



Dating God's Way

Rev Simon Tan / Arrowgates Church

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Church

◆ Prepare you to be a great life-partner in a marriage

Build Character

Adjust Strengths & Weaknesses

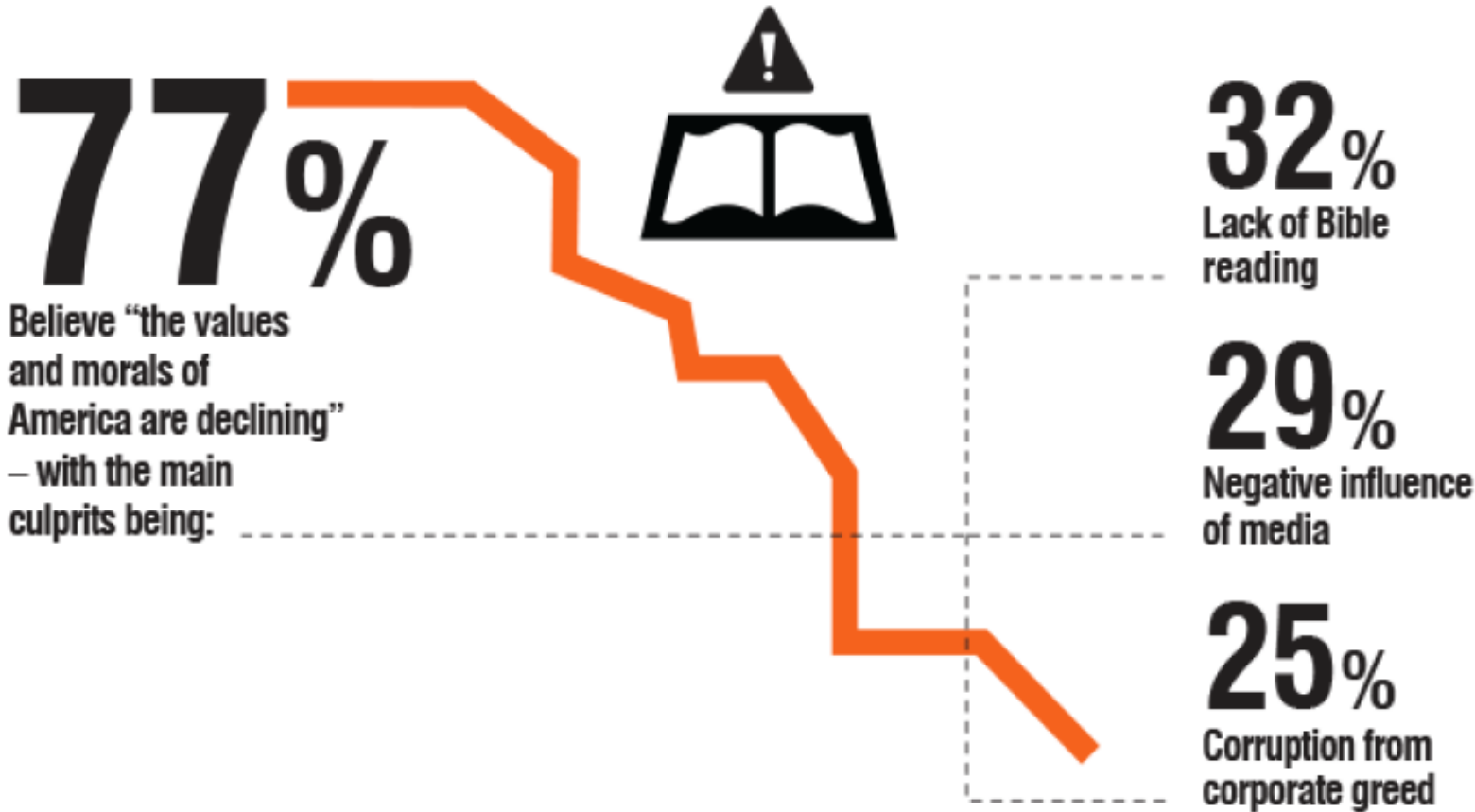
Deal with Sins and Past Mistakes



Whole person

(Emotionally, Mentally & Spiritually healthy)

AMERICANS BELIEVE OUR SOCIETY NEEDS THE BIBLE



SOURCE: AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY'S STATE OF THE BIBLE 2013 | BARNA GROUP

YOUNG PEOPLE WANT WISDOM FROM THE BIBLE

Millions of Americans say the Bible can help them address life's twists, turns and troubles. This is particularly true of Mosaics (ages 18-28), who are more likely than average to show interest in the Bible's wisdom on the topics below. This is a notable trend since Mosaics read the Bible less often, and with less interest than older generations.

