

Gods Design for Sex

Introduction---

This lesson deals directly with one of the strong forces in human life--sex. Some people consider sex a dirty or taboo subject which must be ignored or hidden. Other people view sex from eyes completely free of any moral regulation and think of it only biologically or for wanton pleasure. Somewhere between these two extremes is the truth. This lesson is designed to show us the attitude God would like for us to have concerning sex, its place in our life. Also, we will see what kind of a force sex is so we can control it and be sure that our attitude agrees with our actions.

Part One

- A. What is the source of sex? It is as old as life on earth itself, originating with the creation of life by God?

Gen. 1:11,12---the herb yielding seed

Gen. 1:22 -----to animals: be fruitful and multiply

Gen. 1:27,28---man: male and female created He then

God said: be fruitful and multiply

Conclusion: Sex is the creation of God to be respected as such. It is not dirty or sinful in itself.

- B. What was God's purpose in creating sex?

1. Reproduction - maintenance of each species of living beings. Gen. 1:22,28--God said: "Be fruitful and multiply."

2. Sex not only provides the mechanism of reproduction--it provides the spark or interest or drive. It is a biological urge which insures that individuals of a species will mate and bear young and it was designed by God for this purpose.

3. Bi-sexual or "male and female" reproduction is superior to any other type (such as simple division or unisexual reproduction) for maintaining a healthy and normal race of men, animals or plants. This shows that sex as it exists, is the result of intelligent creation by God.

Conclusion: At the end of the creation, Gen. 1:31 "And God saw every thing that He had made, and , behold, it was very Good." This included male and female plants, fish, birds, mammals and humans --all commanded to multiply.

C. Was man made to use sex in the same manner as lower animals?

1. God created man with the ability to think, reason and decide. He is thus unique from all other forms of life and was given dominion over all the earth. (Gen. 1:28-31).
2. With his privileges man also received responsibility to use the abilities given by God. Man, created in the image of God, (Gen. 1:26) would insult his creator if he acted by instinct or urge and not by reason and will.
3. God granted man the use of sex in an institution or state called marriage. God established marriage for the first man and woman (Gen. 2:24), "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh".

Jesus gives an account of the establishment of marriage in Matthew 19:4-6, "Have you never read that the Creator made them from the beginning male and female?"; and he added, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and be made one with his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. It follows that they are no longer two individuals: they are one flesh."

Notice that marriage is not only for replenishment of the human race, but for companionship of man and woman (Gen. 2:18).

4. By establishing marriage as the one and only relationship of humans in which sex is permitted, God, obligated man to live up to his created abilities. God also protected woman from abuse or abandonment and protected the children from abandonment or neglect.

Conclusion: Man was created by God in many ways superior to lower forms of life. Among these is the provision that sex will only be used in the God-established institution of marriage. This relationship has existed since the first man and woman. It has definite rules or limitations established by God. Society recognizes God's wisdom and it has laws and rules which also regulate and protect marriage.

D. Is marriage to be viewed as just an outlet for a biological urge which is basically wrong and sinful?

1. First: Human marriage was not created just for reproduction. God's first thought was for companionship and help for a lonely Adam (Gen. 2:18). Furthermore, people are married before any sexual event takes

place (Gen. 2:24). Sex is a part of marriage, but marriage is not for this sole purpose.

2. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled:" Heb. 13:4.

Conclusions: Marriage in all of its aspects, including physical, is an honourable estate. It is unhealthy and un-Christian to view it otherwise.

Part Two

- A. Introduction. In order to be Christian in our thoughts and actions we must understand ourselves. This understanding needs to be more than just some knowledge of human anatomy and the mechanism of reproduction.

- B. What is the nature of the human male with respect to sex?

1. The male was created by God vastly different from the female. The physical differences are obvious and well known. They are often over emphasized or exploited to the point that they become cheap or vulgar.

The physiological and psychological differences exist and are very important to understand. As the terms imply, these characteristics are not visible, but arise from the biological chemistry, senses and mind of the male.

