

Young Men for God's Glory



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being involved with special music.

As the Lord begins to unfold His plan for your children you will easily recognize His provision for them in a future spouse. We must wait patiently on the Lord to bring along the right one for our children. Be prepared to give careful supervision during the court- ing process. A friend of ours encourages us as parents *“that work- ing with the Lord in the finding of a mate for your children is a very rewarding, pleasant time for all involved. Keep the communication lines very open throughout their lives and when they reach college and beyond, you will find yourselves sharing the deep things of your hearts.”* Mrs. Minnick’s admonition to us as parents is to *“Just train our daughters [children] to be godly Christian [men or] women according to the Scripture, be much in prayer, and the Lord will provide and we will easily recognize His provision.”*

May God be glorified!

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THE BIGGER PICTURE OF MANKIND

If someone showed you a picture of a small fishing boat on a sandy beach and asked you which beach it was on, you probably could not tell them. If another picture was shown to you of the water nearby, you would still have a hard time telling which beach it was lying on. If you saw a picture of the beach from the top of a hill, then, if you had ever been to that beach, you would be able to tell what beach that was and what island it was on. But if you had never been to that island, you would have to see a picture of the island and then the area where the beach is located. If you did not know where that island was located, someone would have to take out a globe of the world and show you the area of the world where the island is. You would have to keep looking at a bigger picture to help you understand which beach the small fishing boat was banked on.

Let us take a look at an even bigger picture of how God views man- kind. If we could soar to space in a rocket, we would begin to see how small our earth is and how huge outer space is. Then God would begin to look very big and great in our understanding, and we would begin to look quite small. Yet God loved us so much and thought us to be important enough that He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, to die in our place so that we could have His forgiveness of sin and dwell with Him forever in Heaven. He also gave us His Word, the Bible, so that we could understand better how to please Him and live for Him. God’s view of mankind is much broader than our view. He has a real purpose and plan for our lives.

As you are waiting on God, spend more time sitting at Jesus' feet, look for more ways to serve the Lord while you have more time, and serve the Lord with all your heart for His glory.

AN ADMONITION TO PARENTS

Parents need to be the proper examples in all the things that we have discussed. Our children need good examples to follow, and you need to be their best example.

Make sure you know the Lord as your Savior; so that you can teach your children at an early age to accept Christ as their Savior from sin. When our girls were babies, we quoted John 3:16 to them every day. We wanted the Gospel to be planted in their minds early to bring about an early salvation. Our daughters were saved between the ages of four and nine.

You must have a life consecrated to God so that you can encourage your children to consecrate their lives to God. Pastor Minnick encourages us as parents to instruct our children in such a way that they would be wholly devoted to Christ by the age of nine. That devotion will continue to grow and become stronger as the years go by with your encouragement and instruction. Teach them early to live for God's glory.

You must also be an example in daily reading God's Word and being in prayer. Pray earnestly for your children and for the spouses that God is preparing for them. Spend time with your children in God's Word and prayer every day. As your children begin learning to read, encourage them to read at least one verse and pray every day privately. Then encourage them to read five verses every day until they are able to read a chapter for themselves. Help them start a prayer list on paper to aid them in their prayer time. If your children begin this habit of spending time at Jesus' feet early in their lives, then they will most likely continue it through out their lives.

need to give our lives to Him in salvation. We must willingly turn from all our sin and accept God's forgiveness so that we might have His free gift of eternal life in Heaven. Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.*" If we could work to earn our way to heaven, then we would be the ones to boast, and Christ would not have to die to offer His forgiveness of sin. But the next verse is beautiful, "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*" The word "workmanship" comes from the word we get our word "poem". As an author labors over his writing to get the proper rhyme, meter, and meaning to make up his poem, so the Lord works in each of His children's lives to make of it a beautiful poem. Since we are God's workmanship, we must let Him do His good works in us which He has prepared for us to do.

How do we know that we have been saved from our sin? We will not be living unto ourselves, and we will be changed so much by God's power that others will recognize it. II Corinthians 5:15, and 17, "*And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.... Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*"

We must not only give our lives to God in salvation, but we must consecrate our whole lives to God and let God be master of our lives. Think of your life as having a throne—a place where everything in your life is controlled. Who is on that throne? Is it "I" or is it "Christ?" Is your life guided by what "I" like to do and what pleases "me," or is it guided by "What do You want, Lord?" Romans 12:1-2, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*" Galatians 2:20, "*I am crucified with Christ:*

nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.” It is only after we let God have full control of our lives that we can really glorify God and please Him in all things. Then we can fulfill the purpose for which He made us.

