**Should I Online Date? By Kris Swiatocho**

*There was a time I would never be OK with online dating. All the horror stories of the creeps, weirdos, and people who lie about their age, body description, or work, along with those about the ones that say they are Christian, but I guess their belief stops at their bio. Then there are the no shows, the ones who reject you or ghost you, the ones who talk to you two seconds on the phone and they want to marry you. The ones that cry on the first date or tell you everything, and the ones that won’t stop calling, even though you have told them too. And then there are the ones that are just scary.*

*Should I go on? Lol. But, on a more positive note, online dating has come a long way and appears to work for some. And to be honest, there are some circumstances where it might be the only option. Especially when you don’t live in a major city that has large churches and Christian singles ministries. So, if you want to date online, here are some tips to help you out.*

1. **Do your homework on these dating sites, social dating services like speed dating.** Anyone can say they are a Christian, even on a Christian dating site. Take the extra time to pray and be sure this is what you should do. Make sure when they say Christian that it means they are equally yoked to you. For example, if there is one denomination that believes one way, and you believe another, you are not compatible. You are not equally yoked.
2. **Don’t compromise your set of standards; write the truth in your bio and use current pictures of yourself.**
3. **Be aware of spammers, those trying to get money from you.** People will say anything when they know or you appear needy. They will say or text all the right things you want to hear.
4. **Check and see if there are some kind of identification verification; marital status, background check.**
5. **Go slow.**

• Build trust; a foundation

• If this is going to be the person you may want to spend the rest of your life with you will not regret taking the time to get to know them

1. **Talk or text by phone but not every day; put in some boundaries; try and get as much info prior to meeting them.** Go ahead and ask all the hard questions so you don’t waste time.

Note: One of the biggest reasons some relationships fail is we get too close too soon.

1. **Meet in a public place (do not have them pick you up), not late at night or in bad weather. Preferably, a place where people know you.**

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. -Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)*

1. **Bring a friend along or plan something shortly after with a friend coming to join you. You might even have your first meeting at an event with friends.***An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. -Proverbs 18:20 (ESV)*
2. **Make sure someone knows where you are and who you are meeting; have a plan to call them during the date.** You might even have a code word when they call in the event you feel uncomfortable.
3. **Online date with those that are local whenever possible; makes it easier to visit their church, come along on group dates, see them at their work, find out info about them, etc.**
4. **If you do end up traveling out of the area, stay at a hotel but be mindful of whether they need to know that.** Never go home with them or ride in their car.

If the thought of telling someone how you met the love of your life bothers, you...then perhaps that is God telling you the way you are connecting is not right for you.

*Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. -Proverbs 19:20*

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[www.TheSinglesNetwork.org](http://www.TheSinglesNetwork.org) Ministries