2. As man approaches physical maturity he develops a biological appetite or urge commonly referred to as "sex drive". This drive begins to express its self in intensity with age. In many ways sex drive reaches a peak in the young man (ages of 18 to 25).
3. Sex drive is a biological urge due primarily to the functioning of the sex organs (testes). It is not a learned-drive. Thus it was created by God and is not something to fear or be ashamed of. This is the biological spark we spoke of previously which drives the process of reproduction in all animal species.
4. This drive starts with a development of an interest in the opposite sex. When the sex drive develops properly it leads a man to fall in love with a woman, marry and produce children. When, and only when, the sex drive is improperly stimulated, it leads the male to desire further stimulation and ultimately to desire sexual intercourse.
5. The sex drive can lead to immoral acts. In nature it primarily functions in reproduction. However, these facts should not hide the truth from us that sex has a deep and important meaning in human life. The social fellowship or association of humans has enriched this world of human life. Something within you urges or will soon urge you to seek the companionship of some

girl of your dreams; that something is sex. The same power sets your imagination in new paths of thought, of building a home and of rearing children. The words "mother", "father", "sweetheart", "wife" and "child", symbols of life's great relationships, are founded on sex. Remove the element of sex from our make-up and we would have to take out of our lives the things which now afford life's deepest joys and finest inspirations, the very things which we have come to value so highly that we feel that they are among the great spiritual experiences of the race.

There are mental and spiritual satisfactions which come into the life of an individual quite apart from any arousal of sexual desires. For example: A boy has in him, as a part of his sexual make up, something that normally affords him no end of pleasure in his every day associations with girls. He enjoys seeing them and there is much pleasure in talking to them, in discovering what they think. All of the interest in and pleasure from the feminine face and mannerisms, figure, walk, etc. are derived from the sexual nature of man. Yet they can be present and enjoyed day after day without any conscious stimulation of any physical sexual desires whatever.

You, each individually, must decide what you will or will not do with the sexual part of your makeup. What you do will either put you among those whose high standards of sex conduct make them leaders in human progress or among those who lag behind letting the good things of life pass them by. No lover animal has to make any such decision.

6. The sex drive in the human male is much stronger than in the female. The man is easier aroused and harder put to control his emotions. The effect of the sex drive on the woman is different. The same moon-lit night, aloneness and physical closeness which may make a girl think of a beautiful wedding scene could make a young man think of petting or something more serious. The difference between men and women has made some people think it is the girl's place to say "no". Also, this difference makes it possible for girls to offer improper stimulation to the male sex drive and cause grave problems. We would all be foolish to ignore or be ignorant of the fact that the male sex drive if uncontrolled and sufficiently stimulated will lead to sexual intercourse and will not be satisfied with any other result.

C. Under what conditions is sex wrong or sinful?

1. Normal sexual relations involve a man and woman united in marriage. Any other sexual experience is sinful. Fornication, adultery, are Bible names for sex acts out of the bond of marriage. (Gal. 5:19).

Things short of the sex act are sinful and warned against such as uncleanness, lasciviousness (impurity and indecency, New English Trans. Gal. 5:19). Sin is not limited to physical acts. To look at a woman (or girl) and lust after her (desire to do some improper act with her) is sin (see the words of Christ, Matt 5:28). This principle applies to any immoral thought. ^{See also} I Cor. 6:18-20