Interested in the Bible's wisdom on:	All adults	Mosaics
Dealing with illness / death	28%	33%
Addressing family conflict	24%	40%
Parenting	22%	42%
Romance and sexuality	17%	30%
Dating and relationships	16%	35%
The influence of technology	12%	14%
Dealing with divorce	8%	15%

A large, vibrant red tree stands in a field of red flowers under a dramatic sunset sky. The tree is the central focus, with its dense foliage in shades of red and magenta. The field is filled with small red flowers, possibly poppies, stretching towards the horizon. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with scattered clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow. In the background, there are rolling hills and a body of water. A few leaves are seen falling from the tree. The overall mood is romantic and dreamlike.

Part 1:
**Winning the woman of your
dreams : MTYH or REALITY?**

What women are looking for in a man?

1. Sense of Humor
2. Spontaneous, fun to be with
3. Gentlemanly, Unselfish, Thoughtful, Protective
4. Genuine, Mature Christian
5. Self-Confident (but not Cocky), Decisive
6. Buff Body
7. Attractive, Well-Groomed
8. Rich
9. Athletic



What women are looking for in a man?

TOP 5

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(A)

- Good looking
- A player
- An egotistical jerk
- Full of himself



(B)

- Genuine
- Integrity
- Values others
- Great personality
- True Character

WHO WINS ?



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WHO WINS ?

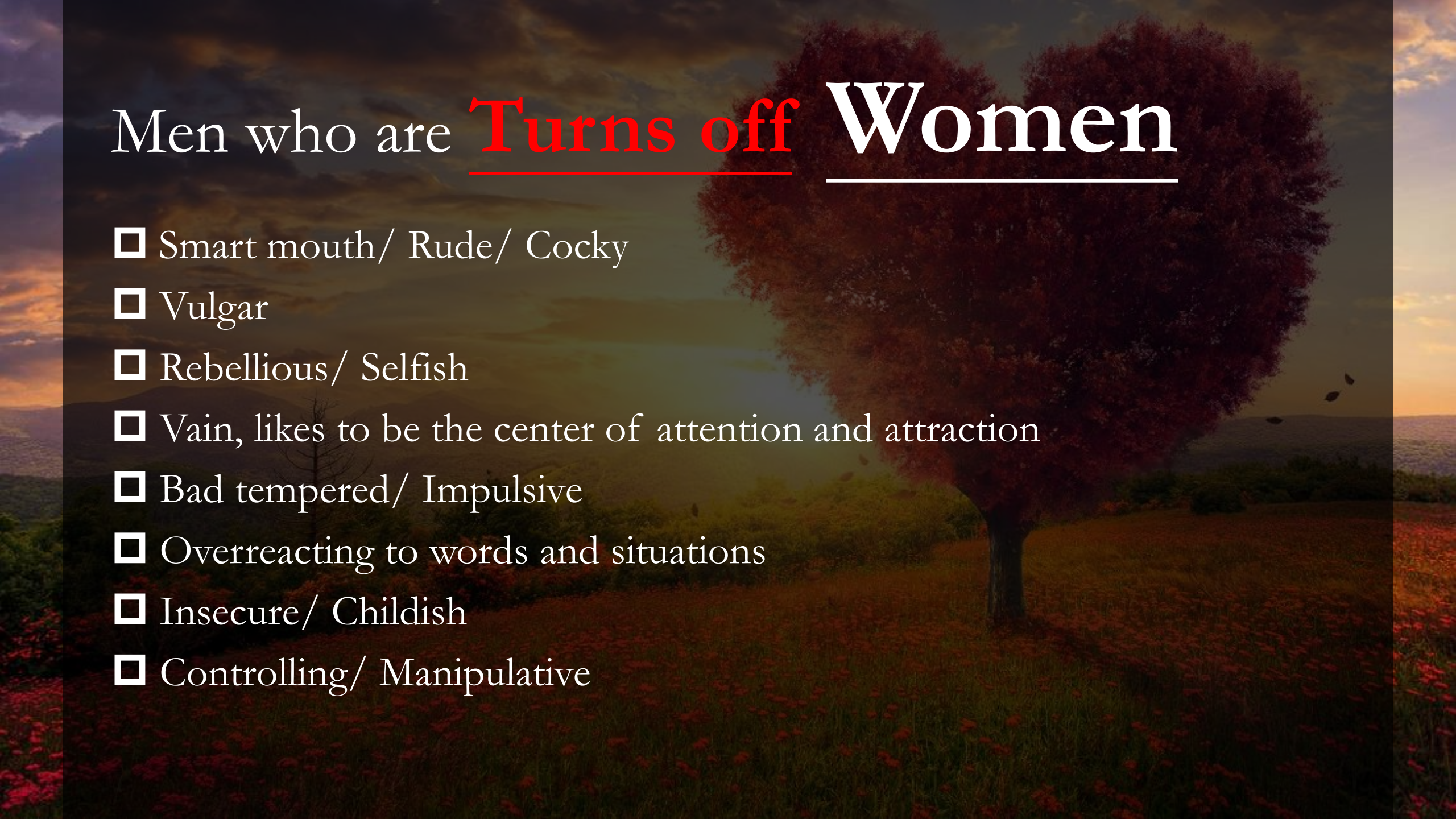
ANS: (B)

