



INTRODUCTION TO DATING, DIAMONDS & DIAPERS

By RON ADEMA

Hi, my name is Ron Adema and I wrote this book to talk to teenagers about the pitfall and pleasures of dating.

Why? Because over the past 37 years while working with Christian young people I have seen the Devil try to establish bad dating habits which in the end either damage or destroy marriages and family life.

“In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”(2 Corinthians 2:11)

In America, dating is the primary custom for the selection of a mate for marriage. Therefore, dating is a means to an end – marriage and family.

• World Book Dictionary defines dating as **“the practice or an instance of having social engagements with a person of the opposite sex.” (pg.535)**

For Christians, dating should be a spiritual experience like any other social activity.

This book was written to remind Christians that dating is as much a part of your spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ as spiritual service.

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Colossians 3:17)

Therefore, your dating should reflect Christian values and virtues. It should build you and your date up spiritually and not tear them down.

This book is the first of a three part series entitled – Dating, Diamonds, and Diapers.

The dating series was written to talk to Christian young people regarding what the Bible says about these five specific areas of dating.

- BOYFRIEND MYTH – THE BIG LIE!
- PUPPY LOVE – CAN LEAD TO A DOG’S LIFE!
- GOIN’ STEADY – PUT OUT OF CIRCULATION!
- PARTYING, PETTING, AND PRENANCY – AND WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
- DATE RAPE – CRIME NOT SEX!

**“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life.”
(Proverbs 4:23)**



THE BOYFRIEND MYTH

How would you define the following three things: dating, boyfriend, and myth?

Let's examine the way the World Book Dictionary defines them.

- § Dating** is defined as a social engagement between persons of the opposite sex.
- § Boyfriend** is defined as a girl's sweetheart or steady male companion
- § Myth** is defined as an imaginary person or thing.

I chose to use the more popular title, The Boyfriend Myth, rather than girlfriend because of the way they are used in the American culture. However everything that I am saying regarding dating applies to both boys and girls.

**We will define The Boyfriend Myth as a mythical social engagement (dating)
Between a girl and a boy in which she is seriously interested.**

I use the term myth when God is left out of the dating selection process. It is my opinion after thirty-seven years of Christian counseling that the Boyfriend Myth contributes too much of the failure within marriages and families in America. It is my opinion that Satan tries to establish bad relationship habits and consequences during dating that will later damage and even destroy marital and family relationships.

“In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.” (2 Corinthians 2:11)

This lesson is written in an attempt to forewarn and forearm Christian teens against the subtle and deceptive dating schemes of the Satan.

DATING IS AN AMERICAN CUSTOM for the selection of a mate for the divine institutions of marriage and family. In some cultures, the parents of families select the mates for their children.

For example, this was true in the biblical days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. One of the great love stories from this biblical period was Jacob and Rachel.

It is interesting because it had similar problems associated with the schemes of Satan through parental selection. It is similar because God was left out of the selection. You can read about it in Genesis 29.

“So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?’” (Genesis 29:25)

In contrast, the love story between Isaac and Rebekah is filled with the counsel of God's selection. You can read about it in Genesis 24.

“And he said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. Behold, I am standing by the spring and daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw the water. Now may it be that the girl to whom I say ‘please let down your jar so that I will drink’ and

who answers ‘drink and I will water your camels also’ be the one whom Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac. By this I shall know that Thou hast shown lovingkindness to my master and it came about before he had finished speaking that behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham’s brother Nabor came out with her jar on her shoulder.”

(Genesis 24:12-15)

And as they say, the rest is biblical history.

It is interesting that American parents forget that teen’s date with marriage in mind. Teens also have adult romantic interests in mind. Teens watch movies and videos, read books, and have long talks with their friends about it. But few are aware that the Bible has a great deal to say on the subject.

The boyfriend myth promotes a **FRANTIC SEARCH FOR A MYTHICAL MATE** out of the world. It operates from the premise that **YOU** are responsible to seek and select both your date now and your future mate for life with little if any input from God.

It operates from the conceptual idea that **YOU** do the entire active searching and selecting and **GOD** does little or nothing. God is too busy running creation to be concerned with who or how you date. This is what the Devil would like you to believe.

Listen to this statement regarding God’s love connection between Rebekah and Isaac.

“And I bowed low and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, WHO HAD GUIDED ME in the right way to take the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.” (Genesis 24:48)

This principle is not just for ancient biblical history. The same biblical principles for marriage that were given to Adam and Eve and practiced throughout the Old Testament were declared by Jesus Christ to be relevant today

“Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh’? Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh.

WHAT THEREFORE GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO MAN SEPARATE.” (Matthew 19:4-6)



The boyfriend myth promotes a **blind searching** for a mystical romantic soul mate by dumb luck. Blind searching is leaving God’s counsel out of it.

The Devil is the only one who promotes blind searching for the things that God is willing to give freely by His grace.

“In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

“god of this world. The devil, who is the archenemy of God and the unseen power behind all unbelief and ungodliness.” (NIV, 2 Cor.4: 4, pg.1767)



Samson is a biblical example of blind searching for a mystical soul mate based on worldly thinking.

“And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

Samson is an example of conformity to the world’s way of thinking rather than being transformed to God’s way of thinking. Samson’s blind searching for a mystical mate was part of the boyfriend myth of conformity to this world.

Conformity of the world produced in Samson a false scale of values regarding selection of a soul mate. His scale of values went from physical to social to emotional. Because of conformity to the world thinking, the spiritual was not part of his value system of dating life.

“Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines. So he came back and told his father and mother, ‘I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.’ Then his father and mother said to him. ‘Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines? But Samson said to his father, ‘Get her for me, for she looks good.’” (Judges 14:1-3)

“The disappointment of Samson’s parents is understandable in light of the prohibition against marriage with the people of Canaan (Ex.34:11,16; Dt.7:1,3). (NIV, Judges 14:1, pg.351)

Christians also have a prohibition against marriage to unbelievers.