2. Any sexual experience other than the normal one of married people is condemned in God's word. Abnormal sex practices led to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and is mentioned as a factor in the depraved condition of the world before Christ came (Romans 1:23-28)
3. What contributes to the male sex drive? (This question must be answered in order to insure self control and prevent improper or sinful use of sex.)
 1. Mental: Sexual stimulation can come from completely mental sources.
 - (a) improper talk, stories, jokes
 - (b) books, magazines, picture shows
 - (c) thoughts planted by the above sources.
 2. Sight: Sexual stimulation can come from things seen, and be effective even if there is no other type of stimulation or any improper thought or motive.
 - (a) "nudie", adult or vulgar shows, plays and etc.
 - (b) immodest, careless women uncovered or clothes too-tight. Some women compromise modesty for comfort. Some others are immodest or dress daringly to get attention.
 - (c) "Playboy" type slick back magazines, some advertisements, etc.
 - (d) All of the above deal with immodest or indecent exposure of the female body. The sense of sight also responds to immodest or vulgar movements of the female body. Many of these occur in the modern dance.
 3. Physical . This is something that is unknown to some and even denied by others. However, the male is very sensitive to physical stimulation. This stimulation will occur even though there is no improper thought or motive on the part of the male. Simply not wanting to have sinful thoughts or desires will not prevent them if physical stimulation occurs.
 - (a) Any physical contact, whether it be intentional or accidental, innocent or not can stimulate the male sex drive.
 - (b) Obvious examples of such stimulation are prolonged kissing & hugging, caressing and petting.
 - (c) A less obvious example of physical stimulation is dancing. Dr. Thomas C. Whitefield after a careful study of this subject, said; "The modern dance is condemned precisely at this point. It is not wrong solely because it might lead one to the physical act of fornication, but it is sinful to the

degree that it arouses unrestrained desires that cannot be fulfilled under present relations and conditions when such desires are aroused, the dancing is within itself sinful because it is then a lascivious act."

"Men and boys are easily aroused by the close contact of bodies and sometimes suggestive movements associated with dancing. The type of music and dimly lighted room atmosphere add to the temptation to get altogether too familiar". Quoted from "A Father Talks to Teenagers, by F. D. Wilneth.

E. How can a normal young man control sex in his life? (This question is a natural result of realizing that God intends for the sex act to be the most intimate expression of love between married people. True happiness belongs to those who use sex in the way God intended. However, each male is tempted by his own biology to not wait for a spiritual fulfillment of this need. Especially if prompted by immoral thoughts and base stimulation, sex drive can lead to fear, worry, frustration, unhealthy desires, over emphasis, morbid curiosity, moral decay, and often very strong emotional problems. Thus, the question arises, how can I control the sex drive so that I will remain a Christian?

1. First, It can be done. Notice ICor. 10:13.

2. Self control can only be the result of our own will. We must have our own desire to live in a holy way yielding our bodies to God's service and to abstain from all kinds of evil. We must believe in the importance of our self respect, Christian example and sexual purity. We should have a goal of conforming our whole lives, sex included, to God's will knowing that this will result in true happiness.

3. We need to know and remember that the normal man (and woman too) reaches a point of no return in the course of petting or other heavy sexual stimulation. Once at this point the instincts take over, complete self control is lost and sexual intercourse occurs. The fact that one or both did not intend or want things to get out of hand does not have any effect. Sexual stimulation can be like a snow ball. Even the most faithful Christian boy and girl, with all of their desire and will to remain pure and abstain from evil can not stop it after a certain point is reached.

4. The only answer is to prevent undesirable sexual stimulation. (The undesirable type is that which appeals to the physical urge and not the normal pleasure and interest in girls).

(a) First step, keep a clean mind, with pure thoughts. Shun dirty literature, pictures, shows, jokes, talk and anything connected with it. Never think of any girl as an object of sexual gratification.

Dissolve friendships with boys whose primary aim and interest is immoral sexual experience.

- (b) Remove or limit sexual stimulation received from sight. Don't look at pictures etc. that are vulgar and provide stimulation of physical sexual desires. A few minutes with a copy of Playboy etc. might prove exciting at the time, but it can never add to your happiness, your completeness as a man or your success as a husband. We should stay away from the vulgar or crude movies termed "adults only" and any that exploit one or many women's bodies as their chief drawing card.

This goal may require you to look the other way occasionally when you are around girls. This may require you to exercise caution in recreation such as swimming parties, unchaperoned picnics etc. What can be done about girls in your circle of friends to persist in dressing immodestly or being careless to the point of revealing themselves? Perhaps a discreet word to one of her female friends that such is distracting or not appreciated would get to the proper ears and correct the problem.