The best impression :

Personality and Character (Can be improved and worked on)

- ✓ Be confident in who you are in God
- ✓ Clean up your act, hygiene, grooming etc.
- ✓ Take initiative and be real
- ✓ Be considerate and serve others' needs





Men who are Turns off Women

- ❑ Smart mouth/ Rude/ Cocky
- ❑ Vulgar
- ❑ Rebellious/ Selfish
- ❑ Vain, likes to be the center of attention and attraction
- ❑ Bad tempered/ Impulsive
- ❑ Overreacting to words and situations
- ❑ Insecure/ Childish
- ❑ Controlling/ Manipulative

Work on a relationship where the woman Feels:

- ◆ You can Protect her
- ◆ You can Lead and Provide
- ◆ You have Strength of Character and Direction
- ◆ You make her Secure/ certain about the relationship



People's approaches to Dating :

(When they are of age)



1. No dating allowed:

- Environment of Fear, Condemnation, Judgement & Secret lives
- Drives dating underground

2. Free for all dating:

- Environment of Guilt, Pain, Gossip, Rivalry, Division & Jealousy
- Being Hurt and Leaving church

People's approaches to Dating :

(When they are of age)

3. Thoughtful dating with healthy boundaries (✓)

- Fun, Romantic, Healthy Experience
- True Love ? Remaining as Friends ?
- Be more Mature
- Remain Intact of Reputation and Honor

A. Worldly Dating

- 'Broken and Selfish'
- Distracted from God
- Handicaps the church
- Focuses on physical, the personality and performance
- Temptation, Emptiness and Regrets
- Can lead to destructive and traumatic consequences (e.g. abortion, suicide and tarnished reputation)



B. Godly Dating

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Group Discussion

Something to consider before you date

- ☐ Why are you dating?
- ☐ What is appropriate?
- ☐ How can dating be a blessing to you and the other person?
- ☐ What is your end result?
- ☐ What do you gain from dating?
- ☐ Where are the protection lines for dating to ensure no one is hurt and no harm comes upon anyone?

B. Godly Dating

Proverbs 30:18-19

“There are three things that are too amazing for me, four that I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a young woman”

- ☐ Do I **know enough** of the person to date them?
- ☐ By dating her/him, what will I **become**?
- ☐ What fruits will we both **bear** from this dating?
- ☐ **Why** am I dating the person?
- ☐ What would I like to **accomplish/achieve**?
- ☐ What will become of our **relationship** if nothing comes out of the dating journey?

Ask
yourself
before
dating the
person

C. Appropriate Behavior on A Date

1. On your first few dates



- Look interested
- Remember she is not your future wife yet
- Eye contact
- Ask good questions & be a good listener
- Approach all your dates
- Be your real self



- Talk too much about yourself
- Try to fix all the issues she is talking about
- Make fun of her looks or anything



C. Appropriate Behavior on A Date

2. You don't have to marry your date

- Date with *biblical perspectives*
- Be clear about:
 - *Your intention*
 - *How far you will go with your actions*



D. When It Isn't Working Out

1. Reasons Why People Breakup

- a. No more love/ attraction
- b. Constant irritation to the point of resentment
- c. Interest in another person
- d. Mismatched