HOW CAN WE MIRROR CHRIST’S IMAGE?

Usually when we look into a mirror the first thing we see is our face. How can our **countenance**, our face, mirror Christ’s image?

Thoughts — Our thoughts control every part of us, even the way our face looks. When we are very excited and happy, it shows on our face. When we are discouraged, sad, or upset, this shows on our face as well. Philippians 4:8 tells us what must be controlling our thoughts, *“...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

Words — Proverbs 10:20, *“The tongue of the just is as choice silver.”* Proverbs 21:23, *“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles.”* Ephesians 4:29, *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your month, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*

Eyes — Psalm 101:3, *“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes:...”*

Mouth — I Corinthians 10:31, *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

Ears — Proverbs 23:12, *“Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.”* Isaiah 55:3, *“Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live;...”*

Smell — Romans 6:13, *“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God....”*

BUT I AM STILL SINGLE!!

What ever you do, never rush into marriage or any relationship that would hinder you from glorifying God. You might say, “But I am 30 + years old and still no one has taken an interest in me!” Doesn’t Scripture say to *“Be content with such things as ye have?”* Let us just take a look at the verses around that verse. You will find that the verse before this one has to do with marriage. *“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Let your conversation (or life style) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper,...”* Hebrews 13:4-6a. So you see, we are admonished by the Lord not to covet or wish for something that does not belong to us and be content with what God has given us. Is not the Lord with us? He will never leave us and He will be our helper.

If God has someone for you, then be willing to wait on God. *“Therefore will the LORD wait, that He may be gracious unto you, and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for Him”* Isaiah 30:18. *“Trust in the LORD, and do good;.... Delight thyself also in the LORD;.... Commit thy way into the LORD, trust also in Him; and He shall bring in to pass.... Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him.... Wait on the LORD, and keep His way....”* Psalm 37:3-7, 34. Don’t grab the first one who shows you any interest whether she is saved or not, or saved but is not presently living for the Lord. It is worth waiting on God, for His timing is perfect! You will be very glad that you did!

It is possible that the Lord may not want you to get married until you are older or not all. The Apostle Paul encouraged young men to be single like he was. *“For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn”* I Corinthians 7:7-9.

convinced that this is of God. One couple we know had a special meeting in which they shared with their family, friends, and spiritual leaders how God led them together. They did not want people to think that they were going to get married just because they liked each other.

21. After you have the full blessing of your parents or guardian and spiritual leaders, the engagement can take place. Begin planning your wedding in such a way that everything brings much glory to the Lord Who led you together.
22. Your engagement should not be too short as you both need time to get to know one another. At the same time it does not need to be so long that it becomes a temptation to sin. We would suggest no shorter than six months and maybe no longer than a year unless you are away from each other during your engagement.

In going through some notes from Becky's mother, Arlene Cornelius, we found this wonderful explanation concerning courtship. *"The main purpose in courtship is to achieve spiritual oneness. When this is achieved there will be a greater love for God, a new joy in the Scriptures, a new desire to share Christ with others, and a deepening fellowship with one another in these areas. A oneness of spirit is accomplished as both seek to get as close as they can to God in their own personal lives. As each one develops his spiritual responsibilities and opportunities, a deepening fellowship exists and a greater ability of communication with each other develops.*

"Spiritual oneness is destroyed when the purpose of getting together is not to encourage and help the other person in his spiritual development, but rather is on the level of physical involvement, a sense of guilt develops in a growing awareness that their desires are contrary to God's desires. This also destroys communication between them."

How can our **character** mirror God's image?

Galatians 5:22-25, *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

How can our **body** mirror God's image?

I Corinthians 6:15-20, *"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Romans 6:11-13, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."*

WHY WAS ADAM MADE?

The original purpose that God created man was to have dominion (or rule) over God's creation (Genesis 1:28). Due to the disobedience or sin of man in eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:6), the rule over God's creation would be made much more difficult. God cursed the ground to bring forth thorns and thistles, and by the sweat of man's face he would bring forth bread (Genesis 3:18-19).