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.” (2 Corinthians 6:14)

If you want to know why you should not become unequally yoked with unbelievers, read the end of Samson story recorded in Judges 16.

You might be thinking, ‘ I’m not getting married I’m just dating.’ But remember that dating is an American custom for the selecting of a mate for marriage.

“Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas?” (1 Corinthians 9:5)

Whenever a biblical standard is pushed to the last place or no place, the Christian knows that he is involved in the boyfriend myth of conformity to the world.

**“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
(James 4:4)**

The negative effect of the boyfriend myth upon the American culture is seen in the increasing amount of separation, divorce, and conflict within marriages and families.

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

The right way to date is with God’s advice. The wrong way to date is with the world’s advice.

God's answer to the boyfriend myth is **selective dating**.

We will define **selective dating** as the social engagement of Christian teens that are selective about whom they date as well as the activities in which they engage while on that date. They are not ashamed to be identified with the Lord and therefore make the spiritual a priority in dating.

“For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.” (2 Timothy 1:12)

“He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.” (Proverbs 18:22)

“And I bowed low and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had guided me in the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.” (Genesis 24:48)



WHAT'S THE POINT?

You may be wondering what is the point of the Boyfriend Myth? You may be confused about what I am telling you about having a boyfriend or girlfriend?

Because you may have questions like these after studying the chapter on the Boyfriend Myth, let me review a few important points.

- § I used the term MYTH when God is left out of the dating selection process.
- § I wrote on the Boyfriend Myth to forewarn and forewarn teens against the subtle and deceptive schemes of Satan.

**“In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are ignorant of his schemes.”
(2 Corinthians 2:11)**

Answer the following eight questions:

1. What is the ultimate purpose of dating in the American culture?

2. What was lacking in the selection process of matching Jacob and Rachel in Genesis 29?

3. Why did the selection process of matching Isaac and Rebekah go so smoothly in Genesis 24?

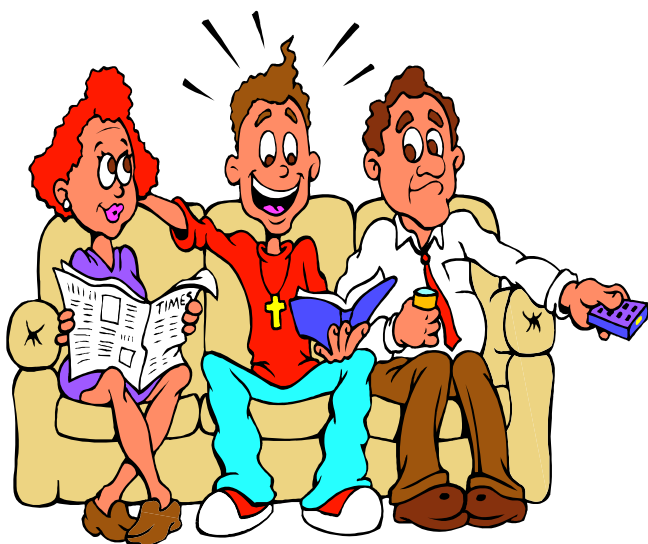
4. Why does the Boyfriend Myth promote a frantic search for a mythical mate?

5. Why does the Boyfriend Myth promote blind searching for a mystical romantic soul mate?

6. Explain how Samson was an example of blind searching of the Boyfriend Myth?

7. What does selective dating mean?

8. What have you learned that you could apply to dating?



TEENS OBEY YOUR PARENT'S

"CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD." (Ephesians 6:1)

Which of the two did the will of his father?

After reading Matthew 21:28-31 answer the following questions.

How many children were in this family?

How many are in your family?

What did the their parent ask them to do?

What have your parents recently ask you to do what you didn't want to do?

What did the first child tell his parent?

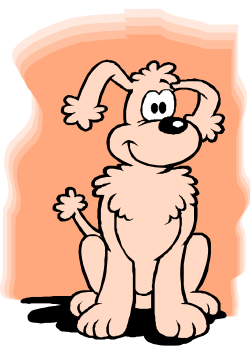
Have you ever done this to your parent?

What did the second child tell his parent?

Have you ever done this to your parent?

What did the second child regret?

What does regret mean?



PUPPY LOVE

Puppy love is a term that is often used to describe infatuation love of early adolescence.

World Book dictionary defines infatuation as “to inspire with foolish extreme or unreasonable passion.”

Therefore puppy love consists of 80% imagination and 20% reality. It is commonly referred to by those having gone through it as – foolishly in love.

Adolescence is the transition period in the American culture between playing with dolls and pretend dress-up of child fantasy to adulthood. Early adolescence is a very impressible time in a young person’s life. Early adolescence is normally naïve, innocence, tenderhearted, and easily hurt.

Adolescence is a Latin word meaning to grow-up. Adolescence begins with puberty and last until the end of the teen years. Adolescence can begin about age of 10 and last until the age of 19.

The adolescence period can be divided into two age groupings. The first age grouping is early adolescence between the ages of 10-15. The second age grouping is later adolescence between ages 16-19.

Puppy love is associated with the first age group (ages 10-15). Puppy love is characterized by crushes, secret admirers, writing initials on objects, and giggling when the person you have a crush on actually talks to you personally. It is associated with another characteristic known as girl crazy and boy crazy.

Because girls normally mature 2 –3 years earlier than boys of the same age, adolescent girls are typically attracted to boys who are 3-4 years older. Older boys know about the girl crazy phase of puppy love and will often try to use it to exploit the innocence of early adolescence.

The devil understands this scenario and will try to establish experiences of emotional pain and scar tissue of the soul in adolescence that will linger into adulthood. These experiences of emotional pain lingering into adulthood can damage and even destroy marital and family happiness. The devil did this to Adam and Eve in Genesis 2-4.

