

## Guidance For Young Ladies

- I. This message is for the encouragement and direction of young ladies, particularly believers.
  - A. Some of this information will have relevance to young men also, particularly believers.
  - B. This should also benefit parents in guiding their maturing children to good decisions.
  
- II. As the minister of Jesus Christ, I am mindful of the fact that He ministered to young and old, male and female. **MAT 19:13-14; JOH 11:5.**
  - A. I regard the "...elder women as mothers, the younger as sisters, with all purity" (**1TI 5:2**).
  - B. John gave particular attention to the elect ladies and their children. **2JO 1:1, 13.**
  - C. Paul commonly noted godly women of his experience, including one whom he regarded as a mother. **ROM 16:1-3, 6, 13.**
  - D. Paul instructs ministers to tell the aged women of the church to pro-actively instruct the younger women by good example and orders. **TIT 2:3-5.**
    1. Women have a weighty responsibility here since there is something to the proverbial expression: "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."
    2. Women usually have much more "one-on-one" time with children.
    3. Women are more appropriately the counselors of young ladies in personal health matters.
    4. About the last thing we need is a bunch of silly women under the delusions of lusts setting examples and teaching younger women. **2TI 3:6 c/w MAR 6:22-25.**
  - E. A godly young lady was instrumental in the salvation of Naaman (**2KI 5:1-4**) and it may be observed that godly women of principle can have considerable good influence upon men. **1PE 3:1-6.**
  - F. "From all that I had read of history of government, of human life, and manners, I [have] drawn this conclusion, that the manners of women [are] the most infallible barometer, to ascertain the degree of morality and virtue in a nation. All that I have since read and all the observation I have made in different nations, have confirmed me in this opinion. The manners of women, are the surest criterion by which to determine whether a republican government is practicable, in a nation or not. The Jews, the Greeks, the Romans, the Swiss, the Dutch, all lost their public spirit, their Republican principles and habits, and their Republican forms of government when they lost the modesty and domestic virtues of their women... The foundations of national morality must be laid in private families. In vain are schools, academies and universities instituted if loose principles and licentious habits are impressed upon children in their earliest years. The mothers are the earliest and most important instructors of youth." (John Adams, second President of the United States)
  
- III. Young ladies may have careers in mind but do not trivialize the careers of wife and mother.
  - A. I do not discount the value of young ladies learning a skill or trade but I can say without reservation from the testimonies of Scripture, nature and observation that marriage remains as foundational to human fulfillment as God designed it at the beginning. **GEN 2:24.**
  - B. Paul's private judgment of a preferred state of single celibacy to maximize unencumbered service to Christ is not a hard rule in conflict with the blessing of marriage. **1CO 7.**
    1. It is true that one can find contentment in celibacy and God respects that. But I caution against premature assumptions that because someone hasn't yet found a mate that he/she is destined for celibate life. Praying, patience, learning, and maybe even a little bit of Naomi-Ruth pro-action (**RUTH 3:1-5**) are usually better than assuming inevitable celibacy.
    2. Celibacy is a gift to some, not all (**1CO 7:7**). Beware of false gifts. **PRO 25:14.**

- IV. It is normal, healthy and expected that young ladies should look forward to marriage.
- A. Marriage is the only venue for sexual connection and if the passion for such cannot be contained, even Paul says, "...let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn" (**1CO 7:8-9**). c/w **1TI 5:14**.
  - B. Parents do well to make sure their developing young ones know that self-stimulation for sexual release is permissible.
    1. I have preached whole messages on this topic and can point anyone to the messages and outlines about this.
    2. Young men may approach me for counsel on this. But I will not counsel the girls on this matter without a parent or trusted adult present and would rather defer this to a trusted mature woman of faith who is not ashamed of godly sexuality.
    3. I implore parents to not leave this matter unattended: young people need godly instruction and guidance in this important area of life.
  - C. Marriage is much more than a license for intercourse: it is the foundation of all human government, the stability of society, and the modeling of Christ's love for His church. **EPH 5:25**.
- V. Young ladies need to preserve their faith and their chastity. Swerving from the former is too often the cause for the loss of the latter. Departing from the faith opens doors to seducing spirits, seductive teachers and the allures of lust. **1TI 4:1; 2TI 4:3; 2PE 2:18**.
- A. chaste: Pure from unlawful sexual intercourse; continent, virtuous. (Of persons, their lives, conduct, etc.).
  - B. Again, mature godly women have a major role in promoting this to younger women. **TIT 2:3-5**.
  - C. Fornication (voluntary unmarried sexual intercourse) is a thing to be *fled* (**1CO 6:18**), not *fed*. **ROM 13:14**.
    1. Be careful of what info you consume since feeding a monster only makes it stronger.
    2. "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,  
As, to be hated, needs but to be seen;  
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,  
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."  
(Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man, Epistle II*)
    3. Be careful of private interactions where no other eyes or ears other than God's are present. Ask yourself always, "Would I be doing this if Jesus was here with me?"
  - D. Do not cheapen yourself by immodest clothing which reduces the respect men would have for you. You can save yourself and men from fornication dangers. **1TI 2:9**.
- VI. What should you look for in a man? Who may you marry?
- A. This is an issue of determining what is lawful, permissible and expedient.
  - B. Understand what **1CO 7:39** is and is not teaching.
    1. A free woman (not bound by a marriage covenant) has liberty to determine if she will marry, and whom she will marry, "...only in the Lord."
    2. Marriage demands the "one man, one woman" model as the Lord gave. **MAT 19:3-9**.
    3. A marriage "in the Lord" can only be to a single, unmarried man.
    4. A marriage "in the Lord" does not forbid marrying someone who is not of the same faith but it certainly does forbid abandoning the faith. c/w **1TI 5:11-12**.