- (c) Remove any source of physical stimulation, but you can prevent such stimulation. This raises the question of whether it is proper to dance on purely physical grounds. (This forbids parking and necking or parking and petting. These subjects will be discussed in more detail on the lessons on dating). It means that both boys and girls should be careful with their hands whenever they drive together, play games, etc.

5. Get plenty of exercise. Take part in sports. If you can't be a football hero, get a tennis racquet. These activities allow a great release of energy and prevent preoccupation with dangerous thoughts. Hard work and hard play make it easy for any man to keep his mind off of sex.
6. Engage in wholesome recreation. Mixed parties should always have planned recreation. You should take the lead in this if others don't. An idle, un-organized party can resolve into lots of pairs looking for privacy. All dates and social affairs should include plans for something to do. It should be wholesome and fun. Avoid parked cars drive-in movies etc.
7. Seek God's help through prayer. Remember that you are a Christian and remain spiritual, faithful in thought and practice. Any tendency to become indifferent or cold to the Church of Christ should be recognized and checked in the bud.

QUESTIONS ON GOD'S DESIGN OF SEX

1. Should a boy depend on the girl to say no?
2. Is the "I'll go as far as she will let me" attitude common? Is it Christian? Is it good or bad?
3. Some people say that paper back novels and girlie magazines are a necessary part of growing up. Will you have a sheltered or narrow point of view if you don't read such?
4. What are wild oats and the proper age for seeing them?
5. Some people say, "I can or have danced without immoral thoughts or physical stimulation." How does this relate to the physical stimulation possible from dancing?
6. Is there any problem in teenage swimming today from the dress, conduct attitude?
7. Do sexual experiences of a mild nature, have to be delayed until marriage?
8. What is a healthy and normal Christian attitude toward the role of sex in the life of a man.
9. What are practical steps that a young man can take to limit improper sexual stimulation and resultant thoughts and desires?

LESSON TWO

DATING: How to be sure it is always fun and right.

Introduction: This lesson is designed to develop a positive attitude toward a wide spread social custom - dating. It is a part of growing up that should be constructive and not destructive. The end result of these discussions should allow a young Christian man to gain only good from dating.

Part I: The What, Why, and How of Dating.

A. What is the purpose of dating?

1. It is fun and a normal, healthy custom.
2. Learn how to get along with others.
3. Learn to know yourself by seeing your ideas, habits, manners contrasted to those of other people.
4. Improve your conversational ability.
5. Develop spiritually. No better way to find and appreciate the depth of Christian character of fellow believers than to "go together."
6. As an educational process. Facts, hobbies, travel and also psychology.
7. Develop special friendships, know people in depth.
8. It is an aide in growing up--in adjusting to the man-woman world of adulthood.
9. It is actually a preparation for marriage and for this reason requires serious considerations. It is a vital part of the mate-finding process. (more about this later)
10. It can develop character, the ability to make your own decisions, self confidence and self respect.

Conclusions: Dating is a normal activity that will be helpful to any boy or girl at the right time in life.

B. What are some wrong purposes for dating?

1. Popularity, social climbing and attempted social or group approval.
2. Revenge, rebellion against friends, parents.
3. For sexual stimulation and exploration.
4. To show off or express your ego with a member of the opposite sex.

C. Age and Dating.

1. Can dating start too young. (Examples from Dr. Harris and Houston Post). If all of the pleasures of normal dating are enjoyed and grown tired of between 10 and 15 what will a boy or girl do for entertainment and excitement between 15 & 20? There is a normal relationship between the starting of dating and starting of marrying. This period is often from 4 to 5 years and is prolonged only by careful supervision of earlier dates. If children start dating at 11 what can be expected at 15. Run away or forced marriages.

Dating too young places people who are emotionally immature in a situation with which they are unable to cope.

What is the proper age to start dating?