“In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.” (2 Corinthians 2:11)

A girl entering her freshmen year of high school is swimming amidst a school of older boy sharks. Remember that most of these older boys think that freshmen girls are boy crazy, naïve, innocent, and sexual pushovers because of the girl’s naive puppy love.

Peter gives good advice in 1 Peter 5:8-9.

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

Let me offer two suggestions regarding dating during early adolescence (ages 10-15).

- § First, do not date beyond either side of your grade. For example, if you are in the 10th grade, date 9, 10, or 11th graders.
- § Second, do not solo date. You should only group date in early adolescence.

ARE YOU KIDDING? I know this is what you are thinking because I hear it all the time in my teen bible studies. You are thinking that I had better have some good reasons for only group dating!

Let me give you six good reasons why you should group date during early adolescence.

- § You must remember how dating is used in the American culture. Dating is used as part of adolescence socialization.
- § It allows young people to interact and mature spiritually, socially, intellectually, and emotionally with limited romantic interference. “A time to embrace, and a time to shun embracing.” (Ecclesiastes 3:5)
- § It allows interaction between the sexes without the pressure of solo dating performance.
- § Three or four years in adolescence can make a big difference in the maturity of choices. Think of the difference between your 4th grade friends, activities, and interests compared to the 8th grade or between the 8th grade and the 12th grade.
- § In the American culture, there is normally seven years of solo dating before marriage. Do you want to graduate from college at the age of 23? [Do the math?]
- § The final good reason for group dating in early adolescence is that God warns adolescence to guard the affections of puppy love.

**“Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the spring of life.”
(Prov.4:23, NAS)**

**“Guard your heart more than any treasure, for it is the source of all life.”
(Prov.4:23, NEV)**

**“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”
(Prov.4:23, NIV)**

How do you guard the affections of puppy love? You guard the affections of puppy love by giving them to the Lord until marriage. Remember that your first love is Jesus Christ.

**“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”
(Rev.2:4)**

**“And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.”
(1 Corinthians 7:35)**

Never compromise the love of God in Christ for the foolish affections of puppy love. The devil would like to steal it from you!

“And they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.” (2 Timothy 2:26)

It is important for you to be influenced by the Holy Scriptures rather than Hollywood’s script.

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:2)

Solomon is known to be the wisest man to ever live. “Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.” (1 Kings 3:12)

Solomon wrote Proverb 3:1-10 to offer five promises from God to young people who learn and apply the word of God. Proverbs 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 establish the principle **while verses 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 establish the promises**. The five promises are referred to as the five rewards of possessing God’s wisdom.

Write the five promises on the blank lines below.

3:2 _____
3:4 _____
3:6 _____
3:8 _____
3:10 _____

“Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)

Here is the good news! Everyone goes through adolescence and some phase of puppy love as a normal part of growing up. My prayer for you is that you will journey through it and enter adulthood as a healthy young adult.

“Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.” (2 Timothy 1:13-14)



WHAT IS LOVE, ANYWAY, AND HOW CAN YOU TELL IF YOU'RE IN IT?

Q- My friend is going with a guy who has a reputation for moving fast. He smokes and wants to go to parties where there is drinking. She knows that this is wrong but she says that she loves him. What do I say to her?

A- When you are expected to compromise your spiritual and moral values in order to maintain a romantic relationship, that relationship does not reflect the love God has prepared for you. When one person's needs are more significant than the other person's need, it is not the love God has prepared for you. It is Puppy Love.

My friend wanted a boyfriend who would really love her. Guys had come on to her and indicated they were serious, but she wasn't impressed. She had a good reputation and strong spiritual and moral values. She was a girl who knew what she wanted and wouldn't settle for less.

Then Steve came along. Steve lavished her with attention, he called at least once a day, and he made a big deal over the fact that she had high standards. After several dates, he told her that he loved her. He was a gorgeous hunk swearing his love and allegiance to her.

But she wondered if it was true love? For weeks Steve was the perfect gentleman. Then one day he asks her if she loved him as much as he loved her? She said that she did. He asks her to prove it to him by having sex. Then it began to be constant pressure issue in their relationship. One evening he really pressed her and she demanded to be taken home. He gave her the cold treatment by not calling for several days. When he understood that she was not going to have sex prior to marriage, Steve was gone.

Later she learned from a mutual friend that he had bet his friends that he could get her to have sex prior to marriage.

Don't assume every time a guy says he loves you or cares deeply for you that he is giving you a line. There are a lot of guys with spiritual and morals like you.

God will bring them to your life and you will know because they will be compatible in all areas of great important to you.

“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers [do not make mis-mated alliances with them or come under a different yoke with them, inconsistent with your faith.] For what partnership have right living and right standing with God with iniquity and lawlessness? Or how can light have fellowship with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and Belial [the devil]? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? (2 Corinthians 6:14-15, Amplified Bible)



WHAT'S THE POINT?

Group dating during early adolescence is important for at least four reasons. A common problem that occurs with dating is how to carry on a conversation with someone of the opposite sex. This can be especially difficult on first dates. Interacting with each other in a group situation takes the pressure off the individual.

A second area of concern in dating is what to do on a date. Planning activities for a date can be time consuming and difficult. By involving other friends in the planning and in the actual activities an individual increases the number and type of activities.

Group dating is also beneficial in that it provides individuals with dating experience in a safer environment. For example, dealing with boys / girls who are romantically pushy can be difficult. However, this behavior is less likely to occur in a group situation and if it does then there are others around to offer support and assistance if needed. And finally, establishing spiritual norms and standards with your date is easier in a group of spiritual, like-minded teens.

Here is a review of important points from the chapter on Puppy Love.