When God gave the curse on the woman He said, *“Thy desire (to control) shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee”* (Genesis 3:16b, compare with Genesis 4:7). The rule that God has given to man of creation and of the family would now be challenged by the woman that God gave to man to be his helper. The woman’s desire would be to control or rule her husband, but God’s design is for the husband to rule over the wife with love. *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it”* (Ephesians 5:25).

God has created the man to be a leader, to rule, and to be His representative in this world. The believing young man is to serve God by being a leader and an example of God’s love in his leadership.

In order to be young men that glorify God, you need to be prepared for God’s service and for the wife God may have for you. If God wants you to marry, then He only has **one** person He is preparing for you. You may ask, “How will I know the one God wants me to marry? How do I know what God wants me to do with my life?”

PREPARED THROUGH GOD’S WORD

Right now, you need to concentrate on knowing God, pleasing Him, and glorifying Him; so that you can mirror more of God’s image in your life. As you let God have full control of your life each moment of every day, and learn more and more about Him through His Word, and pray each day; then **today** you will be doing God’s will, and **tomorrow**, and **next week**, and by **next year**, and in **five and ten years** from now.

Let us look at Jeremiah 9:23-24, *“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the*

present. One couple whom we know only courted in their parents’ and spiritual leaders’ homes until they were engaged. It was only after they were engaged that they began to be seen together in public, such as sitting together in church.

9. At first, meet together only occasionally and not regularly. As you see that she is a godly young lady that desires to follow your leadership and desires a closer walk with God, then gradually increase your times together.
10. Always have others around you for accountability.
11. Never slack in your walk with the Lord. You need His strength to develop a strong, godly relationship with a young lady. Pray much before each visit with her. Ask God to be glorified in your time spent together and that you would not yield to temptation.
12. Keep your conversation friendly and casual with no bodily contact (I Corinthians 7:1). Bodily contact often leads to sexual sin.
13. Keep busy. Laziness and idleness can encourage sinful desires and thoughts. We are commanded to make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lust in Romans 13:14.
14. Don’t seek to draw her to love you by your physic and actions.
15. Plan now to run as Joseph did if the girl you are courting ever became forward with you or desired to touch you. She is not worthy of you if she desires to treat you this way.
16. Always keep Christ first in your life, and don’t let anyone else take that special place in your life (Matthew 6:33). Have Christ’s glory as your highest ambition (Jeremiah 9:23-24, Psalm 86:12).
17. Consistently spend time in God’s Word and prayer together. Study and memorize God’s Word together. If this young lady is not interested in spending time together in God’s Word and prayer, then discontinue your relationship with her right away.
18. Find ways to serve the Lord together with the guidance of your pastor or spiritual leader.
19. Take time to get to know this young lady, don’t jump into an engagement too quick.
20. Before accepting an engagement, be fully convinced in your mind that this is what God has planned for you. Your parents or guardian and spiritual leaders also need to be fully

together with unbelievers... II Corinthians 6:14-16. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* Romans 12:1-2.

2. Is she what you have been praying for?
3. During your courtship days learn early to be a gentleman. Open doors for her, pull out her chair from the table for her to sit in. Do not be rough and demanding. She is the weaker vessel.
4. Make sure your parents or guardian, whether they are saved or not, are in full approval of your courtship. If they express any doubt or disapproval, honor your parents wishes and discontinue the relationship. If God wants the relationship to be; then, in His perfect time, He will bless you with your parents' approval.
5. If you do not have a parent or guardian to guide you, then seek out one of your spiritual leaders to act as your guide in courtship. You need to be accountable to someone. It is even better to be accountable to several people who are walking with the Lord, in addition to being accountable to your parents or guardian.
6. You and your parents should have time to observe her at church and other activities before agreeing on a courtship relationship. You should not pursue a courtship relationship with a young lady that you know nothing about. Watch how she responds to what is happening around her. For example, does she treat older people with respect? How does she react with children? Does she treat them kindly? Is she known for having a good testimony? Is she helpful? Is she growing in the Lord and eager to learn more of God's Word?
7. Observe how the young lady treats her mother and father or guardian. Does she treat them with respect and obedience? How she responds to them is an indication of how she will respond to the Lord, and to your leadership.
8. Begin your courtship in her home with her parents or guardian