D. Types of Dates.

1. Desirable types
 - group dates
 - double dating
 - pair dating

2. Undesirable types
blind dates
"pick ups"
mail order dates

E. How to be a successful dater.

1. Be a desirable person:
Be yourself, be courteous, be friendly, be cheerful, consider the other person, accept yourself for what you are, accept others as they are, show an interest in things outside yourself.
2. Watch your appearance, conversation and spirituality - be genuine.
3. Take part in group social activities, especially those in your circle of Christian friends.
4. Associate freely with the opposite sex.
5. Ask. Remember, you will never know until you do and you should not look at "no" as a "loss of face."
6. Give adequate time and information. Make it easy for the girl to accept. Don't wait till the night before the game.
7. If you are shy, look for a shy girl, she is probably dying for you to ask her for a date.
8. Know yourself and seek self-improvement.

F. Some Do's of Dating.

1. Broaden the Base of Friendship
2. Do things to get people together.
3. Get where you can get your own standard.

G. Can you overdo it?

How often should you date? What about a curfew?

H. Where to go and what to do?

1. Variety is the watch word. Boredom is dangerous.
2. Have a plan before you date. Keep interested and active.
3. There is a large range of wholesome activities other than the stock answers - a show or a dance. Examples.
 - a. Christian activities, youth meetings, lectureships, meetings, social events, class projects, banquets, parties, etc.
 - b. Special events in the community, fairs, special displays, lectures, plays, concerts, carnivals, programs, plays etc. at school. Be imaginative and original. It's amazing how much fun it will be.
 - c. Sports activities unlimited - bowling, tennis, golfing, horse-back riding, bike riding, skating, boating, fishing. Spectator sports, baseball, football or basketball.
 - d. the movies
 - e. dinner out - a big event or just an outing for a sandwich or coke.

4. home dates -- records, singing, games "quiet parties."

I. How do I judge whether an activity is good or bad?

1. Apply the scripture test.

- a. The principle of holiness in living. (2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Peter 1:16; 1 Tim. 4:1; 5:22)
- b. The principle of the war between the flesh and the spirit and the fruits of each Gal. 5:16-25.
- c. The principle of God's ownership of our bodies (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19, 20).
- d. Our deep concern for others (Rom. 14:21, cf. ; Rom. 12:10).
- e. The principle of distance from all kinds of evil (1 Thess. 5:22; Rom. 12:9; 13:14; Matt. 6:13).
- f. The principle of yielding our bodies to God's service (Rom. 12:1)
- g. The principle of doubt in which one has strong misgiving and therefore sins (Rom. 14:20-23; Gal. 5:21; 1 Thess. 5:22).
- h. The principle of example of Christ (John 12:26; 1 Peter 2:21)
- i. The principle of being too closely attached to the things of the world because of a love of them (1 John 2:15, 16)

2. Apply the question test.

- a. Does this bother my conscience?
- b. Can I do this thing and still be identified as a Christian? (Psalm 1:1)
- c. Will this cause someone else to stumble?
- d. Does this thing conflict with my duty as a Christian? (Matt. 6:33)
- e. Would this thing be habit forming or cultivate intemperance?
- f. Will this thing make me indifferent to Christ and this church?
- g. Is it destructive to my physical body?
- h. Can I ask God to bless me in this? Would Jesus do this?
- i. Do I have to do this in the dark? Would I be ashamed to have my parents or minister know that I did this?

QUESTIONS

Write a brief answer for further discussion.

1. What is a good age to start dating?
2. Should parents limit numbers on dates or set curfews?
3. What are some unusual activities for dates that would be wholesome fun?
4. What are the advantages of group or double dating versus double dating?
5. What are some qualities you would like in a date?
6. What is the best reason for dating?
7. Give some pro and con arguments for dates at the drive-in movies.

LESSON THREE

Dating and Courtship. How to fall in love with the "right" person?