D. When It Isn't Working Out



2. Signs that Tell You It Is Over

- Ice cold behavior
- Stops being interested about your life
- Reminiscing about the past but nothing about the present
- WhatsApp/ WeChat reduced to group chats
- Easily irritated or angry with you
- Less available time to meet
- Nagging you a lot more
- Controlling and disrespectful
- Puts you down in front of others
- Conversation reduced to monosyllables

D. When It Isn't Working Out

3. How to Break Up with LESS Heartbreak

- a. (The initiator) Talk things over
- b. (The receiver) Listen, learn and admit your mistakes
- c. Respect the decision in amicable way
- d. Believe God has someone better for either of you
- e. Do not break up over WhatsApp
- f. Get the hint



E. How About Pre-Marital Sex

1. Guys and Girls think the **opposite** in the same situation

Guy thinks

Girl thinks

She dressed up because she wants sex	I dressed up to look and feel good
If I pressure her for sex, she will want it as much as I do	I have lost respect for you
Everything is OK as she has agreed to a no-strings attached sexual relationship and that we don't end up as a couple	Its not really OK (Actually she will be super possessive, totally demanding, and insecure and will hang on to the relationship even if it's not working)
We can have sex now since I love her	I hope he will protect and treasure me, and wait until we are married

E. How About Pre-Marital Sex

2. Pre-marital Sex Breeds Insecurity

True Love always **WAITS**

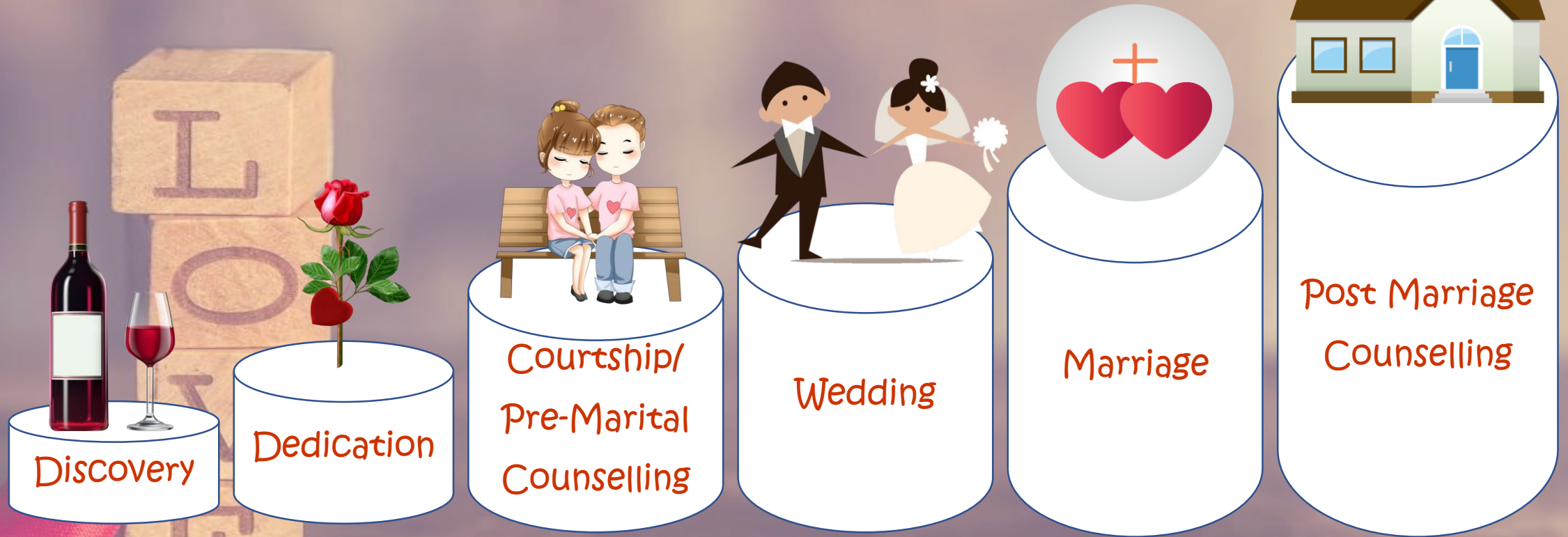


- ◆ Run away from the places where are easy to get tempted



Part 2
The Dating Journey

The Dating Journey



① The Discovery Stage

Song of Solomon 2:7 “Don’t excite love, don’t stir it up, until the time is ripe and you’re ready.”