- § Another word for “puppy love” is infatuation love – which means, “to inspire with foolish extreme or unreasonable passion.”
- § Puppy Love consists of 80% imagination and 20% reality.
- § The Puppy Love chapter is designed to forewarn and forearm adolescents against the schemes of the devil.

**“In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”
(2 Corinthians 2:11)**

Answer the following seven questions

1. What does the Latin word for adolescence mean?

2. What two age groups did we divide adolescence?

_____ and _____

3. Which age group is commonly associated with Puppy Love?

4. Why are adolescent girls normally attracted to older boys?

5. What two suggestions did we offer regarding dating during early adolescence?

6. List the four benefits for group dating in early adolescence.

7. Proverbs 4:23 warns us to guard the affections of our hearts. How do we guard the affections of our hearts as Christians?

So how could the devil affect future marital and family relationship during adolescence?



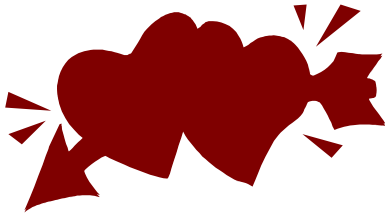
TEN DANGER ZONES OF PUPPY LOVE

Adolescence is a time of great transition and change. It is important to divide adolescence into two-age grouping. Each has its own unique transitions and changes.

The Ten Danger Zones of Puppy Love will help you deal with some of these transitions:

1. Your relationship is in the danger zone when you are expected to compromise your spiritual values for sex (1 Corinthians 7:1-2).
2. Your relationship is in the danger zone when you have to lie to your parents to be together (Ephesians 6:1-3).
3. Your relationship is in the danger zone when you are expected to change your appearance (lose weight, wear different clothes, etc. (1 Peter 3:3-4).
4. Your relationship is in the danger zone when you are pressured to drink or take drug as part of the relationship (Ephesians 5:18).
5. Your relationship is in the danger zone when the person you're seeing hits or uses any kind of physical force. (Don't dismiss it by saying it only happens when he is drunk or angry! Don't accept any excuse for this type of behavior. Get out of the relationship and encourage your friend to seek help! (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
6. Your relationship is in the danger zone when the person you're seeing puts you down and insults you in private or in public or before friends (Ephesians 4:29-32).
7. Your relationship is in the danger zone when you are in the relationship just to please or impress others, such as your friends or parents (Ephesians 5:15-17).
8. Your relationship is in the danger zone when one person's wants are more significant than the other person's needs (Philippians 2:3-4).
9. Your relationship is in the danger zone when one person in the relationship is determined to change the other person. Good girls sometimes want to fix bad boy problems. But if your boyfriend has a drinking or drug problem or a problem with extreme anger or jealousy. Get out of the relationship and get him professional help (1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Corinthians 6:18-7:1)
10. Your relationship is in the danger zone when your dating activities are always focused on the physical such as heavy necking and petting (Philippians 1:20-21)

If any one of these 10 Danger Zones of Puppy Love is in your relationship, you need to think hard about ending it. It won't be easy, and it will hurt for a short time. But you will avoid serious heartache in the future for both of you and your families. Puppy Love can lead to a dog's life when these ten danger zones are ignored.



GOIN' STEADY

“WATCH OVER YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE, FOR FROM IT FLOW THE SPRINGS OF LIFE.” Proverbs 4:23 (NAS)

The Hebrew word for watch is natsar. It is the idea of guarding or protecting the affections of your heart. In Prov.4:23, it is a Hebrew command (kal imperative).

Write the answers to the following questions taken from proverbs 4:23 and John 4.

What are you commanded to watch over?

How are you told to watch over the affections of your heart?

What is the divine reason given for guarding the affections of your heart?

Jesus used this biblical concept with a woman who had become discouraged with love relationships but didn't understand why. It is recorded in John 4:1-18. This is a story about a woman who had failed to guard the affections of her heart in love relationships and the mess that it created in her life.

“But whoever drinks the water I give him will NEVER thirst.” (John 4:14)

Write on the blank line the area of this woman's life that she was thirsting and needed a SPRING OF LIFE in?
(Answer - John 4:18)

What do you think this water was that Jesus could give that would become a SPRING OF WATER welling up to eternal life?

What was the thirsty area in this woman's soul? Jesus was telling her that He could satisfy all the thirsty areas of her life.

Do you have a thirsty or unfulfilled area of your life? (For the answer, read John 7:37-39)

“ABOVE ALL ELSE, GUARD YOUR HEART FOR IT IS THE WELLSPRING OF LIFE.”

Are you feeling conflict in your heart over a similar issue? Write about it here and then read Philippians 1:9-11.



THE RING OF PROMISE

Q - I am 16 and still a virgin. I know that several of my friends have had sex with the person whom they are **Goin' Steady**. The ones who have broken-up say that they regret having had sex and wish they had never done it. **What do you think about wearing the Ring of Promise?** It is also called a chastity ring. I have been thinking about wearing one as a reminder of the sacredness of marriage.

A - I think that your approach to wearing the Ring of Promise is great. Wearing it as a reminder of the sacredness of marriage is a good reason to wear it.

Solomon wrote a great line that could be applied to the Ring of Promise. "Put me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm (finger)." (Song of Solomon 8:6)

When you wear the Ring of Promise as a reminder of your commitment to remain sexually pure, you wear it on your finger as a symbol of the seal of Christ over your heart (Ephesians 1:13-14).

§ You can put your faith in God and know that He loves you more than anyone else in the world.

"Yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able to perform." (Romans 4:20-21)

§ You can know that God always has your best interest at heart even when you don't have His.

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; For He cannot deny Himself." (2 Timothy 2:13)

§ You can flee youthful lusts and remain true to your promise.

"Now flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)

§ You can set an example for others to follow.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)



"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)



The 3 "P's" PARTYING, PETTING, AND

Partying and petting has been called the number one sport in both high school and college. As one teen girl put it, "I didn't sets out to get pregnant – "it just happened!"

