

“Biblical Manhood and Womanhood”  
(Godly Friends, Part 6)

- I. How to be a godly young man or woman.
  - A. If you want to be a godly man or woman, what must you do with regard to,
    - 1. The world? Get your eyes and heart off the world (Mark 4:18-19).
    - 2. Your sin? Work hard at putting your sins to death (Rom. 8:13).
    - 3. An example to follow? Follow Jesus’ example in everything.
    - 4. God’s Word? Believe what He says in His Word – bank your life on it.
  - B. What should you do with regard to your parents? “Obey your parents in the Lord” (Eph. 6:1).
    - 1. What does it mean to honor them?
      - a. To listen respectfully when they speak to you.
      - b. To treat them respectfully when you speak to them and about them.
      - c. To learn what they teach you.
      - d. To submit to them as they exercise the authority the Lord has given them without delay, complaining, or arguing.
    - 2. Why should you obey your parents?
      - a. Because the Lord commands it.
        - (i) Why does He ordain authority? To curb sin and to encourage what’s right.
        - (ii) How long will you be under authority? You are under authority from the time you’re conceived until the time you die, and throughout all eternity.
        - (iii) When you submit to God-ordained authority, whose authority are you really submitting to? God’s.
        - (iv) Why does the Lord call you to honor your parents?
          - (a) Because – in a human sense – you owe your existence to them.
          - (b) Because you owe your subsistence/life to them – you should be grateful.
          - (c) Because you need someone older and more experienced to guide you.
            - (1) What are your parents trying to help you do?
            - (2) Are they just making you study for no reason?
            - (3) They’re trying to prepare for life.
      - b. What kind of example did Jesus leave you in this area? “And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them” (Luke 2:51).
      - c. What does God promise to do for you if you will honor and obey your parents? “Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth” (vv. 2-3).
      - d. What does the Lord threaten if you won’t honor and obey them.
        - (i) “The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley

will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it” (Prov. 30:17).

(ii) Why does He promise and threaten? To motivate you to do the right thing.

e. How long are you to honor your father and mother? As long as you live.

f. Does it really matter how you treat your parents?

(i) Yes. How do you know? God says in His Word that it does.

(ii) If you believe the Bible, you will do what it says.

C. To be a godly young man or woman, or older man or woman, you must have godly friends. “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm” (Prov. 13:20). Let’s consider this evening why it’s important to have godly friends.

1. “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals’” (1 Cor. 15:33).

a. What is bad company? Those who influence you to do what’s wrong.

b. What affect will bad company have on you? You will very likely become like those you spend time with.

2. “Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of *dough*?” (1 Cor. 5:6).

a. What does Paul mean here by leaven? A small ungodly influence that eventually becomes great.

b. What does he mean by the lump of dough? The whole fellowship/body.

c. How would you apply this to the company you keep? How much is too much?

(i) Even a little bad influence can eventually affect all your morals.

(ii) Why? Because it opens the door/removes the restraints on sin.

d. Where was the influence Paul was referring to – outside or inside the church?

e. Can there be people in a local fellowship that you might need to avoid? Yes.

3. “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; *avoid such men as these*” (2 Tim. 3:1-5).

a. What is the best way to deal with ungodly people? Avoid them.

b. “My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent” (Prov. 1:10).

c. What if saying “no” puts you out of the “in” group?

(i) That’s where the Lord wants you to be in the first place.

(ii) “‘Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,’ says the Lord. ‘AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAR; and I will welcome you’ (2 Cor. 6:17).

4. Some argue that we need to mix with bad company – that our youth need to be salt and light to the youth in darkness – otherwise, they won’t have a Christian witness. Is there anything wrong with this way of thinking?

- a. Paul says, “Do not be deceived”: if you make them your companions, they will corrupt you.
  - b. If you don’t minister to them, who will?
    - (i) Those far less likely to be affected by them.
    - (ii) Who would these be? Either peers with a very strong commitment to Jesus or those who are older (their superiors).
5. What kind of company should you keep if you want to be godly?
- a. “I am a companion of all those who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts” (Ps. 119:63).
    - (i) What does it mean to fear the Lord? To have a holy dread of disobeying Him.
    - (ii) What is true of those who fear Him? They obey His precepts/commandments.
    - (iii) You should be around those who are obedient if you want to obey.
  - b. “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42). “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Heb 10:23-25).
    - (i) Where are you going to find the right kind of friend? In the body of Christ – the church.
    - (ii) What kind of friend should you be to others? You should be the kind that obeys and encourages others to do the right thing.
    - (iii) Why do you suppose the Lord commands us not to neglect meeting for worship and fellowship? So we can give this kind of encouragement.

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Deal next with what to look for in a spouse – a believer, theologically compatible, mature, finished with education, prepared to provide – shouldn’t even look at someone, or enter into relationship with anyone who isn’t.

Then don't go dating route – but courtship with accountability.

“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,’ says the Lord. ‘AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,’ says the Lord Almighty” (2 Cor. 6:14-18).