1. Open Communication

- Compatible and Complement each other?

◆ Opposite attracts but oppositions distracts

A. Simple Topics of Interests (If do not know what to talk about)

e.g. Hobbies, Dreams, Work or Ministry

B. Spiritual Considerations (If feel uncomfortable during your date)

➤ Talk about God



① The Discovery Stage

C. Character Considerations

- Discover each other's characters, strengths, weaknesses, etc.

D. Talking about the Past

- Being real and honest may open you to receive grace and love
- If necessary, advise each other to seek Godly counsel

E. What to refrain from talking about

- Money, Family background, private and intimate questions



Accountability ✓

① The Discovery Stage

2. Enjoy your Discovery Stage

- Feel free to go out with others
- But too many choices can confuse you

3. Dealing with Sexual Sin

- Past sexual relationships
- Struggling with pornography and lust
- Whole and set free



① The Discovery Stage

4. Live in reality and not fantasy

- ◆ Do not try to reenact what you see in **Movies** on your date
 - Women are looking for someone they can respect and trust
 - Men: Be considerate, have self-control and be caring !

Don't become isolated and exclusive in your dating



(1 Corinthians 13:3-7)

② The Dedication Stage

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"

Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,

Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,

Puts up with anything,

Trusts God always,

Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,

But keeps going to the end

◆ True love—love at its highest form

◆ Can only be found in one's character rather than one's personality



② The Dedication Stage

1. Tackle differences early concerning family, ministry and future

- What kind of family do you want to build?
- How do you support each other's calling from God? ect.

2. Dealing with Conflict

- Find out why you feel this way
- Resolve as soon as possible, forgive and move on

3. Test the Relationship

- Develop an open and honest relationship free of deception and lies

② The Dedication Stage

4. Values

- Finances, calling, career, sex, etc.
- **Important** to discuss your expectations of each area

5. Romance each other

- **Intimacy** begins here !



The closeness that comes from knowing each other better

True intimacy: when you see the true self and character, you love it

② The Dedication Stage

6. Areas of struggles being faced currently

- Share/ Find out if there is an unhealthy fear, debt issues, etc.

7. Where does God figure in your relationship

- Dating should not draw you away from God
- Pray together before and end of the date

Learn “Self-Control”

Titus 2:6 “Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled”