One million teens will get pregnant. 600,000 of them will give birth.

- § 94% of them will keep their babies. The rest of them will choose abortion. 1/3 of all abortions are under 13 years.
- § 8 out of 10 of them will drop out of school and give up on their dreams. 7 out of 10 of them will not have prenatal care in the first tri-semester.
- § 72% of them will go on welfare. One half of every dollar spent on welfare goes to support unwed teens.
- § 8 out of 10 who get married to give the baby a name won't be married five years later.
- § 5 million in America have the sexual transmitted disease known as genital herpes of which there is no present cure.

KIDS WHO HAVE KIDS ARE KIDDING THEMSELVES!

- § Teens need to understand the devil's strategy regarding dating, love, and sex.

**"In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are ignorant of his schemes."
(2 Corinthians 2:11)**

In the American dating scene, the devil's strategy is to confuse love with sex. For example, boys think that love is sex and the girls think that sex is love. Therefore, the boys say, "if you love me, you will have sex with me." The girl thinks, "If I have sex with him, it will show him how much I love him."

- § Why isn't the girl hearing, "I will never require sex as proof of your love for me?"
- § Why isn't the boy hearing, "I don't need to prove with my body that I love you with my soul?"

The Bible teaches that the body, love, and sex are all sacred in the Christian life.

Your Love is sacred.

**"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins."
(1 John 4:10)**

The love of God does not willfully commit sin but operates just the opposite.

Your Body is sacred.

"Flee immorality. Every sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:18-19)

The body of every Christian is the sacred place where God dwells. Therefore, we are to honor God with our bodies.

“You were brought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)

Sex is sacred.

“Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man NOT to touch a woman. But because of immoralities, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.” (1 Corinthians 7:1:2)

The Greek word for touch is *hapto*. It refers to arousing someone sexually. It is addressed to the man but speaks to both the gentleman and the lady.

God has designed marriage as the sacred place for the body, sex, and love to find it's fulfilling expression (1 Cor.7: 1-2).

§ Dealing with romantic emotions or affections is also part of adolescent socialization.

“Above all else, guard your heart (affections) for it is the wellspring of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

There are five stages of affections involved in romantic infatuation and love.

§ **Stage one** is holding hands and hugging.

§ **Stage two** is casual kissing. A casual kiss always has a purpose such as I like you, I had a good time, and I missed you.

§ **Stage three** is necking. Necking is aggressive kissing. It is heavily emotional with sexual overtones.

§ **Stage four** is petting. Petting involves fondling the private parts of the body. It is the last stimuli before sex.

§ **Stage five** is pre-marital or marital sex.

The question most asked me by teens is where to draw the line? Look at the five stages and write on the blank line the stage where the line should be drawn _____

Write where you think Jesus and the Apostle Paul would draw the line? _____

Stages 3, 4, 5 are for marriage not for dating. Therefore the line for dating should be drawn between stages 2 and 3.

Girls need to understand that most boys consider necking and petting as signs of approval to advance towards pre-marital sex.

GOING ALL THE WAY – ISN'T ALL THE WAY UNLESS IT IS MARRIAGE!

**“Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.”
(1 Corinthians 6:13)**

The last three stages of romantic affection are heavily emotional and can cause chemical changes in your body. Medical science declares that heavy necking and petting can change the composition of the blood as much as drugs or alcohol. Heavy necking and petting can cause teens to lose control of themselves and their circumstances. They can make mistakes that have long term effects on their lives.

God has designed erotic pleasure for marriage and NOT for dating. It is designed to put excitement in routine marriage and family life. It can be refreshing and rejuvenating to married couples. However, it is an unmanageable time bomb for unmarried teens.

Teens need to understand that pre-marital sex is not only something they do but also something they become. For example, the Bible calls pre-marital sex fornication or immorality and the one who practices it a fornicator or immoral person. We refer to it as getting a bad reputation. *Boys talk to their friends about how far they get with the girls they date.*

“But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or a swindler – not even to eat with such a one.” (1 Corinthians 5:11)

“But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among the saints.” (Ephesians 5:3)

ALWAYS KEEP TWO SPECIAL PEOPLE IN MIND WHEN DATING -YOUR PRESENT DATE AND YOUR FUTURE MATE. BOTH DESERVE THE VERY BEST!

Teens should beware of the passion-pit pilot lines. Passion-pit pilot lines are designed to engage in the last three stages of romantic affection. Write the last three stages on the blank lines _____, _____, and _____.

Eight of the most common passion-pit pilot lines are listed below.

The ARMY & COLLEGE line - “I’ll be gone soon and I won’t see you for a long time”.

The LOVE line - “If you really loved me, you would prove it to me.”

The EVERYONE’S DOING IT line – “All our friends who are couples are doing it.”

The LET’S SIT AND TALK line - We will just sit and talk nothing more.” (But talk about what?)

The YOU’RE SAFE WITH ME line – “ I promise not to do anything you don’t want to do.”

The PRACTICALLY MARRIED line – “We are going to get married one day so why wait?”

The DOWNGRADE THE PERSON line – “You’re weird and the only one not doing it.”

The THREATEN line – “ If you don’t give it to me, I will have to go get it somewhere else.”

Let me close this chapter with a poem I read several years ago – author unknown.

**YOU CAN LET YOURSELF GO IF YOU WANT TO
YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO YOU WILL LET YOURSELF GO TO
YOU CAN DO IT AS OFTEN AS YOU WANT TO
BUT YOU CAN ONLY DO IT FIRST ONE TIME.**

PARTYING, PETTING, AND PREGNANCY



WHAT DOES GOD KNOW ABOUT TEENAGERS?

Q - Is the Bible practical today? It was written so long ago and the world has changed so much.

Does God really expect young people to wait until marriage to engage in heavy necking, petting, and sex?

