

The Dating Dilemma Part 3a

By Bob Stone

Announcer:

Good Morning. I didn't know until just a few minutes ago that we Ron said we were gonna start in 15 minutes because the schedule says 11:00 so I will probably wait a few minutes. Yeah.

Because I think a number of people I saw them still milling around not knowing for sure what was going on. So those of you were the remnant today. So I would appreciate even more than the other days if you guys would really move forward. I mean we've got a lot of empty space over here just to make Bob feel a little more a part of what's going on and all of you that are over here on the periphery we would love to have you right here in the front so that as I spit I can bless you with my spit.

Um but have you guys had a good time. That's good. Yeah I I have as well running around and I I've been blessed by Bob because these have actually only been the only ones I've had a chance to sit through so I really enjoyed it. But yeah. Slowly moving to the front. Thank you. Thank you. I see that hand. Um just come on. Just come on down. You guys are. Yes. Must be college students or something you don't listen very well. What is we're. We've got plenty of time it's only a quarter to six so we're we're we're really early. This is where I do my stand up routine. No just kidding. Well what was that huh. This is my day job huh. I'm getting paid to stand up here in front of you and be stupid. All I could tell you some really corny jokes.

No I told some of them to Bob last night I was. Course I could tell you the joke he told me it was even worse. No that was like my favorite joke and many of you may have heard it. But why did the monkey fall out of the tree. Because he was dead. I told you they were corny jokes all right. But as Bob is kind of preparing himself and is there anybody. Just real quick. Wouldn't that. Maybe God has really blessed you today or in the last few days that you would like to. Real quick since we're small group maybe just stand up and share anything anyone it's great to see. God is moving so mightily in our midst. He has the power of God is just moving strongly upon all of you against it. Yes I was at hand. It's like an auction. See that hand. That's okay. No. No seriously or maybe especially if these sessions here. I'm sure Bob would appreciate it's kind of the way this is setup it's rather anticlimactic for the speakers you know they start off the first day it's like standing room only it's like wow. The next day it's like half standing room only. And then today you kind of it so he would appreciate any input from you. [Inaudible Audience Member] Thank you.

Well I think without further ado Are you prepared would you like your microphone to see what happens in two days he came in here he was alive he ran in here the first day and now he's two days later he's feeling the strain. So. Of Biola. Yeah no he. He was telling me today he just can't wait to get back to Alabama. The home of the Crimson Tide which is not much of a tide this year from what I understand. Oh yeah. Of course here in Southern California we don't have much to say do we. So. But it's been a pleasure. It's been a pleasure to have Bob here and I know he has blessed you guys I have told him several times I really appreciated his direct approach and I think in the world that we live in today we need more people to call an Ace an Ace and lay it on the table and and he does that. So without any further ado let's welcome him back. Bob Stone

[Applause]

Bob Stone:

One book left eight dollars I've got the dating series on video. If you come from a church I don't know if any of you go to church and back in your hometown and you think your church would benefit from this ministry. Here's a brochure about us. And even though I do a lot of colleges I do a lot of four day conferences Sunday through Wednesday on marriage and the family in churches. Would any of you want to know what was the last thing that I wanted to present in. The last thing just now. Any of you want to know. Just we'll just kind of wrap that up with. OK I've added this I get this all the time. If I forgive this certain person who is deeply wounded me does that mean they'll never hurt me or wrong me again. No. If they hurt or wrong me again what do I do. Well you'll probably if you're not careful. Build another wall but I call this a road instead of building another wall. You build a road. OK. How do you do that. That's probably your question. I think to make it real practical you notice what I did when I when I hit that board and it came back and hit me in the face. I went back to the emergency room because I knew I could get help there. Now did I say when I was laying there in the ground my eyes swelled and the blood running down my face when my wife said well we need to go to the hospital again? Did I say to her we don't have we don't have to go there I was there two years ago with my fingers no. So the common question I get over and over is or the common response is maybe I'll see someone that's been in to see me in my office or in a group where I've shared this and I'll say well did you have a crushed broken shattered. Yeah. Oh yeah. Did you ask God to heal that broken heart? Put those stitches in and use time to complete it. Yes well did it work? No. Often tell me this for a while. Yeah. Worked for a while. What do you mean for a while? Well then it

didn't work. Well did you get wounded again? Well yeah. What did you go back and get some more stitches in?