① The Courtship/ Pre-Marriage Stage



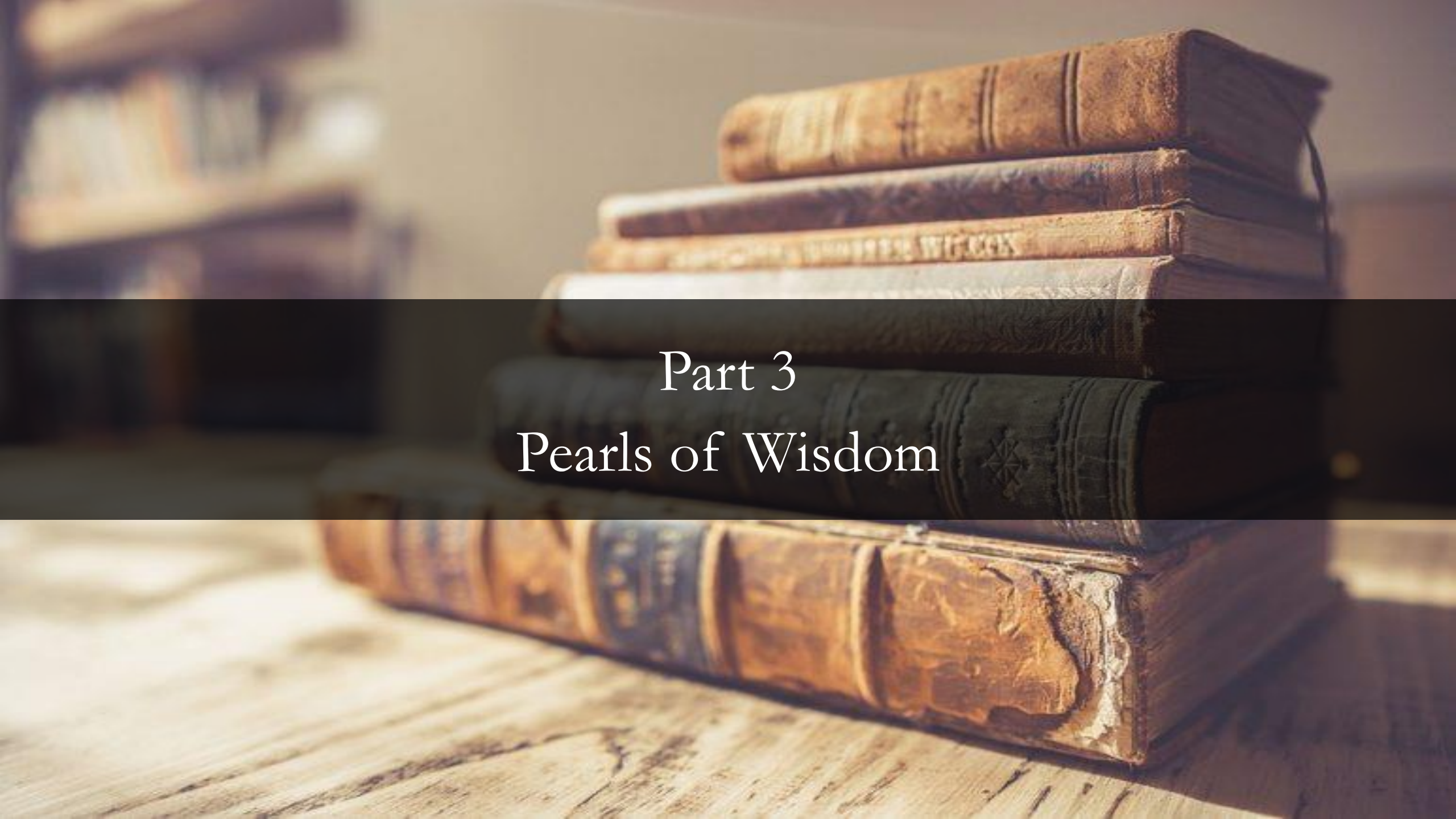
1. Duration

➤ 6 months – 1 year at most

2. Pre-Marital Counseling

➤ 10 weeks of pre-marital counseling



A stack of several old, leather-bound books is shown. The books are arranged in a slightly offset manner, with some lying flat and others standing upright. The leather is worn and discolored, showing various shades of brown and tan. The books are resting on a light-colored wooden surface with visible grain. In the background, more books are visible on a shelf, but they are out of focus. The overall lighting is warm and soft, creating a sense of age and history.

Part 3

Pearls of Wisdom

A stack of several old, leather-bound books is shown in the background, slightly out of focus. The books are stacked horizontally, with their spines visible. The leather is worn and aged, with some gold tooling visible on the spines. They are resting on a light-colored wooden surface.

1. Dating NOT before 21 years old

- Maturity

2. Dating A Much Older Person

- Mistaken to be your parent or relative

3. Dating Someone From Another Church

- Maturity in the Lord
- Involvement in church
- Who has a strong mentoring and pastoral oversight
- Agreement on which church to stay in

