

A horizontal scroll with a textured, aged paper appearance, held by two wooden rollers on the left and right. The text "The Six Dating Transitions" is written in a simple black font across the center of the scroll.

The Six Dating Transitions

One: First date(s)--Get to know one another in a positive way. Make sure your conversation is all **POSITIVE**. Make him feel happy to be around you. If he's interested he will let you know. If you're interested you will accept his attention.

Two: Time of testing. Men have a difficult time being exclusive. After several dates he may pull away trying to decide if you're the one he can make happy. Resist the urge to do anything that resembles chasing him during this period. If he doesn't call, this means (at least at this time) that he decided not to pursue further and you have to move on.

Three: Going steady. You each decide not to see anyone else and open up a little to see if you each can get what you need from the other. It's time to investigate what the two of you are made of, again in a positive sense. Each partner must experience the best the other has to offer. **At this point you are creating a history of dates where he has succeeded and you feel supported.** Be your best self and bring out your partner's best.

Four: It's time to **cultivate verbal intimacy. To communicate on the deepest level.** This communication probes to assess compatibility on how to handle differences, manage disagreements, It scrutinizes likes, dislikes, habits, thinking on politics, religion, health, future parenting, financial

matters, career expectation, housework, conflict resolution, anger, jealousy, insecurities, neediness and so forth. At this point--usually couples have established genuine love and may choose to engage in physical sex. Any earlier could sink a budding romance. (The "whys" are discussed in the "Ready for Marriage" Workbook.)

Five: Commitment. There is only one time to think about it - **BEFORE** you make it. With your heart and mind you pledge unconditional love. To be there for each other in good and bad times. To weather all storms together. To be loyal and faithful. To honor and respect. To love each other for a lifetime. If you're not ready to make that kind of vow--you're not ready for marriage.

Six: Engagement. At this point it is time to practice the two most important skills of staying married: the ability to apologize and to forgive. The perfect time to practice giving apologies and finding forgiveness is during engagement.

Another benefit of the engagement period is to let passionate love "settle" into ordinary every day love with your best friend and lover in a far deeper kind of love that will stand the test of time.

Now your purpose-directed dating has led to your wedding day.

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