No that's as simple as I can make it so you get wounded again you get you get some more stitches ask him to stitch you up and start that healing. That's what you do physically. Now watch these two fingers difference between all what happened to me years and years ago versus this is what's happening now and it's happening over and over and over. Big difference between those two right so the best I know how and I'm not very smart but I believe you just gotta almost do that on a daily basis. Maybe you're even picturing that that your stitches are getting ripped out.

All right. So the next thing you do let's look over at the left. That's first square and you notice I call it patches of love concrete. We're we're building a road now. And so this story is gonna get absolutely gorgeous you're gonna want to beat up the person next year after you hear this. So that's my mom on the other side right. And instead of building another wall I asked when she hurt me again. I was in the House 18 and a half years old. Two of my buddies had been killed in a car that I helped equip I used to be one of those kind of guys that wanted some self-worth and so I thought hey a fast fine machine this thing would do a wheelie. It was so powerful go out to the strip on Sunday sit in the back row see and as soon as that a man was given we'd fly that church jump in our cars each go home jump into our jeans go out to this quarter mile strip and the whole first eighth of a mile is rubber. Right but one of those guys and eliminators of Detroit. That was the name of our ride club dropped its transmission 16 coats of hand rubbed lacquer on that car. It was gorgeous dropped this transmission came back just cussing a blue streak. I told him where he could get some equipment to make that thing just jump I was forty five minutes all

the way across town to get that equipment that he later put in his car and I never said a word to him about Christ only that I had to get back for youth group meeting at six o'clock. Two weeks later he had that that black board that means that the cylinders were made larger so that you get more horsepower compression see and. And so I'll tell you all the other stuff you got. Anyway he's gone down the highway 90 miles an hour lost control of the car bounced or hit up an embankment bounced back up the highway ran head on into another car put that lady and her 17 year old daughter in the hospital and killed my two friends flat.

That's when Bob Stone threw up the white flag and said OK Father I'll do whatever you want me to do. But I got this family problem see my dad lives four blocks away. My mom has brought a man home from the factory where she works and she's having sex on the living room couch instead of going even into a bedroom and closing the doors. Got a sheet over. She knows my sister and I have to walk through that room to brush our teeth before we go to school so at all those memories. See and I didn't know what to do with them and when I started asking God to help me put this thing together. Oh then it hit me to build a road now toward that woman who's hurt me the most. I've got to get that hurt taken care of on a daily basis and then I've got to forgive as soon as I can. Each day don't go to bed with an unforgiving spirit. All right that day are the two key words in that sentence.

Now that the last thing will be through with this event look upon each one of those hurts or wrongs. So each one of those patches of love concrete instead of building a wall is is like a little patch of love concrete. So every time she hurts or wrongs me I've got to look upon that as an

opportunity to express the love of God to her. So I'm called in the ministry my buddies are killed. I've. I've surrendered. I'll do whatever you want me to do. Go wherever you want me to go.

Have you gotten to that place in your life? Have you been willing to sign the blank sheet down the bottom? You know what in the world he wants you to do. Let him fill it in later I. So now it's one thirty in the morning. My sister had eloped and sent my mother a telegram. Thought she'd be interested knowing I got married last night. My dad lived four blocks away. I want to spend time with him but my mom was gone so 130 in the morning she drives in the driveway. I'm so excited I got to tell somebody because that's the night I believe I was called in the ministry I ran down those stairs down the driveway opened the car door. To tell her and she was drunk now instead of acting like a human being like so many of us tend to do because we've had so many years of experience. And instead of going you are the most disgusting human being I know you're drunk on this special night in my life. Instead of doing that I am thankful I can report this to you. I said Mom come on I help you in the house she was giggling and stumbling and I helped her up the stairs took her to her bedroom helped her off with her coat and her shoes helped her into bed with her clothes on and I kissed her on the cheek and said I see you in the morning so I believe every time we respond like that God's gonna use us to get through one of the layers of the crust around that person on the other side of the wall from us and we don't know how many layers they've got around them so we can't give up.