LORD." We are to glory in understanding and knowing our God — this is what God delights in. We are not to glory in "*wisdom*" (our ability to learn and think through things and figure things out), or our "*might*" (our ability and strength to do things), or in "*riches*" (our money and possessions). The LORD wants us to know His "*lovingkindness*" by offering to us His salvation before He brings judgment. He also wants us to know of His "*judgment*" by punishing evil and chastening and correcting us when we do wrong. He also wants us to learn of His "*righteousness*," which is His truth and holiness. We need to study God's Word each day so we can learn more and more about Him. Then we can view life from His perspective. He made us for His pleasure and for His glory. Are we pleasing Him every moment of each day? A good prayer to pray every day is "Lord, help my thoughts, actions, attitudes, and speech be pleasing to You today. *'Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer'*" (Psalm 19:14).

PREPARED THROUGH PRAYER

Pray specifically for your future wife if God would have you to marry. At the same time be willing to remain single to serve God, if that is His will.

Qualities to pray for in a wife

1. Saved early in life (II Corinthians 6:14-16)
2. Reads God's Word and prays each day (Joshua 1:8)
3. Loves God with all her heart, mind, soul, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5)
4. Faithful in attending a good Bible believing church (Hebrews 10:25)
5. Dedicated her life to serve God (Romans 12:1-2)
6. Desires to glorify God in all she does — in her thoughts, actions, attitudes, and speech (I Corinthians 10:31)
7. Concerned for your spiritual well-being — loves you, prays for you, and encourages you (Titus 2:4-5)
8. Willing to wait on God's time for marriage (Psalm 25)

9. Desires to keep a pure relationship (I Corinthians 7:1, I Thessalonians 4:3-4)
10. Is a Godly example and manifests the fruit of the spirit which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self control (Galatians 5:22-23)

You may think that there is no one who would fit these qualities. Remember! It is not your job to find her. You just concentrate on pleasing God and glorifying Him with your life, then in God's perfect time He will bring you together. God knows who she is and where she is. Wherever she is, she needs you to pray for her. Pray that God would prepare her to be your helper, suitable for you, and that God would greatly work in her life for His glory.

Becky began praying for her future husband when she was twelve years of age. When she was fourteen years old, the thought struck her, "I wonder if he is even saved yet." She had prayed that he would be saved, but had not prayed that he would be saved at an early age. She began praying earnestly for his salvation. Years later, after we met and we knew that God had prepared us for each other, we found out that Keith had been saved about that very time.

Keith began praying for a wife a few years after he was saved, but it was not until the year that he met Becky that he became content to remain single, if the Lord so willed.

What about you being prepared for her? You need to pray for yourself that God would prepare you for her. Most of the same qualities that you pray for her, you need to pray for yourself. Ask God to help you prepare you to be the spiritual leader you ought to be.

PREPARED THROUGH PURITY

You also need to keep yourself pure for the one God has for you. *"Let no man **despise** thy youth; but **be thou an example** of the believers, ... **in purity.**"* I Timothy 4:12

your Lord and then with your future wife.

TIPS FOR COURTSHIP

When Keith was a young Christian man seeking for a Christian wife, he soon found that each young lady he introduced to his mother she did not approve of. She indicated that the girl was nice, but she was not the one for him. At first Keith did not appreciate his mother's advise, but he soon learned that she was right each time. He recognized that his parents were given by God to guide him to the God-given mate he so wanted. He then determined that he would not marry anyone unless he received his parents full approval. When Keith informed his parents of his decision, they were shocked yet well pleased. They knew that this was honoring to the Lord. When Keith first introduced Becky to his parents, they knew right away that she was God's will for him to marry.

Another dear friend of ours, who has walked the pathway of courtship with some of her children, shared some helpful advise with us. She encourages young people to obey your parents or guardians with the right attitude and not to be provoked to anger. This will help you have a good relationship with your parents or guardian. If you are interested in someone, seek the advise of your parents or guardian. Let your parents or guardian determine if she would be one that you can have a godly relationship with. It is also good for both your father and his father to talk together and be in agreement on your relationship continuing. Both sets of parents or guardians should get to know one another and have a friendship with one another. If you are living in a place far from your parents, she suggests that your parents or guardian find someone else to help be their eyes for you to guide you in a courtship that your parents approve of. Keep the communication lines open with your parents.