5. As I have taught from Scripture in the past, the O.T. prohibition on “mixed marriages” to people outside of Israel was specifically intended for the devoted nations of Canaan who were to be eradicated, and their entails which remained. Esther’s marriage to a Medo-Persian king was not sinful.
- C. What is lawful and permissible is only part of the issue. **1CO 6:12.**
1. expedient: Conducive to advantage in general, or to a definite purpose; fit, proper, or suitable to the circumstances of the case.
  2. Marriage to someone who is not of *like precious faith* (**2PE 1:1**) can work but it requires a mutual understanding between husband and wife of the preservation of the believer’s non-negotiable matters of faith and her respect of her man.
    - a. If marriage in general produces trouble in the flesh (**1CO 7:28**), extra-faith marriages where belligerence to devoutly held belief is the rule are especially guaranteed trouble.
    - b. Children’s training in the ways of God can also be problematic and only reasonable people can work things out, as did “Mr. and Mrs. Eunice.” **2TI 1:5 c/w ACT 16:1.**
  3. I urge extreme caution concerning marriage to someone raised in the lingering superstitions and errors of non-Christian cultures. Women in such cultures are not held in the same regard as in Christian cultures (and we are hastening towards a post-Christian civilization ourselves).
  4. I must also these days caution against marriage to someone with obvious non-heterosexual tendencies or sexual identity problems (or a number of other such disorders).
- D. Good character is more important than good looks, wealth or charm.
1. Look for traits like honesty, integrity, selflessness, diligence, sobriety, self-control, patience, maturity. You may not capture the full package but at least steer clear of fools.
  2. Pay attention to the way that the guy treats others, especially women. Does he treat a waitress with respect? If not, don’t expect him to be any different to you. “When people show you what they are, believe them.” (Maya Angelou)
  3. Sadly, even someone of like precious faith may be lacking in critical character areas. Commitment to a marriage vow combined with prayer and patience can be powerful agents of improvement but some Israelites are just Nabals. **1SAM 25:25.**
- E. Seek your godly parents’ guidance. I do not maintain that parents should rule rigorously over maturing young people’s wills but neither should the parents’ wisdom and experience be scorned or not even given consideration.

VII. Young Christian ladies, in looking for love, dare not forget their first love: God.

**REV 2:4; MAT 22:36-37.**

- A. Remember Paul’s warning about the tendency of younger widows who displace Christ from His place in their hearts. **1TI 5:11-12.**
- B. If we covet anything more than God we have made that an idol. **COL 3:5.**
  1. Do you covet a relationship more than God?
  2. Do you covet a particular person more than God?
  3. Do you covet a particular person's affection and attention more than God?
  4. Do you covet satisfied emotions or carnal desires more than God?
  5. NOTE: spiritual living is impossible if your flesh is your master and those who are slaves to lusts have many masters. **GAL 5:17; ROM 8:5-6.**
- C. Is God and His priorities worth waiting for? Or are you prone to run ahead of Him out

of impatience or human reasoning and end up with a troubled outcome as did Abram and Sarai? **GEN 16:1-4, 12.**

1. Mind that God sometimes grants the impatient, the insistent and the complainer their desires as a judgment. **ISAM 12:12 c/w HOS 13:11; PSA 106:13-15.**
2. **(LAM 3:25-26)** The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.
3. Believe with all your heart that your God does truly care for you and your godly desires. **1PE 5:6-7.**
4. Fear not that He is not with you in all your trials. **ISA 41:10.**
5. "...for them that honour me I will honour..." **(ISAM 2:30).**