Here's the end of the story and this is where you're gonna want to beat up the other person near you. She's right behind you. No I wouldn't pick on her. Don't pick on her either. It's not nice. I was 37 years old speaking to a couple hundred teenagers at a camp. My wife sit in the back row

with my mom. First time my mom ever came to anything were that I was doing I'd been in ministry for 12 years at that time after I got through my mother about knocked down three people to get up front here and she walked up to me and I'll never forget these words as long as I live. Son I need help. I thought I was gonna disintegrate right there on the spot. My mouth felt like chalk. My knees. I tried to walk over to a room there. My knees are just kind of going like this. I finally got over there and we sat down in that private room. Now I wasn't disobeying First Timothy 5 1 rebuke not an Elder. Have you ever tried to counsel your parents? It didn't work did it? You woke up dead do. I'll never do that again. Well why didn't it work? It was a violation of scripture rebuke not an elder so she was asking that made the difference. So I was honest with her I put it on the table in love with all the love that God can give me. And guess what happened. Two months later my mother lived with four different men in ten years without being married to them.

She moved out from this last guy's place got her own apartment got right with the Lord start attending a good solid Bible teaching church. She started listening to Christian radio station. She started memorizing scripture in her 60s. She was 66 when this happened. A little three by five cards are by the refrigerator while she's doing the dishes and she stopped drinking. Just like that. No rehab no counseling. Cold turkey. She stopped drinking. She's 82 she's never had a drop since she was 66. Then what did she do she started working on the person that hurt her the most. The man that had run her face in the commode. Her dad that abandoned the family who's a drunk oh he didn't know how to respond to this she started sending him little cards. Thinking of you today sending some of his favorite desserts and she could remember she asked for his forgiveness for being a rebellious teenager. My grandfather was 85 at the time. She did this his comment. I'll

never forget. I have never in eighty five years of living on the face of this earth had anyone show me God's love. Until now you won't believe this. Just just get ready not to believe it put your teeth together. That began to melt through that big crust. My grandfather had to he he hadn't come around us but three times in 20 years. Why. There was a wall between he and my mom. There was bitterness between those two. My mom hated him. He knew it one year of doing that with him a pastor called on my grandfather and shared the gospel with him in Akron Ohio and because of the love that my mom had been showing him through the years that he didn't know how to respond to it melted that man's crust and my grandfather at the age of 86 invited Christ into his life. And two days later he died.

Don't give up. Do you want to hit the person next to you? Okay. That just warms my heart every time I hear myself tell it.

STONE If you go up that ladder rung by rung by rung. Oh you're increasing your own sexual drives. If you are involved in a dating life where you're going up that ladder rung by rung you're increasing the partners sexual drives after I did this uh. At a particular school in Texas there was a visitor in the audience. He was a local policeman. He walked up to me after and said when everybody left. I caught two of the students of this Christian College on the outskirts of town at one thirty in the morning in a parked car and both of them were nude. I speaking to thirty six hundred teenagers at a convention in Chicago and two of the individuals one man one woman skipped one of my sessions and avoided the check of the counselors room by room at a master key and they had sex during my session she got pregnant.

At a Christian convention I asked my wife one time as a registered nurse sweetheart what are the chances of all women getting pregnant the first time she ever has sex. She said Oh it's very low about very low. I believe her. She's a registered nurse IQ of 19 very intelligent woman now and then Dr. Upchurch who owns half the building where we have our counseling center is a gynecologist Christian gynecologist. So I saw him check in the mail one day and I said Jim what are the chances of a woman getting pregnant the first time she has sex is. Oh it's very high. I want to say Oh yeah. My wife told me last night. I didn't. And so I said very high. He said Oh yeah I would I would guess 80 percent. Good night. Why I had never heard this before in my whole life. Remember I'm 81.