Introduction: Most people end up marrying. God has made us so that adults are happiest in that state. Dating leads to courtship which leads to marriage. Even though the first purpose of dating is to have fun, the end result is picking a mate. Viewed in this light dating has a serious side. Let's see how to plan ahead to insure that things turn out right.

Part II. The who of dating.

A. Is it important who you date? What are effects of "wrong" dates?

1. Your reputation can be damaged.
2. Your "code of conduct" can be violated. Go along with crowd. "Party Pooper".

Bad though

3. Bad thoughts, attitudes and beliefs can be learned from the wrong people.
4. Improper emphasis: You can be made cold to Christ and the Church.
5. Serious trouble can result with respect to drinking, law breaking, sex simply from dating a person with a lower or different moral standard - the wrong person.

B. What are some general rules for selecting dates.

1. Someone Christian in conduct and behavior.
2. Someone you like or would like to know better
3. Someone with a good reputation.
4. Someone with "respectable" parents, preferably not from a broken home.
5. Someone with similar interests.
6. Similar in age, cultural background.

C. An overall rule: Never date (more than once or twice) anyone you would not want to marry (a person whose character, personality or background makes them undesirable for a mate).

Why:

1. Dating leads to marriage. We end up marrying someone we started dating once. However few people were aware that they would want to marry someone before they started dating. If you date girls who would be undesirable wives, someday you will fall in love with one of them, marry and have an undesirable wife.
2. Habits established in early dating days will probably carry over to the time when you will be meeting and dating your future wife.
3. Dating girls that don't meet your standards now may cause you to change your standards, especially if you begin to think a lot of one of these girls.
4. Ignoring this principle is an invitation for our "feelings" or emotions to run away with us. You never have a written guarantee that your hearts' affections won't become involved with any girl!

Part III. Dating problems

A. Cars

1. Safety
2. Where are you?
3. Parking and Petting. Too much familiarity and intimacy. Too much privacy.

B. Going Steady. Often a link between the age of going steady and the age of marrying. Going steady leads toward engagement and therefore should be considered with caution before one is mature enough to at least consider marriage.

1. Advantages of going steady:

- a. It affords a sense of security
- b. A sense of achievement. Adds to your self confidence.

- c. You can know each other well.
- d. It costs less money.
- e. The question of who to date is settled.
- f. No need for planning ahead.
- g. For the mature it is a very good practice before engagement.
- 2. Disadvantages: What is good for one is not good for all.
Circumstances vary.
 - a. If you start too young. You cut your self off from the opposite sex. Later, marriage and no "playing the field."
 - b. The danger of being too possessive.
 - c. If you get too involved? A relationship rarely stands still. Old ways of expressing feelings become dull and familiarity progresses into petting, etc. When you begin to feel too free together, take affection for granted, assume liberation, trouble may result.
 - d. You fail to get acquainted with many other people. You lose experiences which would help you make a good choice for a life companion. We don't make any other choice without some comparisons.
 - e. It often leads to early marriage. Statistics are well on the side of those who marry in their early twenties.
 - f. It is hard to break.

CONCLUSION: Going steady is a serious step that should not be taken lightly or too young.

- C. Necking. Expressions of affections are natural, but it is dangerous to use a "sledge hammer" to drive a "thumb tack". Here we are dealing with things physical. The sex drive of the male will make him interested in necking which will make him interested in petting.
 - 1. Definition of necking.
 - 2. Points about necking:
 - a. it provides sexual stimulation and thus represents a danger.
 - b. Conduct on a date should be kept more or less formal. The future is unsure, don't blunder early.
 - c. "Necking", will leave false impressions and cause others to misjudge your character (or see it as it really is).
 - d. If you hope to marry a Christian later don't degrade your reputation with heathen conduct now.
 - e. What is your answer to why?
- D. Petting - what about it?
 - 1. What is it?
 - 2. Why do people pet?
 - 3. What's wrong with it?
 - a. Emotional strain
 - b. loss of respect
 - c. confusing passion with love.
 - d. It dulls sensation, yet increases appetite.
 - e. It breaks down the moral fortress. (I Peter 2:11)
 - f. It leads to promiscuity and commitments.
 - g. It can endanger future marriage happiness through loss of sensitivity, feelings of guilt etc.
 - h. It is causing sinful thoughts or acts.
 - i. If it causes a boy and girl to lose control and "go all the way" this is sin and there are many other bad effects such as: loss of purity, loss of your example as a Christian, risk of pregnancy or disease, forced marriage, feelings of guilt and shame, it will not and can not bring the satisfaction which God has planned in lawful husband and wife relations.

