**20 Essential Questions To Ask When Dating…**

1. **What do you expect from this relationship?**

Vision is destiny. Without one, you’re likely to end up just anywhere. Lack of an answer may indicate early that they defer planning ahead. Be aware what you are subjecting yourself to.

1. **Do you have your sights set on marriage someday?**

If you have ambitions to marry and the other person doesn’t, save yourself the trouble and run now.

1. **Are you romantically involved with anyone else?**

PLEASE! Ask and pay close attention to your findings. Not everyone dates exclusively. There could be other persons he is courting while also courting you. Get an understanding about where you stand with him. You can’t hold him accountable without letting your requests be known.

1. **Do you have any personal projects you’re passionate about?**

This opens the door to discuss jobs occupations, dreams, career plans, respective talents, and other aspirations.

1. **What is your relationship like with your mother? Grandmother? Sister?**

How a man regards the women in his familial unit is a primer on how you will be treated, considered, and regarded.

1. **Do you have kids?**

The older we become the less likely it will be to find men who aren’t fathers. This is important to know because the answer to this question will influence what your relationship looks like. A man that is a father is always on call, and quite honestly, must prioritize his children before you. You need to know if you’re willing to handle that.

1. **What are your best qualities?**

Self-explanatory. This question is like looking at the nutrition facts on the back of your favorite snack. You want to know the good qualities of what you are subjecting yourself to.

1. **What are your character weaknesses?**

Also self-explanatory. Character weaknesses doesn’t imply someone is a bad person, it just highlights the areas where they are still developing. Truly, you will find these things yourself as you continue to date the person but this is a good way to test their honesty.

1. **Have you ever been involved in domestic violence?**

Whether they were the victim or the assailant, find out. People tend to repeat cycles on others that they have been cycled through themselves. If abuse of any kind—emotional, verbal, sexual, financial, or physical—has been a part of that person’s life, I would proceed with caution.

1. **What are your deal breakers in a relationship?**

What are their standards in a relationship and can you healthily adhere to them.

1. **Are you close with your father?**

A man’s relationship with his dad often informs how he deals with the world. If there is a paternal void he may try to surrogate that void with unhealthy habits. However, if a man has had a present father he may present to be more emotionally intelligent, and open to forming bonds.

1. **What was your childhood like?**

Traumas and experiences of the childhood can and may present during adulthood.

1. **What is your sexual orientation?**

Don’t ever assume. Always ask. People experiment and go through phases. Know who you’re with and their sexual preferences.

1. **Are you aware of any STDs that you may have?**

Looks can be deceiving. Ask and be sure to protect yourself. A few moments of thrill is not worth a lifetime of pills. Also, practicing monogamy can largely reduce the risks of catching STDs or HIV.

1. **Are you involved in any adversarial relationships?**

This question is to simply prevent you from being caught in anyone else’s crossfire. Know the persons reputation preceding them.

1. **What was the demise of your last relationship?**

This can tell you a lot about the person you are dating and their maturity. Do they take responsibility for past faults? Are they forgiving? Do they hold grudges? Can they foster healthy relationships?

1. **Do you believe in a higher being?**

The foundational beliefs of a person’s build condition their virtues, principles, and conduct in their day-to-day life. If they differ too drastically from your own, this could create adverse challenges down the line.

1. **How would your friends describe you?**

This goes back to understanding a person’s reputation that precedes them. Third-party endorsements are the most powerful. Understanding what one’s friends would say in their honor hints at the person’s routine habits, and behaviors that you may not have had a chance to see yet.

1. **What do you believe is the meaning of life?**

This is more of an existential question meant to conjure up deeper discussion about how they view life. Are they a forward-thinker? More laid back? Do they take ownership over their lives? Or are they more passive?

1. **Who do you look up to?**

This simply tells you what behaviors, traits, or habits they intentionally aim to model.