When a woman is ovulating she's more affectionate and that's probably the time of the month she'll give in I was coming ready to leave a Christian college and the guy said to me hey I've bumped the guy that was scheduled to take you to the airport. I said oh you must have some authority around here and he said well I'm on staff so we got in the car and headed toward the airport. And he said I've never told another human being this but you're leaving town and you're leaving town and I think I can trust you with this. And I said Well whatever you tell me will not get back to you. I got Christian lockjaw. And I know more stuff about people I can blow the lid off some churches and some towns and so he said I've I've got a problem with pornography I'm obsessed with it it controls my life. I was at Hume Lake and all of a sudden walking along getting ready to go into the to eat in the Caf.

And this guy whispered in my ear is masturbation wrong. There he was a man so I took him off to the corner and we talked for a while why did God create sex now. Most people know the first answer to that for reproduction. Right. Oh wow that's really great. Well what's the other answer? So that two people one man one a woman who are married. And married to each other. You have to have that. Can express a love that's so deep and so powerful and so holy that God has created this ultimate expression of love. For each other so I took him first. First of all through First Thessalonians 3 through 6 God's plan is to make you holy. Is this a holy act? He went No. Is it clean cut from sexual immorality? No. And I went through that whole passage and I looked back at him and as I said is masturbation wrong he said Well yeah it's wrong. Now you didn't think that before we started talking about first. That's a means for he said no. Because I read some books like for example the thought masturbation is God's release for sexual tension. I said you've read the stork is dead but Charlie shared. Haven't you. He said yes. See I don't believe that I believe that wet dreams are God's release for sexual tension. And so so God created sex for reproduction and pleasure between husband and wife. So masturbation is like having sex with yourself. Where does that fit into God's plan he said Wow I've never heard it that way before. I said instead of playing tennis or going swimming or something this afternoon once you go up on that great big hill over there and get along with God and ask him to reveal to you this afternoon if you'll do it that fast. Whether it's right or wrong got in the line that night to eat dinner and he came up to me and whispered in my ear it's wrong. So I've got him over in the corner again. I said what made the difference. He said Well when you boil it down to why did God create sex in the first place. And then he says and then I realized masturbation didn't fit in there. And he says now I ask God to sincerely revealed to me whether it was wrong and and and then your last

statement. It's like having sex with yourself. It's not just the men that are masturbating I've had women come in to see me who are masturbating. All right.

So I've I've fed you this these different scenarios to bring you to this. How do you get down off that ladder? If you've gone up it OK. Well the obvious thing there is I've only met one person that ever did this without Christ whoever came down off the ladder without Christ and I ask this guy well you've been masturbating every single day you told me for two years and then you said you stopped. How did you how did you stop. And he said well I just realized it was wrong. So I quit I one as it were you can't do that without Christ. Ah but he did. All right. But one in thirty five years. So if you've done that. You've got a base for self-control now so he doesn't spend much time on that one. OK so here is an important factor. We didn't get to this in the other series on dealing with hurt and forgiveness and all that stuff you have a clear conscience about your dating life. See I think wouldn't it be wonderful if every woman knew karate and you pick up this chick. And you take her out to your car and before she she gets in. She looks at you and says Here I need to tell you something before we go out on this date. These are registered. Yes ma'am. Let me get that door for you. I think there'd be a lot of differences in the manners of some guys.

Another thing I think should happen. What. What if you had have references before you could go out on a date so all the other people that you've dated now writer referenced more than next someone pinch you all. Some of you may be in trouble.

All right I ask one man. Do you have a clear conscience about your dating life? And he said oh good night. What does that mean? I said well have you gone up partway or all the way up that

ladder and wronged other women you've increased their sexual drives he said you mean I'd have to do that with all of them. So what are we talking about a heard back there. What. And he said man I couldn't count them.

Now you remember this before Jesus died in the cross over there in Matthew Chapter 5 you had to bring in a sacrifice to the altar right to the temple and the priest would sacrifice that animal in the approach of taking care of your sins. OK. When you come to the altar and remember that your brother has order against you. There's a conflict going on here. You've wronged that person. Leave your gift at the altar and go and be reconciled. Get that thing straightened out. Admit you were wrong and ask for their forgiveness then come back and present your gift. Acts 24 16. And here in do I exercise to always have a conscience void of offense toward God. Now there's were a lot of Christian Stop. Oh God maybe you didn't know about the biological hand grenade ladder before but just pretend like you did. Oh God. I've gone up the ladder with Suzy Q and and Mildred and Henrietta and and I have been dead wrong. I confess this to you. I admit it. It's coming from my heart and I ask you to forgive me and cleanse me of this and that's only part of what you need to do because the verse doesn't stop there and toward Man Oh. Now watch the difference between these two are these three. I apologize for what I did when we went out to the state fair or whatever.

