



Key Text: 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

Big Idea: Look to *become* someone rather than merely look to be *with* someone.

Series Intro:

This week, we are beginning our new dating series called *Cuffing Szn*! “Cuffing Season” is when a single person suddenly feels interested in finding a romantic relationship, typically during cold months or holidays.

However, many of us feel this burn for romance in *all* seasons!

We want to spend the next several weeks discussing the topic of dating. We love you, and we want to help with an area of life that’s really important to many of you—because for many students, every season is cuffing season!

Tonight’s message is called “It Started With a DM,” because DMing (direct messaging) is one of the ways relationships can begin, or attempt to begin, in today’s culture. To “slide into a person’s DM” is to send a direct message to someone via social media, confidently and smoothly.

Whether someone projects confidence or smoothly executes his or her DMing is a matter of opinion. The internet is loaded with pointers on how to DM effectively; there are even flow charts helping a person decide whether he or she should move forward in DMing another person of interest.

The whole process of DMing is merely an outward expression of an inward thirst. We all have a thirst for love and romance, and that is why nearly every season is “cuffing season” for many of us.

[Author Note: Give a personal illustration here about how the desire for being with someone or looking for someone played a role in your life. Show the students that you can connect with “the burn!”]

“Not There Yet”

Maybe you’re thinking, “I’m not there yet. I just can’t relate with the

overwhelming desire to date someone.” If that’s you, then 1) you are *not* missing out on much. Instead, you are sparing yourself plenty of heartache and emotional rollercoaster rides. And 2) you might be swayed the moment you encounter a beautiful or handsome someone. So you need to know these things now.

No matter your current interest level in dating, your dating experience, or lack of those things—at some point, you’re going to have to ask yourself, “What do I believe about dating?” “How do I want to go about dating?” and “What will be the things that are most important to me in dating?”

In this series, we want to help you think through these questions. Whether you’re currently feeling the “cuffing season” or not, this series is going to be so meaningful for so many of you. We’re going to help guide you not merely in how to go about looking for someone, but in something far more important: how to go about *becoming* someone. And *becoming* someone is *not* contingent on dating. So, whether you are emotionally “in” or “out” of “cuffing season,” this series can help you in all seasons.

There are two categories I’d like to talk about today when it comes to the beginning stage of dating, which is *looking*. These two categories concerning *looking* are 1) common mistakes made in looking and 2) common successes in looking.

When it comes to looking for the right person (because if you’re out there looking for just *any* person, that’s a different problem!) there is a common myth that too many people believe.

Common Mistake #1: Buying in to the “Right Person” Myth

The “right person” myth, as a pastor named Andy Stanley puts it, is this: “There’s a right person for you, and once you find your right person, everything will be *all* right” (Andy Stanley, *The New Rules for Love Sex & Dating*).

The myth is that once you find “your person,” your emptiness will be filled and your life will be made complete. You think life’s problems will fade in the light of the glory and beauty of that special someone.

Ladies, you know you’ve bought this lie when you spend a significant

amount of your emotion and energy looking for a guy to sweep you off your feet, especially a guy with the looks and charm of Ryan Reynolds or Chris Evans.

Guys, you know you’ve bought the lie of the “right person” when you spend a significant amount of your time and energy looking for a girl who can captivate you like Ariana Grande or have the looks of Kylie Jenner.

The bottom line is this: if you believe that finding this right and *perfect* person will make everything alright, then you are buying into the common “right person” myth.

Now, don’t get me wrong ... there’s *nothing* wrong with looking for the right person. In fact, it would be terrible if we were committed to finding the *wrong* person!

The problem is when we start believing that once we find our “soulmate,” then everything will be alright and we’ll ride off into the sunset like characters in a fairy tale.

Think about it ... nearly every fictional tale ends with two people, who have come to the terms that they are meant to be together, moving on in the feeling of “happily ever after.” The characters have found their right person, and because of that, everything will be alright. We have real examples all around us that this “right person” myth is truly that—a myth!

1. We have parents!

Some of us have parents who exemplify an awesome marriage that we’d like to emulate one day. If that’s you, what a blessing from God and a compliment to your parents!

Others of us would agree that the term “dysfunctional” accurately describes our parents’ relationship and family dynamic. But if you think back far enough, at one point your parents truly believed they were marrying the right person—because nobody intentionally marries the wrong person. Then, things changed, stuff happened, and you’ve seen that there’s so much more to a successful relationship than just finding the “right person.”

2. We have Twitter!

You see examples of people falling into the traps of the “right person” myth on Twitter. One moment a person is tweeting to Bae, “I love you to the moon and back!” Then the next day they're tweeting, “Forget you, your family, and your cat, too!” Apparently, your friend changed his or her mind on who might be their “right person”—in a matter of hours!

3. We have personal experiences!

So many of us have entered a relationship head-over-heels in love with a person, fully believing he or she was truly the right person. However, the relationship ended with us heartbroken and head-over-heels in discouragement, and maybe even depression.

There's so much more to a relationship than merely finding the right person. There's nothing wrong with looking for the right person, but there's so much *more* to having a healthy and God-honoring relationship than merely finding “the right person.”

The myth in looking is that once we find the right person, everything in our life will be alright.

So, how do we go about looking for someone? Most us have a list!

Common Mistake #2: “Abandoning Our List”

Most of us have at least a mental list of things that would draw us toward someone in a romantic way. Some of our lists are very solid and maintain a high standard. For example, the ladies' list might look something like this:

[Author: Hold up a sample ladies' list or display a list on the screen with positive traits/characteristic like: 1) Loves Jesus 2) Respectful 3) Hard worker 4) Treats his mother well.]

The guys' mental list for people they'd like to date might look like this:

[Author Note: Hold up a sample guys' list or display list on a screen with traits/characteristics guys look for: Maybe write “HOT” several times ...]

I'm going to give the benefit of the doubt that most of you, in a moment of

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