Does God expect us to live to standards set thousands of years ago? Does God understand modern teenagers needs?

A - While times have changed and continue to change, God's spiritual advice remains constant.

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.” (Matthew 24:35)

“All His precepts are sure. They are upheld forever and ever; they are performed in truth and uprightness.” (Psalms 111:7-8)

However it isn't always easy to follow God's spiritual truths.

Peer pressure can make it very difficult both among teens and adults (Read Proverbs 1:7-19).

Sin-nature pressure can make it very difficult (Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5).

Sometime we forget that Jesus Christ was once a teenager.

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:16)

A TEEN TRUTH: There are certain things you want but you can't have because of age. Like getting a driver's license and possibly having your own car. Can you apply this same TRUTH to areas of your dating life?

“Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)



"IT WON'T EVER HAPPEN TO ME!"

Listen to Carolyn's story.

Carolyn and her parents were Christians. She was carrying a 3.5 grade through out high school. She was looking forward to going to college. She was very active in high school and popular within her church youth group. Every year she went to summer church camp and came home fired-up. All of this changed even though she had committed herself to remaining a virgin until marriage.

One day she dropped out of school and church. She broke off ties with all her Christian friends. Just because she made one mistake, one moment of weakening from saying NO! Carolyn's life will never be the same. Now she has to live down those words, "It won't ever happen to me!"

One moment of uncontrolled lust changed her life in more ways than she ever imagined. This is the tragedy of **Partying, Petting, and Pregnancy**.

Where did she go wrong? Did she have a lack of morals, of proper training in the home, of Scriptural teaching, NO, NO, and NO. She did not say YES to the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit and NO to the lust gratification of her sin-nature.

The next four points will teach the power of saying YES to the indwelling Holy Spirit.

- 1. Every Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at the moment of believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried, and raised the third day to give you eternal life (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).**

§ How did sexual sin affect Carolyn's body?

§ How is the Christian's body described?

§ How does the body become a temple of the Holy Spirit?

- 2. Every Christian has a sin-nature that wars against the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit within the Christian life (Galatians 5:16-17).**

- What is promised to those who live by the indwelling Holy Spirit?

- How is the conflict between the indwelling Holy Spirit and sin-nature described?
-

3. When a Christian chooses to gratify the sin-nature lust, he/she commits personal sin (James 1:14-15).

How is a Christian tempted to sin?

“Lust conceived gives birth to sin.”

“The verb (tempted) refers to temptations that test one’s moral strength to resist sin.”
(James 1:13, NIV, pg.1881)

Can you see this principle in Carolyn’s story?

The Christian must confess his sin to regain the filling ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 1:9).

What is the Christian promised when he confesses his personal sins?



DATE RAPE A CRIME, NOT SEX!

Testimony of a 16-Year Old Rape Victim

“During my junior year of high school, I went to visit my best girlfriend at a state university. The second night we attended a frat party. I loved being there. I felt so important and couldn’t wait to tell my friends back at high school. I was too young to drink alcohol, but no one seemed to notice and there were kegs everywhere. I had a couple of drinks when I met one of the football players. From the very beginning, he smothered me with attention. I loved it. We talked for what seemed hours. As the night went on, the music grew louder and the crowd rowdier. The football player invited me to take a walk to get away from all the noise and I agreed that it was a good idea.

After walking to a secluded area of the campus park, we sat on a park bench. He leaned over and immediately kissed me. Before I knew what was happening, he was unbuttoning my blouse. I started to struggle and begged him to stop. But he ignored my pleading. I became very afraid and managed to free one arm and hit him. He stopped for a moment and grabbed me by my hair and told me he would hurt me if I didn’t cooperate.

When it was over, he grabbed my hand and lifted me from the ground and told me I had better not tell anyone. We walked back to the party as if nothing had happened. I didn’t tell anyone for two years.”

Date violence is a serious problem in America.

The most vulnerable years for date rape are last two years of high school and the first two years of college (16-19 years of age).

According to one survey, 1 in 4 college women are the victims of rape or an attempted rape. 84% of those raped knew their attacker. 57% of the rapes happened on dates. A rape is committed every 6 minutes in America. 50% of the victims are teens.

If you or someone you know is raped then...

- § Go to safe place and immediately contact a close friend or family member.
- § Go to a medical center immediately and have your injuries treated and the necessary testing done. (Don’t change your clothes or shower before going.)
- § Report the rape to the proper authority. It gives you the option to prosecute later. This is one way to fight it in the community.
- § Seek counseling even if you choose not to report it. You need to talk to a trained rape-crisis counselor. (Rape Crisis Center – 1-800-886-7273 or check your phone book for a local chapter).

Remember date rape is a crime. Rape is not sex!

The legal definition of rape is one person forcing another person to engage in sexual activity against the second person’s will. Forcibly and against one’s will can be a verbal threat where the second person consents out of fear. As a crime, there is no statute of limitation on rape. It carries a penalty of up to “life” and not less than 10 years.

1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 7 boys will be sexually molested before they reach 18 years of age in America.

Don't let the devil tell you that you are damaged goods as a result of rape.

God does not view date rape as sex but as a CRIME (Deuteronomy 22:25-29). 100% of the blame belongs with the assailant.

“But if out in the country a man happens to meet a girl pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die. Do nothing to the girl; SHE HAS COMMITTED NO SIN deserving of death. This case is like that of someone who attacks and murders his neighbor.” (Deut.22:25-26)

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me (Jesus Christ) you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Testimony of the Rape of Dinah, the Daughter of Jacob and Leah

God recorded the rape of Dinah by Shechem in Genesis 34:1-31. This occurred about 1800 BC or about 3800 years ago. It is the first recorded case of date rape.