Here are some other helpful tips and reminders:

1. Make sure she is saved, fully dedicated to the Lord, and has the same religious convictions, and not just pretending to be saved and dedicated to the Lord. *"Be ye not unequally yoked*

offered to give his camels drink as well. That was quite a task as camels drink an enormous amount of water. This act showed that Rebekah was gracious and kind, and a willing hard-working young lady. She was even hospitable by inviting him to stay with her family. When she was told about Isaac, she was willing to return with this servant to become the wife of a man she had never met. No wonder Abraham's servant worshipped the Lord and said, *"Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren"* (Genesis 24:27). Even Rebekah's family recognized that this was from the Lord and were willing to let Rebekah return with him. *"Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken"* (Genesis 24:50-51).

Isaac later followed his father's example and told his son Jacob, to go back to his own people to find a wife. He did not want Jacob to take a wife from the daughters of Canaan (Genesis 28:1-3). Laban, his father-in-law, was an idol worshipper and not a true worshipper of God, yet Abraham and Isaac desired that their sons find wives from their **own** people. Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father, so he took a wife from the daughters of shmael, Abraham's son, who was born to Hagar.

You can be assured that if you are concentrating on being obedient to the Lord in all areas of your life, that the Lord will give you and your parents or guardians guidance concerning the right woman for you. The Lord will show you and everyone involved that this is clearly what the Lord has planned for you. You will have the blessing of your parents or guardians, and your spiritual leaders.

Remember why God made us? He made us for His glory and for His pleasure. May the Lord help you to patiently wait on His right time for the right one. May you bring much glory to Him as you wait, and as you develop a godly life-long relationship, first, with

By yielding yourself to God you can be the proper example in purity. Write down some guidelines for yourself so that when you are tempted to go astray you can remind yourself of what God expects you to do.

1. **Guard your thoughts.**

If you dwell on sinful thoughts, it becomes sin. Throw sinful thoughts out of your mind by God's power and replace those thoughts with a Scripture verse or a hymn. Avoid things that would encourage wrong thoughts like TV, magazines, sensual (to be physically attracted to) music, and books (especially pornographic books). Fill your mind with things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, virtuous, and praise worthy, as we are commanded to think in Philippians 4:8. Proverbs 23:7 reminds us, *"for as he thinketh in his heart so is he:..."* Your thoughts will become actions sooner or later if you dwell on them.

You may think that you could never fall. After all, you are faithful in your church attendance and in reading your Bible and praying. You witness for Christ and serve Him. I Corinthians 10:12 teaches, *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."* It is God's grace that keeps us from falling! *"Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall"* (Proverbs 16:18). Never develop a trust in yourself. Your trust must be only in the Lord (Isaiah 26:4).

2. **Guard who and what you look upon.**

The Lord says in Matthew 5:28, *"...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."* If you desire to look on a woman to lust after her in order to have her, then in God's eyes you have already done it. Guard who or what you look and think upon, and how you look at them. Job says in Job 31:1, *"I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"*

3. **Guard the places you go.**

Joseph set a good example for us in Genesis 39. Potiphar's wife tried to tempt Joseph to lie with her. Joseph refused to listen to her or to even be with her. While Joseph was doing his busi-

ness, she caught him by his garment to force him to lie with her. He did not want to sin, so he left his garment in her hand and ran from her.

Your goal should be to never be in a room, house, or vehicle alone with a girl or woman. Don't lie down with a girl or woman, even if it is on the grass or beach. It is best not to walk at night alone. Never be in a dark place with a girl or woman. *"Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil"* (John 3:19b). Most parties can be a great source of temptation. The girls tend to dress very sensually and immodestly; and the guys drink, act crazy, and do things that are wrong. The loud sensual music only encourages wrong doing. In order to avoid being tempted to sin you should not go to these types of activities.

4. Guard the people you are with.

"Evil [companionship] corrupts good [manners]" (I Corinthians 15:33b). Friends can encourage you to do right or wrong. Peer pressure can be very strong in persuading you to sin. You must guard who you choose as your friends. You want to make sure that you honor God in all you do.

5. Guard your music.

Yes, even music can hinder you from being pure. The music you listen to should not be chosen because **you like it** or because it makes you **feel good**. The choice of your music should be based on what God likes and what brings honor and glory to Him (I Corinthians 10:31). It should reflect God's holiness. *"But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of [living]; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy"* (I Peter 1:15-16). The music we listen to is for the Lord, *"...singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"* (Ephesians 5:19b). Music that honors the Lord speaks God's message (I Chronicles 25: 1-3).