D. Have

1. *faith* in God's promises of loving, Fatherly care for you, His child.
2. *patience* to not run without Him unto sin or run before Him unto a foolish choice.
3. *peace* in your heart, for a heart at war with God or which is ruled by anxiety will not shine forth Christ, will telegraph that turmoil to others, and is more likely to make bad decisions. Reflections can't be seen in boiling water, nor can Christ be seen in a turbulent soul.
4. *contentment* no matter your circumstances, a critical learned trait. **PHIL 4:11; HEB 13:5.**
5. *resolve* to improve yourself spiritually and personally rather than be angry with God for not making it easy, or angry with others to whom you transfer your disgruntlement with God and your unsatisfying circumstances. **JON 4:1-5.**
6. *sense* to realize that fairy-tale romances are nice but not required, and they can be obstacles to successful mating.
  - a. If you will settle for nothing less than Prince Charming, you are likely to go lonely for a long time or deceive yourself concerning the character of your Prince.
  - b. Good values, good character and good goals that are not abandoned because of "road-bumps" are better than fairy tales.
  - c. Abraham and Sarah had a good marriage in spite of disappointments, some bad decision-making, disagreement, life-threatening challenges, etc.
  - d. Prepare yourself to have a heart like Sarah, who, even after Abraham dumped an order for food preparation on her without warning, still honored him as her lord in her heart. **GEN 18:6-12 c/w 1PE 3:4-6.**
7. *realistic expectations* about marriage: there will be troubles. **1CO 7:28.**
8. *understanding that marriage is commitment for life*, not an easy-return Wal-Mart purchase **(ROM 7:1-3)**. The easy-out mentality can set you up for a foolish choice.
9. *discretion*, for it is worth more than looks. **PRO 11:22; 31:30.**

E. Young ladies, you have been raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord **(EPH 6:4)** and have been relatively spared from the corruptions of the world. Be advised:

1. You will be rubbing shoulders more and more with a culture that does not respect the values of your God and this will be occurring at a time when you are still relatively immature and lacking discernment. Be prudent about your acquaintances, entertainments, etc. **1CO 15:33.**
2. Even the infamous "strange woman" had been taught well in her youth. **PRO 2:16-18.**
3. You will also be at this time dealing with the power of emotion and sexual desire, which things are normal, being built into us all by God. They are not of themselves

evil but they must be subordinate to godliness and channeled accordingly. Respect your heart but rule it well or it will rule you unto regrettable decisions.  
**PRO 28:26 ct/w PRO 3:5-6.**

- VIII. It is not inappropriate to pray for a spouse. In fact, it would be inappropriate to NOT pray for a spouse if that is your desire. **GEN 24:12-14; PHIL 4:6-7.**
- A. Effectual prayer is that which accords with the will of God (**1JO 5:14-15**). Compare these prayers:
1. “Lord, there is this guy that I have seen in XXXXX; now get him for me to marry, for he pleaseth me well.” See **JDG 14:2-3**.
  2. “Lord, give me a spouse that satisfies my ego/lusts/flesh---I will settle for nothing less.”
  3. “Lord, I desire your will over mine and will be content and chaste in single life. Please consider the desire of my heart for godly marriage, for I know that You ordained marriage as good.”
  4. HINT: God knows your heart and you can’t con Him with the words of #3 when your heart is #1 or #2.
- B. Asking is good, when the asking is from a humble, obedient believer who abides in God's word. **JOH 15:7 c/w 1JO 3:21-22.**
- C. Asking is not good when one's own will and lusts are paramount. **JAM 4:1-3.**
- D. The godly desires of the heart are granted to those who *delight themselves in the Lord*. **PSA 37:4-5 c/w ISA 58:13-14.**
- IX. Here is a suggested preference scale for a husband (starting with the best):
- A. Someone of like precious faith with known good faith and character who respects you in the Lord. This is the premium way to avoid a divided house and produce a godly seed. **LUK 11:17; MAL 2:14-15.**
  - B. Someone of like precious faith who needs some improvement of faith and polishing of character but he is not so proud as to realize his need for improvement.
  - C. Someone of unlike faith who fears God, has good character, respects you and will not forbid the exercise of your faith.
  - D. Someone who has good morals and character, respects you and will not forbid the exercise of your faith.
  - E. Charm, looks, material wealth, worldly success, etc. must be way down on the list.
  - F. Unrepentant tomcats, rogues, violent men are not even on the list.
- X. May God bless young ladies who strive to honor **PSA 144:12; PRO 31; TIT 2:4-5; 1PE 3:1-6.**