

“Biblical Manhood and Womanhood”  
(Godly Friends, Part 8)

- I. How to be a godly young man or woman. Quick review.
  - A. If you want to be a godly man or woman, you need to,
    1. Stop following the world; follow Jesus instead.
    2. Study the Bible carefully to know Jesus, and what He wants you to do.
    3. Fight hard at putting your sins to death (Rom. 8:13).
    4. To do all this, you must trust Jesus to give you His strength.
  - B. If you want to be a godly young man or woman:
    1. You need to honor your parents (Eph. 6:1).
      - a. The Lord has given them the responsibility to prepare you for life.
      - b. So you need to submit to them, obey them.
      - c. If you do, the Lord promises blessing and a long life (vv. 2-3).
      - d. The road to happiness isn't by writing your parents off, but by listening to them and submitting.
    2. You need to have godly friends. “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm” (Prov. 13:20).
      - a. Bad company corrupts good morals (1 Cor. 15:33), even a little of it (1 Cor. 5:6); and so you need to avoid it (2 Tim. 3:1-5).
      - b. Find friends who will help you do what's right. “I am a companion of all those who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts” (Ps. 119:63).
      - c. Try to be the same kind of friend to others (Heb. 10:24-25).
- II. Courtship and Marriage.
  - A. Review.
    1. Once you've grown and you're ready for life, the next thing you need to do is find a godly spouse, if the Lord hasn't given you the gift of contented singleness.
      - a. Because if you don't have the gift of singleness, you will be tempted (1 Cor. 7:1-5) – sexual sin is a serious matter (1 Cor. 6:9-10).
      - b. Because it's not good to be alone (Gen. 2:18) – you need a companion to share your life with.
      - c. Because it's your turn now to raise children who will know and walk with the Lord.
        - (i) The Lord wants future generations to serve Him.
        - (ii) And you certainly want your children to go to heaven and not hell.
    2. Since these things are true, what kind of spouse should you be looking for?
      - a. If you want to raise children who will know and walk with the Lord, what should be true of your spouse?
        - (i) He or she needs to be someone who knows and is walking with the Lord.

- (a) They need to believe the fundamentals at least.
  - (b) They need to be trusting Jesus alone for their salvation.
  - (c) They need to be walking in His ways (repenting).
- (ii) That's why the Lord commands you, "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).
- (iii) That's why dating or marriage evangelism is wrong from the start.
- b. If you want someone who will be a good companion, what should you be looking for?
- (i) They need to be a believer.
  - (ii) They need to be as doctrinally compatible as possible – same beliefs, same church.
  - (iii) They need to share a similar way of life; have similar goals – the more alike you are, the better it will be for both of you.
  - (iv) They need to be mature and ready for marriage.
    - (a) Men need to be mature enough to provide loving, Christ-like leadership; need to be able to provide.
    - (b) Women need to be mature enough to submit to loving, Christ-like leadership; need to be able to fulfill their responsibilities (would be good to have some vocation to fall back on in case the marriage doesn't last for some reason).
- c. If you find someone who meets these qualifications, you will likely have a happy marriage.
- d. If they don't meet these qualifications, you will either be unhappy or very unhappy.
- (i) Your marriage very likely won't last.
  - (ii) Is that what want?
3. When should you look for a spouse?
- a. When you are ready to be the kind of spouse your spouse needs.
  - b. If you're not, don't look; and don't look at someone who isn't ready (Ex. J/W).

B. How should you go about finding the right kind of person? Let's compare the two most common ways – dating and courtship – to see which offers the better way to get what you're commanded and what you need.

1. Dating.

a. Pros: Fast, easy, convenient.

b. Cons:

(i) Begins far too early – not mature, not ready for marriage.

(ii) Far more likely of getting into relationship with unbeliever.

(iii) Far more likely of getting into relationship with someone who isn't ready.

(iv) Far more likely of getting into relationship without the consent of parents.

(v) Difficult to be held accountable.

(a) Far more likely to fall into sexual sin.

(b) Far easier to form attachments that will only cause pain or shame in the future.

(c) This is the problem with giving your heart to someone you will never marry.

(vi) Why would you want to enter into a relationship that doesn't lead to marriage? Why would you want to enter into a relationship when you're not ready for marriage with someone else who's not ready for marriage? Can you think of any godly reasons?

2. Courtship.

a. Pros:

(i) Begins at the right time:

(a) You're ready for marriage.

(b) Can more objectively look for someone who is ready for marriage.

(ii) Far less likely to get involved with an unbeliever.

(iii) Far less likely to get involved with someone who isn't ready.

(iv) Far more likely to have the consent of all the parties involved – both sets of parents.

(v) Much better accountability.

(a) Oversight of parents – counsel of friends – references.

(b) Far less likely to fall into sexual sin – far less likely to feel shame in the future.

(vi) Far less likely to give your heart to someone you won't marry – because you can be much more objective in your assessment – far less likely to feel pain in the future.

(vii) Can get to know the person far more thoroughly and in a much less stressful environment – you both know what you're doing and why.

- b. Cons: not as fast, easy or convenient – but will save you a lot of grief in the future.
3. How should you go about looking for a godly spouse?
- a. Approach it prayerfully.
  - b. Seek the counsel of your parents.
  - c. Where should you look?
    - (i) In the local church.
    - (ii) In the larger Christian community.
    - (iii) Do not enter courtship (or engagement) without the consent of parents (and engagement only if you are fully intending to get married).

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