Romans 12:1-2 remind us that we are not to be *"...conformed to this world: but... transformed by the renewing of your mind,...."* We are not to let the world mold our music. The music of the world draws out fleshly desires and actions by its sensual tones and words, and encourages you to sin in your mind and with your body. As a believer you should have a new song— a different, distinct

marry her. This method of finding a mate may or may not involve the guidance of the parents or guardian. It wasn't long after dating was introduced, that more marriages begin ending in divorce. It makes sense. As the emotional heart is drawn from one person to another in a dating relationship, so after marriage you may be tempted to look for someone else to satisfy you. Thus you will become unfaithful to your wife or end your marriage in divorce.

Courtship typically involves the parent or guardian to guide you in choosing a wife. It begins with the idea that this couple, with the approval of their parents or guardians, plans to get married unless the Lord intervenes. Courtship, we believe, is the Biblical approach to marriage. In I Corinthians 7:37-38, the father has the authority to keep his daughter as a virgin or to give her in marriage. In Genesis 18:19, the Lord said of Abraham (the father of the faithful), *"For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."* The Lord charged fathers to make sure that their children and grand children not forget God and His mighty works (Psalm 78:4-8). What better way can they do that than to assist their children in choosing the right spouse, who will help teach the next generation the works of God and His commandments.

Christian parents have the advantage over unsaved parents in that they have the Lord to guide them in assisting their children in finding the right spouse. Let us look at the pattern of courtship that the Lord gave us in Genesis 24 of Abraham choosing a wife for his son, Isaac. Abraham told the oldest servant of his house to promise not take a wife for Isaac from the daughters of Canaan, but to find a wife from Abraham's *own* country and relatives (or people). He told his servant that the Lord would send his angel before him. The Lord did indeed go before him and prepared the way. The servant prayed and asked the LORD to prosper him and have a young lady willingly give him and his camels a drink from the well. The Lord answered even before he had finished praying. Rebekah came and willingly gave Abraham's servant a drink. Then she

Determine in your heart that you will not settle for anything less than a true love relationship which reflects the love of our Heavenly Father.

You may be a young man who does not have a godly parent or guardian to give you godly guidance and encouragement in a relationship with a young lady. You must still respect your parent or guardian's wishes unless they encourage you to sin. Seek a spiritual leader who can help guide you. You must strive with all your heart to be godly and bring glory to God. You must do this first, by being saved, and then consecrating your life to God, and daily sitting at Jesus' feet in God's Word and prayer. Pray for your future wife and yourself, faithfully attend a Bible believing church, and memorize Scripture. Purpose in your heart that you will remain pure in your thoughts, your gaze, the places you go, and the people you are with. Remain pure in your music, in how you conduct your body, talk, behavior, in your dress, and in your testimony.

Determine in your mind that you will not go the selfish way of infatuation, but that you will desire to have a true love relationship with the approval and guidance of your spiritual authorities.

You might say, "But I have sinned already." God can forgive you if you ask Him to. Determine to do right from now on with God's help. What God would say to you is what He said in John 8:3-11 to the woman who sinned with her body, "Go and sin no more!"

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DATING AND COURTSHIP

Dating, as we know it today, can have some real problems. Often in a dating relationship there is more infatuation than true love expressed. The idea behind dating is to find the right wife by having a date with this girl; and if she is not what you want, then you try someone else. If she does not work out, then you keep going out with different girls until you are comfortable that you have found the right one to marry. Then you only date that one and

song. Why? Because "He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD" (Psalm 40:2-3).

6. Guard your body.

Watch how you act, who you touch, and how you touch a woman. I Corinthians 7:1 instructs us, "...It is good for a man not to touch a woman." "Touch" in this verse has the idea of continual, repeated touch in order to manipulate; not just a handshake at church, although even a lingering handshake can give the wrong message. Our body is for the Lord and not for fornication (I Corinthians 6:13-20). Touching arouses passions that need to be reserved only for marriage. Proverbs 6:27-29 teach us, "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbor's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent." These verses are referring to touching a married woman, but the principle applies to the unmarried. Decide now to say "no" when you desire to touch a woman like this or when a girl or woman tries to touch your body. Don't let a girl or woman sit close to you or kiss you. You will be so glad on your wedding day that you waited.

