

## It Was Going So Well. Then It Happened...

This happens quite often, and is quite common today, that singles feel they need to get to know each other first before having the 'serious, important' conversations.

Here is an example of what I have witnessed, again and again, when singles want to do it 'their way' and not the recommended, tested, and successful way.

While they seemed to be a perfect match on paper, their dating was a shocking rollercoaster ride. There were amazing conversations that were promising; this looked like a real match. And yet, other conversations confused and alarmed them both with all the red flags coming up loud and clear, to the point that they stopped dating.

You see, they insisted at the onset of dating to see if they liked each other first and got along *before* talking about the big stuff, the spiritual and important subjects, and the serious conversations – what they want or expect in the real, important values and foundations of a Jewish home.

Some examples:

"How many kids do you think you would want to have?"

He said, "Whatever Hashem blesses us with", and she said, "I don't want more than 3 children, max!"

"Are you going to a Minyan every day?" Or at least put on tefillin daily?"

"Do you keep Cholov Yisroel 100%, or only at home?"

"How important is Halacha to you in general, and family purity laws particularly, in the future?"

"Will the Rebbe play a role in everyday life? Or not really?"

After investing hundreds of hours of getting to know each other in the mundane matters, which led them to like each other a lot, they sat down to finally tackle and discuss the 'Big Subjects' and discovered that they were not on the same page at all. There was very little room for either of them to compromise.

She was laxer about her religiousness, and he had pretty high standards and a strong vision of a good, solid, frum home.

They couldn't negotiate their standards and thus ended what had looked like amazing match, since they got along so well until the important stuff came up.

'Disappointment' is an understatement to describe the emotional energy, time and money invested only to find out at the end that they weren't really a match to begin with.

I explained to both parties that if only they would have been coached beforehand and worked out what their "non-negotiables" were (their standards and values they aren't prepared to compromise on), it would have prevented this from happening.

You see, I coach and encourage singles *before* they date to identify what their important standards and values are.

Once they figure out and acknowledge what is absolutely a must, they can now have the confidence and clarity to explain to their parents and the shadchan what their important requirements are for a future spouse!

This is called being proactive – preventing future disappointment, wasted time, money and energy. When we align up the important stuff first, then we have gained a better chance of finding our right match – not the other way around. Once the important values are confirmed to be similar, even before we start the dating process, then we can move on to see if the rest matches up.