So I apologize. I'm sorry for what we did on our dates. Those are statements watch this one and all I've come to realize how deeply I wronged you for not being the kind of person I should have been while we were dating. And I want to know something will you forgive me. That is a question asking for an answer. These were statements. You see the difference. I don't mean to be

technical but I think we've got to get technical. So when it's something we've done in the past that's out of the sexual immorality category. I think there's there's a different approach. You can laugh at me on this one but this really happened in the olden days they used to have a thing that went on the steering wheel of a car. We call it a suicide knob or a knickers nob and you could turn this baby and boy you could really go around the corner real fast as in the real olden days.

Okay I broke up with this this woman eleven thirty at night I was mad my car had a door latch on it. This is in the real olden days. Instead of having a little lock there by the door post to the end of the door there that locked or unlocked it was in the handle of those older cars see so I had to pull a handle up to lock it this didn't work in my car and if I wasn't careful the door would come open. So can you picture this I got plastic seat covers on this car. They're slippery. I'm going down the road I'm ticked off at this woman. We just broke up and I go round this corner real fast. I got my window down my arm on the door and the door comes open in my little Western Hemisphere. Slides across the slippery seat cover and I come right out of the car. My my tail end is about this far from the ground as we're going I think I'm not gonna have one if I if I sand this thing off on this cement and so I'm hanging on as long as I can and I can't hang on any longer and I fall out in the road and my car goes up over the curb knocked over a parking meter smashes into this brick wall.

This guy comes up from apartment building he says are you right. Kid man. I think so. So he says you better get out of here you'll have to pay for that parking meter. Me and I got my jack out of my car. Pride defender away from the tire threw the tire near the Jack in the trunk and off I went. Thirteen years later I heard what you're hearing as so convicted he said.

Have you ever asked for forgiveness and still felt guilty. I'm thinking I confess that I ran over that parking meter 13 years ago but I never turn myself in and cleared my conscience with anybody. Now I'm gonna die. But I want to be God's kind of man. I went up to the police station on a Saturday I could hear my footsteps echoing on this marble floor. Scared the absolute willies out of me walked up to the sergeant at that desk and I said Sir 13 years ago I ran over a parking meter up here at such and such and such and such. He looked at me like crack cocaine wasn't available then. So he said what do you say. And so I repeated it and he said well watch this. Watch the roadblock. Satan put up in front of me. The man in charge of parking meters isn't in on Saturdays I pictured right there Stone. Way to go. You came up here to clear your cans since you did your best way to go. Wonderful Christian but I didn't clear my conscience. All I found out is that the guy wasn't in on Saturdays so you know what I did. I went right over to his house for some reason I knew all the police in our town. I had 21 tickets by the time I was 21 and so I love I thought they were the most friendly cops in this town. I'd be doing something they go Oh look. They waved to everybody in town. Look at that a little light going on. OK so. I went over to Tom's house and I walked up and knocked at the door. And he said Oh Bob how you doing this. Well Tom you had a can of beer in his hand no shirt had a belly that looked like he's about 18 months pregnant. I mean. Huge. Was something like something? Oh and so.

So I said Well Tom I'm here to clear it. I'm taking care of some of the things in my life and I ran over a parking meter. I explained it to him. He started laughing. He's laughing so hard. His belly started moving like this. I thought. This thing's gonna come up. Hit him in the face any minute you know start spilling his beer. And then he looked at me and I wasn't laughing.

He said you're serious aren't you and I said yes sir. He said just a minute I'll get a shirt. We went and got his shirt. Got my car and drove up the police station. They have all these parking meters numbered and so we went through and I knew what year it was. He went back there wasn't there. He looked at me and said you've been suffering from guilt for 13 years for nothing. Bob Stone so what did I do.