Dinah was an only sister among twelve brothers in the Jewish patriarch family of Jacob and Leah. She and her brothers grew-up in a spiritual environment. When they were younger, they had been taught about God and salvation by faith in the substitution death of Christ for their sins and His burial and resurrection for eternal life and about right from wrong. However, her parents drifted away from spiritual things during her adolescence. They had become pre-occupied and self-absorbed in their business and personal social life. Her parents weren't spending the time together as a family nor spending time together spiritually as they once had.

As a teen, she was exhibiting passive rebellion to parents' authority. One reason for this passive rebellion was because of the feeling of being neglected by her parents. Her parents were giving her considerable freedom of places, people, and time without much restrictions or boundaries. Read Matthew 21:28-32 for another example and identify which is the passive rebellious son.

One way her passive rebellion was manifested was in her selection of friends. She began to run with the wrong crowd. Soon Dinah drifted away from spiritual things just like her parents. She began to embrace the fast crowd's philosophy of life - “let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

**The Apostle Paul addressed this very problem in 1 Corinthians 15:32-33 when he said,
“Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals.”**

Peer pressure took precedence over parent pressure in Dinah's life. She became engaged in peer socialization (thinking and behaving like) of the fast crowd without parental supervision. This has disaster written all over it (Gen.34:1-3). Dinah began running with the daughters of the land who were Canaanites who belonged to the phallic cult religion and practiced idolatry. Dinah's religion taught against running with the fast crowd (Deuteronomy 13:6-7).

“My son (daughter or believer), if sinners entice you, do not consent.” (Proverbs 1:10)

When she joined the fast crowd, she lost self-identity, parental identity, racial identity, and spiritual identity and replaced it with peer identity.

What she doesn't know is that when the fast crowd gets tired of her, they will dump on her.

“They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse upon you.” (1 Peter 4:4)

“Not long after that, the young son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.” (Luke 15:13-14)

Where were his so-called friends (fast crowd) now?

Are you listening to God speak to you personally? Write what you think God is trying to tell you?

While running around with the fast crowd, Dinah met a rich man's son named Shechem. He was a popular and handsome wild teen and an unbeliever. Shechem saw Dinah as beautiful, innocent, Jewish virgin who was out of her element. She was a "fish out of water". Dinah was swimming in shark-infested water called "the fast crowd".

Dinah was reared to believe in sexual boundaries prior to marriage. **"It is good for a man not to touch (sexually arouse) a woman."** (1 Corinthians 7:1)

Shechem was reared to believe in unlimited sexual boundaries before or after marriage. **"Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of the hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them."** (Romans 1:24)

While Dinah certainly was not to be blamed for her rape, her rebellious actions and her choice to run with the fast crowd did put her at risk for harm. The devil loves to corrupt believers by encouraging them to run with the fast crowd of the world.

"Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility towards God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4)

"And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will." (2 Timothy 2:26)



The purpose of this section is to make you aware of the devil's schemes in hopes that you may escape the trap of the fast crowd.

IF YOUR DATE BECOMES SEXUALLY AGGRESSIVE, be assertive with saying no and explaining why. Don't hesitate to use your cell phone and call for help. Consider carrying a friend's number with you as part of an emergency back-up plan. Also, always carry enough money to take a cab or bus home.

I don't want to hear or read about you what I am about to write about Dinah.

"And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her by force (rape)." (Genesis 34:2)

The two families got together and agreed to give Dinah to Shechem in marriage. This violates so many different biblical principles that it would require another book. But let me mention a couple of them.

§ **First, the Bible states that a believer is not to marry an unbeliever.**

“Do not be bound together with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:14)

“Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife?” (1 Corinthians 9:5)

§ **Second, a crime was committed against Dinah by Shechem.**

“Now Jacob’s sons had come in from the fields as soon as they had heard what had happened. They were filled with grief and fury, because Shechem had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter – a thing that should not be done.” (Genesis 34:7)

§ **Third, this story has a terrible and tragic ending.**

Dinah’s brother killed Shechem and his father and all the young men and plundered the city. They did it in the name of justice. Two wrongs don’t make a right (Gen.34:25-29).

When asked why they did it, listen to their reply, ‘**should he have treated our sister like a prostitute?’** (Gen.34:31) But she wasn’t treated like a prostitute. She was treated as a victim of crime!

**YOU CAN’T LOSE YOUR VIRGINITY IN THE EYES OF GOD WITHOUT CONSENT. THEREFORE,
YOU CAN’T LOSE IT BY RAPE.**

**YOU CAN’T LOSE YOUR VIRGINITY WHEN CONSENT IS USED AS SELF-DEFENSE BECAUSE OF
THREAT. THEREFORE, YOU CAN’T LOSE IT BY RAPE.**

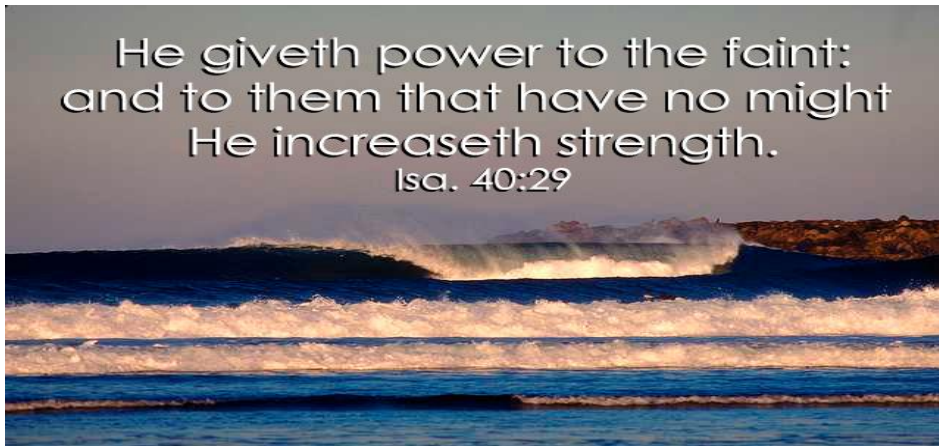
God does not blame the victim of sexual crime. Therefore, if you are a victim of such a crime, don’t you blame yourself nor let others blame you! **GOD LOVES YOU UNCONDITIONALLY IN CHRIST.**

“And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1 John 4:16)

There are seven ways you can minister to a victim of rape or sexual abuse.