7. Guard your talk.

Sometime read through Proverbs and underline all the verses and words that deal with speech. It will be an eye opener to you. We are warned of flattery in Proverbs. "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproof of instruction are the way of life: to keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman" (Proverbs 6:23-24). "The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh forwardness (things perverted or twisted)" (Proverbs 10:32). "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom" (James 3:13). Be careful how much you share with a girl in your words verbally or in passing notes. The more you

share together, the more you will become attached to that person. Save those times for a lasting relationship with a young lady, with the approval of your parents or guardians.

8. Guard your dress.

Usually the man is affected physically by the sight of a modestly or immodestly dressed woman. Even a woman can be effected by sight, as Potiphar's wife in Genesis 39:7. She *"cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said lie with me."* Young men, do not dress like all of the rest of the young men who do not know Christ. Men ought to be modest too. Do not draw attention to your body. You do not need to show off your muscles or hairy chest. You want a godly young lady to be your wife, not some harlot.

We are commanded in Scripture to *"Abstain from all appearance of evil"* (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Your body should not have the appearance of evil and learn to *"...approve things that are excellent"* (Philippians 1:10a). When you cause someone else to sin, then you have sinned as well. Purpose to keep yourself pure even in the way you dress, so that you as a godly young man will remain pure in your testimony before all. The right one will love you for who you are and not for the form of your body. If a girl or woman is mainly concerned with your body, then they are only lusting after you and do not have a true love for you.

9. Avoid sex before marriage.

The physical relationship (fornication) or sex before marriage brings with it many problems. The first problem this brings is God's judgment upon you. *"Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge"* Hebrews 13:4. The second problem this brings is a guilty conscience. Since this is sin, God will see to it that you will experience life-long regret and guilt. Even though sex brings some pleasure for a short time and some excitement, it will also leave you with the memory of those partners. Even if you do find God's choice of a wife for your life, fornication will permanently stain your marriage relationship. The third problem this brings is that it will affect your spiritual life and physical life. This sin will drive a wedge between you and God. God's hand of blessing will be removed

True Love: Works out disagreements with God's help.

Infatuation: Quarrels often and makes up to each other mainly for hugs and kisses.

True Love: Wants to obey regulations set down by the parents or guardians, so are only together when and where the parents approve.

Infatuation: Pushes regulations set by parents such as when to be home, where to go, and not to be alone. Desires to do his own thing. Plans ways in which they can be together or talk or pass notes when parents do not approve.

True Love: Does not seek a friendship with anyone who has glaring faults.

Infatuation: Overlooks faults because, "She loves me and that is all that matters."

Our niece, Caroline Cornelius, wrote a very good description of true love and infatuation. *"Most people in the world today have the wrong idea of what love is. They confuse infatuation with real love. Infatuation and love are two very different things. When someone is infatuated they are so carried away with another person that they don't know what is going on around them. They cannot think straight. They are sexually attracted to the other person. A sexual attraction leads to lust, not love. Lust is selfish, and ruins the lives of the people involved.*

"Real love is a very precious thing. It does not come from a sexual attraction, but from a strong, well-grounded friendship. You will love every aspect of the person, not just see and love the outside. You will enjoy being with that person and can share many things with them. Real love is unselfish, and caring. It doesn't give up when things are not going right. It brings the best out of you. You will not be lazy or dreamy. You will work hard, trying to do your best for the one you love. Real love is not just a wonderful feeling, it is a relationship that grows, strengthens, and bonds together so tightly, nothing can ever pull it apart or cause it to break down."

True Love: Desires the approval of godly friends and spiritual authorities (Pastor, youth leader, S.S. teacher) in his friendship with a girl.

Infatuation: Develops a friendship with a girl no matter what others think and does not seek the approval of godly friends or spiritual leaders.

True Love: Is more attracted to a girl's godly character than to her looks or popularity, and dresses to bring out his own godly character to keep her from sinning.

Infatuation: Is attracted to the attention a girl gives and to her good looks and popularity, rather than looking for godly character.

True Love: Desires to wait for any touching from a girl until the wedding day. Seeks to get to know his special young lady as a person.

Infatuation: Desires to be touched by a girl without taking time to really get to know her first. Is not willing to wait for marriage for a physical relationship with a girl.

True Love: Willing to wait for God's time for marriage.

Infatuation: Wants to be married now or have a physical relationship now!