PAGE 117. Courtship. Courting is for lovers.

- A. What is the difference in courting and dating.
 - 1. Its more serious.
 - 2. It's the result of a more or less firm desire to win the person as a mate.
 - 3. It is an attempt to win, but also involves some more "getting acquainted."
 - 4. It can't correct past mistakes. Now the heart is involved and often rules the head.
 - 5. It progresses from the "going steady stage" to the proposal of marriage through the engagement period to the marriage service.
 - 6. It should be reserved until both parties intentions are clear.
- B. How about affections during courtship.
 - 1. There are different stages of courtship.
 - 2. Physical stimulation is still dangerous and undesirable during this stage.
 - 3. The sense of touch, kissing and embracing should only be used to convey a message - o. deep feelings of attachment.
 - 4. Too much familiarity cheapens one's life. Don't make kisses cheap by being "free as air."
 - 5. You're not married yet.
 - 6. Courtship should never be a means of gaining excessive familiarity. It is in fact the time that many couples go too far and suffer all of the disadvantages of immorality. Unhappiness often results even though the couples intended to marry anyway.
- C. Things that should be accomplished during and immediately before courtship.
 - 1. Are you psychologically suited? get along; understand each other? Some code of conduct, same ideals, same ethical standards, what do you expect from marriage? How about age, educational and economic differences
 - 2. Do you have common view points on interests, friends, relatives, children, religion?
 - 3. Are you biologically suited? Is there physical attraction and can you express affection?
 - 4. Is there any hope of economic security?
 - 5. Are you ready for marriage?
- D. Ten Rules for Courtship behavior
 - 1. Be yourself - know what you think she wants you to be. Don't be afraid to express views.
 - 2. Spend enough time together, without outside distractions, to become well acquainted.
 - 3. Discover your mutual interests and share them. Develop new interests together.
 - 4. Don't pretend an interest.
 - 5. Get acquainted with his family and friends, try to understand them.
 - 6. Find out how she feels about children, a home, religion and money.
 - 7. Avoid intimate physical relationships and circumstances which lead to such, before marriage.
 - 8. Judge how suitable you are for her as well as she is for you.
 - 9. If you really like her don't "Keep her guessing."
 - 10. Seek the guidance of your minister or other qualified counsellor on marriage.
- E. The Case for Marriage within the Church.
 - 1. Statistics prove they are s under. than average or interfaith marriages.
 - 2. It will please Christ (II Cor. 6:14-16)
 - 3. You can have more faith in a Christian being true, and in realizing the seriousness of marriage - "till death do us part."
 - 4. A Christian will be more loving. "The greatest of these is love."
 - 5. A Christian will go to worship with you.

6. A Christian will work with you in the Church.
7. A Christian wife will recognize and help you as head of the house.
(Ephesians 5:23).
8. Being married to a Christian gives you a better chance for your own salvation.
9. Marrying a Christian prevents all of the disadvantages of mixed marriages.
10. What is the application of these rules to who to date???

LESSON FOUR

Love and Marriage; Is it real and will it last?

Introduction: Marriage is one of the most serious steps of your life. If you wait until you are getting ready to marry to learn what God expects of you in this state, the information will be valueless to you. In many cases the church's (or Church members') silence about the beautiful institution of marriage (which was established by God) reflects their own immaturity or ignorance. Now is the time for you to form the attitudes which will insure a happy and lasting marriage. You need to know the facts from God's word and other sources which will help you form this attitude.