4. Dating Someone Overseas

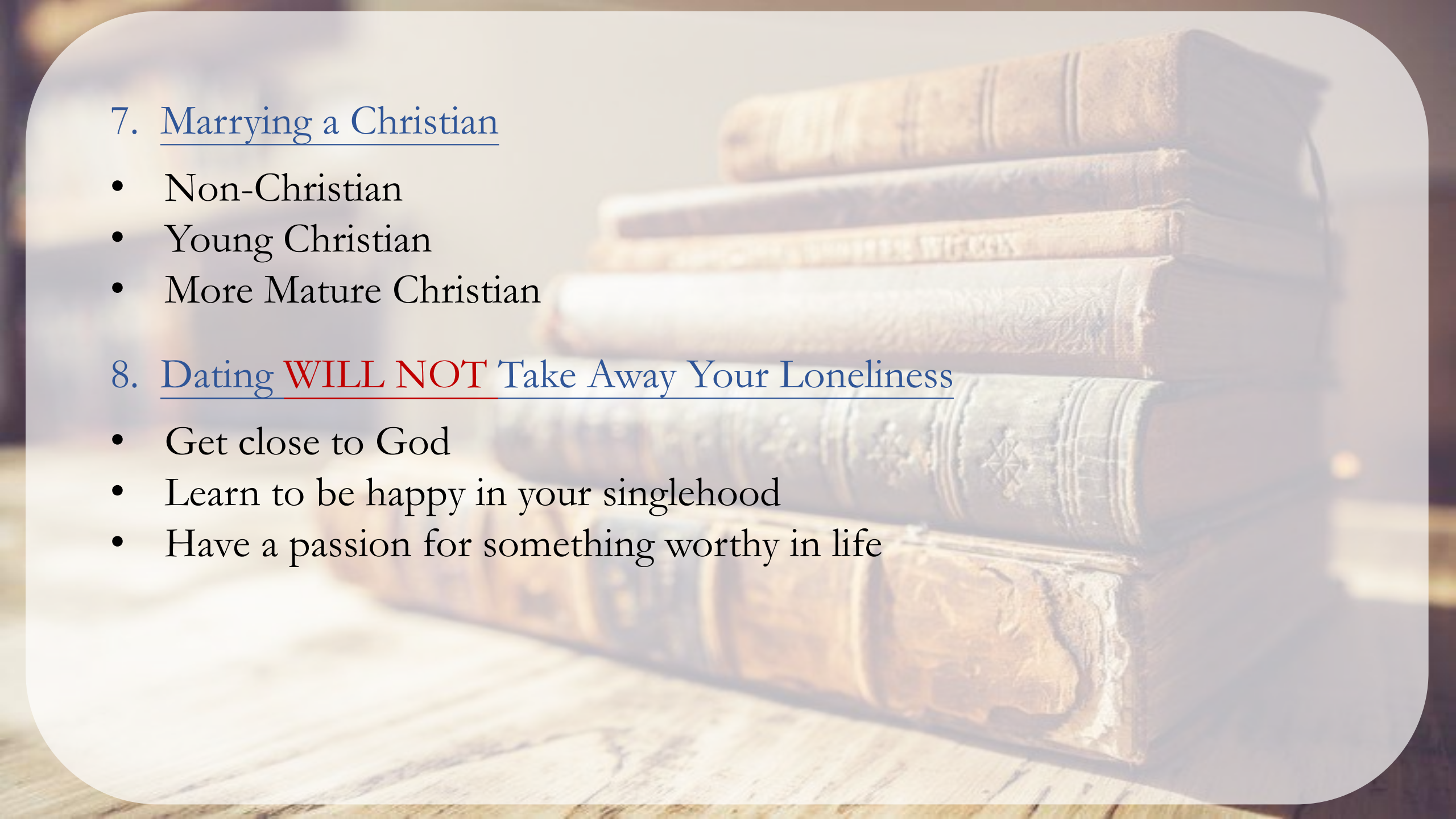
- Not for **LONG** term

5. Wise Dating Philosophy

- Date with freedom but responsibly
- Date with biblical standards

6. Attitude of A Single After 40 years old

- Your attitude will determine your altitude

A stack of several old, leather-bound books is shown, slightly out of focus, resting on a wooden surface. The books have worn spines with visible stitching and some decorative elements. The background is a soft, warm-toned blur.

7. Marrying a Christian

- Non-Christian
- Young Christian
- More Mature Christian

8. Dating **WILL NOT** Take Away Your Loneliness

- Get close to God
- Learn to be happy in your singlehood
- Have a passion for something worthy in life

9. Warning Signs During Dating

- Easily lose temper
- Disrespectful
- Selfish
- Highly insecure
- Never say sorry
- Get drunk
- Watch movies for nudity
- Want to control your life
- Disagree your spiritual leader
- Don't like your parents
- Don't like your friends
- 3rd time or more broken off
- Emotional problems
- Questionable relationship with God

A stack of five old, leather-bound books is shown, slightly out of focus, resting on a wooden surface. The books have worn, brown leather covers with visible stitching and some decorative patterns. The background is a soft, warm-toned blur.

