

# Samson: 7 Ways to Avoid Being Blinded By Love When Dating

By Brian Kluth This 6/26/12 TEACHING VIDEO & HANDOUT will be posted online to share with others [www.christiansinglesindenver.com](http://www.christiansinglesindenver.com)

*"Love is blind, but marriage is a real eye opener!"*

*"Keep your eyes wide open before marriage and half-shut afterwards."*

*"Marriage is one of the leading causes of divorce."*

## 1 - Avoid Unwise Attractions: Don't actively pursue unbelievers, but connect with believers

**Judges 14:1-7** Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. <sup>2</sup> When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife."

<sup>3</sup> His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me." Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother...he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her.

## 2 - Avoid Unhealthy Attachments: Be aware of people controlled by others or that are controlling

**Judges 14:15-20** (The Philistines) said to Samson's (soon to be wife) wife, "Coax your husband into explaining the riddle for us, or we will burn you and your father's household to death. Did you invite us here to steal our property?" Then Samson's wife threw herself on him, sobbing, "You hate me! You don't really love me. You've given my people a riddle, but you haven't told me the answer." "I haven't even explained it to my father or mother," he replied, "so why should I explain it to you?" She cried the whole seven days of the feast. So on the seventh day he finally told her, because she continued to press him. She in turn explained the riddle to her people...And Samson's wife was given to one of his companions who had attended him at the feast.

## 3 - Avoid Ongoing Entanglements: Don't become bitter and seek revenge, but seek to be at peace with others

**Judges 15:3-8** Samson said to them, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them." [He then worked out a plan to burn their crops, vineyards, and olive groves]. When the Philistines asked, "Who did this?" they were told, "Samson, the Timnite's son-in-law, because his wife was given to his companion." So the Philistines went up and burned her and her father to death. Samson said to them, "Since you've acted like this, I swear that I won't stop until I get my revenge on you." He attacked them viciously and slaughtered many of them. **Romans 12:18** Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

## 4 - Avoid Immorality: Stay away from anyone or anything that will lead you morally astray, and connect with others seeking to live right

**Judges 16:1** One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night with her. **1 Cor 6:18** Flee from sexual immorality. **Eph 5:3** But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity...because these are improper for God's holy people. **Rev 21:8** ...the unbelieving...the sexually immoral...the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

## 5 - Avoid Past Mistakes: Gain from your pain, make healthy relationships, and be careful about using the words "I love you".

**Judges 16:4-20** Sometime later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and

subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver (= \$10,000-\$15,000 each).” So Delilah said to Samson, “Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued.” [3 times he doesn’t tell her the truth and the Philistines try unsuccessfully to capture him.] Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.” With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it. So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.” When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.

## **6 - Avoid Spiritual Drifting: Do the things and connect with the people that will strengthen you in the LORD**

**Judges 16:20-21** He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the LORD had left him. Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

**Rev 2:3-4** “You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first!”

## **7 - Avoid Spiritual Defeat: No matter what happened in the past, realize your story is not over.**

**Let God turn your mess into a message, your trials into a triumph, and may your story be used for God’s glory**

**Judges 16:22-30** But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved...<sup>25</sup> While they [the Philistines] were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them...<sup>27</sup> Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform.<sup>28</sup> Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.”<sup>29</sup> Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other,<sup>30</sup> Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

### **GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. (Everyone to answer) Share your name, career field, and one of your all-time favorite movies.**  
**Questions to have 2-3 people answer and discuss as a group:**
- 2. Was there something new that you learned about God and relationships tonight that was helpful?**
- 3. What did you hear in tonight that was a positive encouragement to you?**
- 4. Why do you think some people keep repeat the same relationship mistakes they’ve made in past?**
- 5. What was the most challenging thing you heard tonight?**
- 6. If you really took this teaching to heart, what changes could it make in your life in the future?**
- 7. If you’ve been here in the past or saw any of the teaching videos/handouts online at ChristianSinglesInDenver.com, what has been a favorite, most helpful, or memorable teaching?**