1. Reassure the victim of God’s unconditional love and your unconditional love.
2. Accept the victim’s story and immediately have it investigated.
3. Accept the victim’s self-worth unconditionally. Don’t interrogate with phrases like, ‘why didn’t you do such and such.’
4. Be a patient listener. Let the victim tell it her/his way on her/his terms and time.
5. Encourage the victim to seek professional help immediately.
6. Be sensitive to behavioral changes in the victim resulting from the trauma and shock of rape.
7. Help the victim to regain self-control over her life again.

Date Rape: Q & A



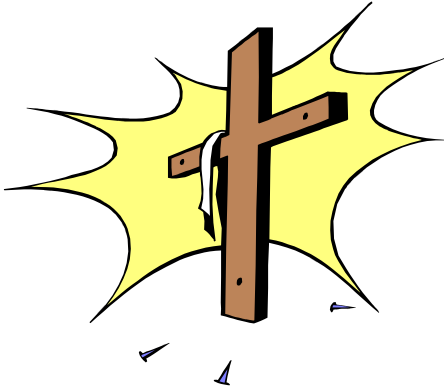
Q - I've heard that Jesus went through everything we do, but what if you've been raped or sexually abused? I have had a hard time believing that Jesus knows how I feel.

A - The Book of Hebrews writes this, **"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."** (Hebrews 4:15-16)

"The author stresses the parallel between Christ's temptations and ours. He did not have each temptation (trial) we have but experienced every kind of temptation a person can have. The way in which Christ's temptations were completely different than ours was in the results – His temptations never led to sin." (Heb.4:15, NIV, 1863)

- § Because He has experienced human temptation and trial, He is able to give immediate and sympathetic help in our time of greatest need.
- § People who walk through difficulties of life share a common understanding, even if they have not experienced exactly the same difficulty.
- § Having gone through it Himself, as our high priest, He understands your prayers of plight and suffering more than anyone else.
- § Jesus Christ does understand your pain and anguish, and He loves you no matter what you have experienced.
- § You can always go to Him in prayer, knowing that He is there to faithfully serve you in your needs.

"For this reason He had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted." (Hebrews 2:17-18)



GOD'S BIGGER PICTURE



Important Points to Remember:

- § Date rape is a crime and not sex!
- § Don't let the devil tell you that you are damaged goods!
- § There is no sin on the part of the victim!
- § Individuals may experience feelings of guilt, shame, anger, fear, confusion, as well as distrust and disrespect towards authority.
- § You may be thinking how could God allow this to happen to me?

As a Christian, I can tell you God always has a bigger picture for your life.

For example, his brothers mistreated Joseph. They attempted to kill him and when that failed they sold him into foreign slavery. What was the bigger picture in Joseph's story? Years later he explained to his brother God's bigger picture.

“And God sent me before you to preserve you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 45:7-8)

God wants to take the tragedies of your life and turn them into trophies of His triumphal grace.

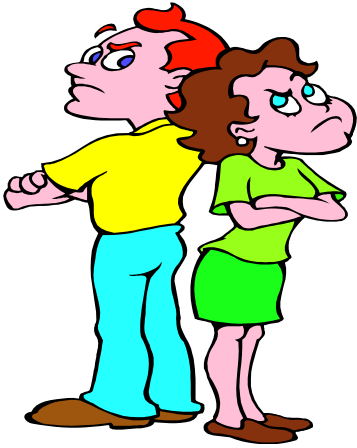
Joseph allowed God to **“cause all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)** How did he do it?

- § Joseph refused to allow his brothers meanness towards him to disrupt God's plan for his life.
- § Joseph refused to allow his brothers criminal behavior towards him to disconnect him from a loving God.
- § Joseph refused to internalize his anger, resentment, and hurt towards his brothers' criminal behavior to destroy his peace of mind.

“And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” (Genesis 50:20)

“For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience towards God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, it finds favor with God.” (1 Peter 2:19-20)

If you can see how Joseph found favor with God, then you can also find favor and share this knowledge with others. This knowledge enables you to not only see the bigger picture but also to live it.



I DISAGREED WITH ALMOST EVERYTHING YOU HAD TO SAY ABOUT DATING!” Including...

- **BOYFRIEND MYTH**
- **PUPPY LOVE**
- **GOIN’ STEADY**
- **PARTYING, PETTING, & PREGNANCY**
- **DATE RAPE**

I didn’t write it to be a best seller. I wrote it because after 37 years of working with teens I have seen the devil try to establish bad dating habits during the teen years, which have negative consequences for future relationships. Unhealthy relationship patterns may irrevocably damage or destroy marriages and families.

What about your family? What about your best friends families? Are these families split-up or in big trouble?

I wrote this book to remind Christians of all ages that dating is as much a part of your spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ as any other spiritual service.

“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

Let me close by asking you one final important question. Have you personally believed the gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation?

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

What is the gospel of Jesus Christ that you must believe in order to be saved?

This is the gospel.

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Jesus spoke the following words for YOU. Write your name on the blank lines & realize the enormity of God’s gift to you.

“And I give eternal life to _____, and _____ shall never perish; and no one shall snatch _____ out of My hand. My Father, who has given _____ to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch _____ out of My hand.” (John 10:28-29)

You may want to disagree with me about dating but don’t disagree with me about believing the gospel of Jesus Christ to receive grace salvation.

“For by grace are you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)