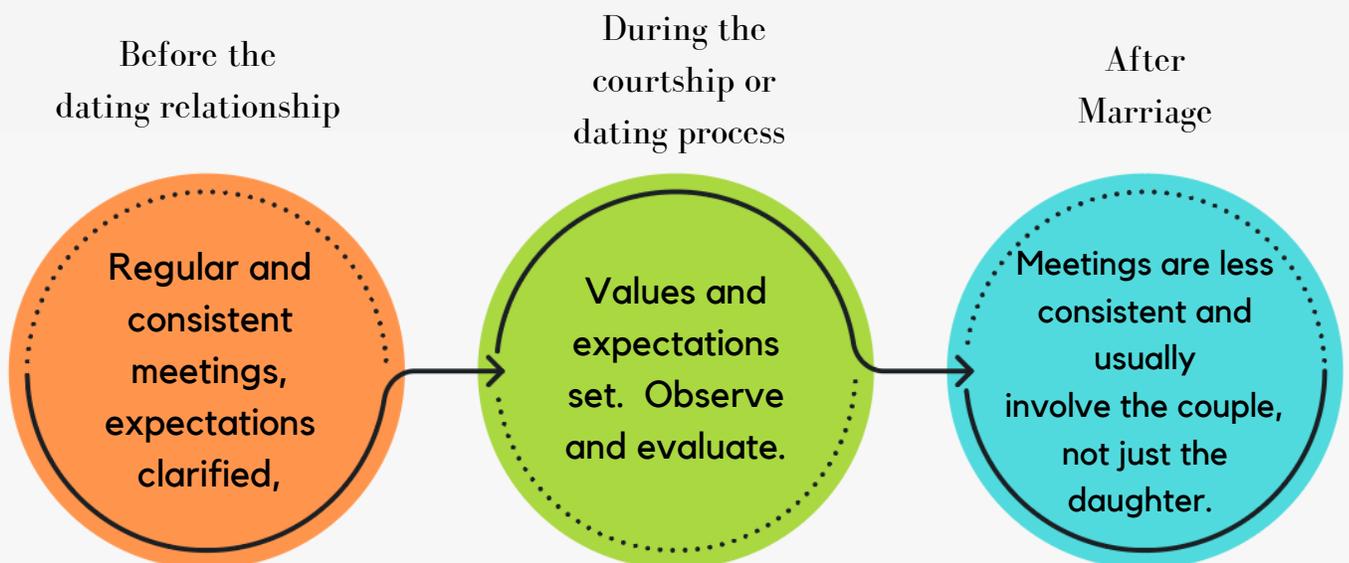
INTENTION

Principles for a healthy relationship with your covering

- 1** Work together to establish expectations and goals for the relationship.
- 2** Respect your spiritual father, but don't idolize him.
- 3** Practice what you learn.
- 4** Set up a consistent meeting time with your covering.
- 5** Fight the urge to give up or quit because of disagreements.
- 6** Communicate questions or concerns.
- 7** Ask his wife to be involved in the process.
- 8** Find out his philosophy of dating.
- 9** Clearly define the areas in which you need guidance and assistance.

In the Dating Process

When your heart and your feelings are engaged with the opposite sex, you can't see red flags and shortcomings clearly.



Warning Signs *(For the spiritual daughter)*

Your spiritual father doesn't want his wife involved.

Does your spiritual father give you good reasons why he doesn't want his wife involved? Is he adamant about his position, or is he open to involving her?

You idolize your spiritual father.

Do you imagine dating or being married to your spiritual covering? Do you look for his approval or flattery in your physical appearance (e.g., attire, hairstyle, physique, etc.)?

Conversations between the two of you are secretive in nature.

Would you be comfortable with the conversation if his wife or your pastor were listening? Does your spiritual father confide in you about his marital issues?

Warning Signs *(For the spiritual father)*

You are jealous or upset when men show interest in your spiritual daughter.

Are you comparing her potential mates to yourself? Are you giving the potential suitors a fair chance to pursue your daughter?

You frequently call/meet with your spiritual daughter with no purpose for the interaction.

Do you and your daughter do "datelike" activities, (e.g., dinner, movie, etc.)?



PRIORITY

01

Expressed in the phrase, "a man shall leave his father and mother." In terms of priority, the marriage has to be placed before all other relationships. Don't give priority to your parents, children, work, or hobbies.

PURSUIT

02



Expressed in the phrase "... and cleave unto, his wife." The word cleave sounds foreign in English, but in the original language it means to pursue with all your energy. Are you actively pursuing your spouse? Marriage is work and it requires energy.

4 Laws of Love

Expressed in the phrase, "They were both naked.. and were unashamed." A healthy marriage requires intimacy without fear. If we are careful in how we behave and take responsibility for our issues, this kind of relationship is possible. But if we hurt each other and don't take responsibility, we become sensitive. We refuse to open our hearts to each other.

Marriage is about sharing everything, expressed in the phrase, "the two shall become one flesh." When you get married you share everything with your spouse. Selfish people cannot succeed in marriage because selfish people refuse to share. They won't cooperate and ignoring the law of possession will wreck your relationship.



04

PURITY

03



POSSESSION

In the Dating Process , you and your covering should keep the 4 Laws of Love, which should be present in all marriages, in mind as you're observing and evaluating a suitor.