True Love: Unselfish—thinks more about how to help others and gives oneself for others.

Infatuation: Selfish—thinks only about "myself and I" and what I can get out of this relationship.

True Love: Encourages one another in the Lord, reads God's Word privately and together, memorizes Scripture together, and attends church faithfully. Desires to grow in the Lord and serve the Lord.

Infatuation: Not too concerned about reading God's Word privately or together, memorizing Scripture, or faithfully going to church. Is more concerned of being with a girl and thinking about her than desiring to grow in the Lord or serve the Lord.

until this is forsaken. You could also get some venereal disease that could take your life. I Corinthians 6:18 teaches us to "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

10. **Guard your testimony.**

"Let no man despise thy youth; but **be thou an example** of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Timothy 4:12).

11. **Guard your time in God's Word.**

"...Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. ... Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:13-16). How important it is to guard your time in God's Word. It is here that you get the strength to do right and to maintain a pure life. Make sure that you do not let a day go by without spending some time in God's Word and prayer. You may only start out by spending five minutes in your devotional time with the Lord; but as you come to love your Lord and desire to please Him more and more, that time will increase. Read Psalm 1 and Joshua 1:8.

PREPARED DOMESTICALLY

There are domestic ways that you need to be prepared for the one God has for you. By learning these things you will also learn responsibility. When you are given a task to do, complete it well with a good attitude.

Learn either the skill of your father or some other skill that would help you support yourself and your future family. Learn to save your money. Keith began saving his money for a house when he was fourteen years of age. You should also be able to budget and spend your money wisely. Learn to keep things neat and tidy. Remember the old saying, "There is a place for everything and

everything in its place.” Put things away in their proper place right away, so that you can find what you need when you need it. Then things will be kept neater. No woman wants a sloppy husband.

Much of your obedience to your parents or guardian comes in doing tasks around the house that you are asked to do. As you learn to obey your authorities willingly, immediately, and with a good attitude, you are preparing yourself to respond the same way to the Lord when He asks you to do something for Him. Always obey that still small voice of the Lord inside you.

PREPARED FOR GOD’S SERVICE

As you mature in the Lord, you should volunteer to help in God’s service. Be willing to do the littlest thing for God’s glory such as: straightening the hymn books, picking up trash, and cleaning the church. Learn to assist in children’s Sunday school classes with Scripture memory, songs, and crafts. Learn to teach a Bible lesson. Maybe you can sing a special song or play an instrument for the service. Help with special programs and meetings. Be friendly to visitors. Visit the elderly and witness to the lost. Be glad for any opportunity great or small to serve your Lord!

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUE LOVE AND INFATUATION?

TRUE LOVE—reflects God’s love. It is a love that lets Christ have control of your life as we learn in Galatians 2:20, *“I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”* True love is not selfish but willingly gives to help others. It demonstrates the characteristics of love in I Corinthians 13:4-8a, *“Love suffereth long (is patient), and is kind; love vaunteth not itself (is not jealous), is not puffed up (does not brag and is not arrogant), doeth not behave itself unseemly (or rude), seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked,*

thinketh no evil (does not take into account a wrong suffered); rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth....” Genesis 24 gives us a Biblical example of true love in Isaac and Rebekah. Rebekah was chosen for Isaac because of the Lord’s leading and because she had excellent inner qualities. She had her parents approval in marrying Isaac. Her father said in Genesis 24:50-51, *“...The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her by thy master’s son’s wife’s the LORD hath spoken.”* When Isaac saw Rebekah, he *“brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, ... and she became his wife; and he loved her...”* Genesis 24:67.

INFATUATION—according to Webster’s Dictionary, means “To inspire or possess with a foolish, irrational, or blind passion, as of love, admiration, enthusiasm.” I John 2:15-17 describes this false love well, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of live, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”* We find a Biblical example of infatuation in Samson and the three different women that he played around with in Judges 14-16. Another example in Scripture is found in II Samuel 13 when Amnon, King David’s son, was “sick” with “love” for his sister, Tamar. Read these two passages.

True Love: Has as a priority to maintain a close walk with God and desires to please the Lord above pleasing a girl.

Infatuation: Thinks more about pleasing self and a girl than about pleasing God.

True Love: Desires to please one’s parents and seeks their approval in a relationship with a girl.

Infatuation: Desires to please a girl no matter what his parents think.