10. Learning From Dating Failures

- Not going on the rebound
- Learn from your mistakes
- Don't be afraid to call it off
- Deciding to date again

11. Typical Reasons Why People Divorce

- Too controlling
- Doesn't listen to me
- Treats me like dirt
- Always irresponsible
- Spends too much money
- Can't connect emotionally anymore
- Too perfectionistic
- Can't trust anymore after an affair
- Wicked, deceitful and prideful
- Emotionally or physically abusive

12. Opposite Attracts

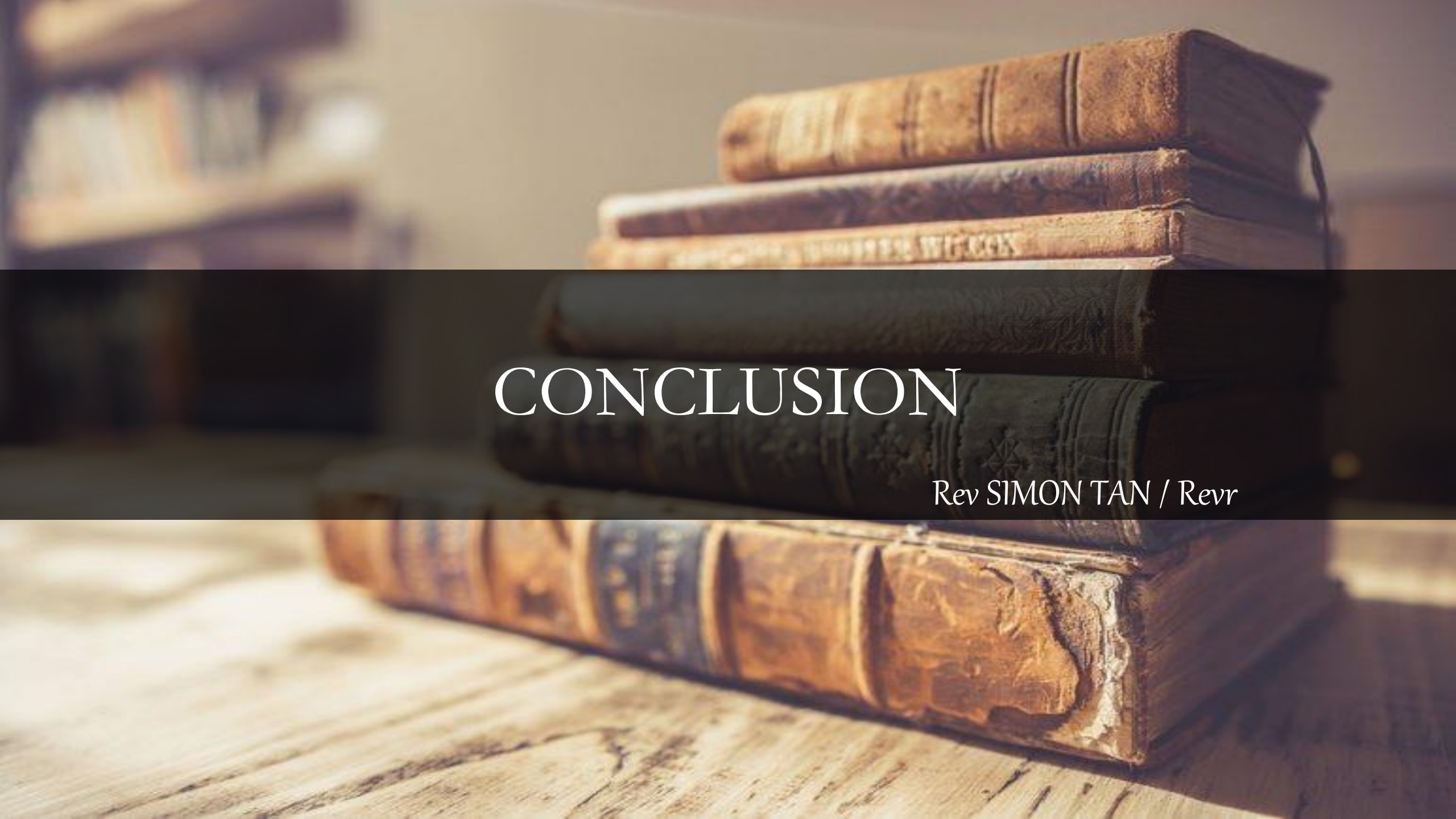
- Work on what you are weak at

13. Insecurities & Conflict Resolution (Understand A Woman)

- Need to feel love/ be heard more
- Need constant assurance about relationship
- Have multiple thoughts and emotions in short period of time, etc.

Dealing with Conflict

- Hug
- Deal with the conflict as soon as possible
- Cool down then come back and talk again

A stack of several old, worn books with leather and cloth covers, resting on a wooden surface. The books are slightly out of focus, with the top one being the most prominent. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a sense of age and history.

CONCLUSION

Rev SIMON TAN / Revr