Part I. Marriage

A. Basic Facts You Need to Know About Marriage

1. Marriage Is commended By God and was instituted by God.

Instituted Gen. 2:24 for Adam and Eve and all who follow.

Proverbs 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing....."

Titus 5:14 "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house....."

Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage is honorable in all,....."

2. Marriage is th last for Life

Mk. 10:9 "What therefore God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

Matt. 19:9 states anyone who divorces and remarries commits sin and anyone who marries a divorces person commits sin (one exception is listed)

3. Marriage Is the living together of one man and one woman. It involves two things: cohabitation and intention to be married (as defined in Mk. 10:9).

Marriage laws, certificates and ceremonies are all human inventions which assist God's creation.

B. The Purposes of Marriage.

1. Provides for companionship

2. Fulfills basic needs of man

3. Provides for propagation of the race.

4. Provides a division of labor (1 Tim. 5:13, 14)

5. It is the state provided by God in which man can find the most happiness.

C. Who to marry. (See lesson three) You better decide the type of girl

you want to marry now and associate with that type of person. Otherwise, your mate may be the result of chance. Most people "fall in love" before they start thinking about looking for a mate. A few non-members are converted to the truth. What if your isn't???

D. When should I marry? When I am fit, able, prepared and ready.

1. I am not fit for marriage until I realize my responsibilities to come.

2. I am not able to marry until I have some economic security arrangement.

3. I am not prepared to marry until I have reached a unity with my prospective mate concerning the church, kind of home, standards and children.

4. I am not ready to marry until I have found someone I really love.

5. I am not ready to marry until I really intend to give my life to making it last.

E. Marriage is for the Mature. Our maturity has several parts: chronological, physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual.

1. Some signs of immaturity:

a. selfishness

b. ingratitude

c. demand to have one's own way

d. no sense of responsibility or obligation

e. failing to finish what is undertaken

f. inability to meet conflicts and problems, make decisions

g. poor standards of judgement

2. Some signs of maturity
 - a. minimum of intelligence
 - b. minimum of knowledge
 - c. independence
 - d. Christian attitude towards sex. (Among other things, a language of love - created by God and reserved by Him for use by married couples.)
 - e. willingness to try to make the other person happy.
 - f. feeling of gratitude instead of self-pity.
 - g. to be filled with Christian love (Read I Cor. 13)
 - h. having high goals for life (including THE high goal).

F. Marriages for those who love God and one another

1. Why? Who established marriage?
2. Marriage is a spiritual relationship. It provides men and women with such experiences as will help each of them to develop spiritually (Ephesians 5:22-32 & I Peter 3:7).
3. Marriage gives man a model of his relationship with Christ. (Eph. 5:25)
4. God tells husbands and wives to love each other (Eph. 5:25). He who instituted the state, knows that love is essential and therefore teaches us this.

G. What about love? Will I recognize it when I see it?

1. There are many kinds of love, but here we are concerned with "romantic love" between a man and woman, other types include: Love for parents, God, neighbors, brother, self.
2. Watch out! There are counterfeits and you could be deceived.
 - a. infatuation - superficial love.
 - b. physical attraction.
3. The difference between love and infatuation. A reading from page 75
c Love Courtship and Marriage by Bro. P. D. Wilmoth.
4. Some characteristics of true love. Page 77 of same reference.

Part II. Will it last: You can be sure.....

- A. Only if it is built on the right foundation.
- B. Only if you both live as Christians.

LESSON FIVE

The Christian Husband: Is he different?

Introduction: What does the Christian young man need to know ~~knowing~~ about being a husband? Well, a lot of details are best studied and learned during the engagement period. On the other hand, as surprising as it may seem, there are some things you need to know now about your future happiness and role as a husband. Your future happiness may well depend on forming attitudes now in accord with God's teaching. This lesson is designed to deal with information to help you adapt these attitudes.

Part I. The Duties of a Christian Husband

A. Love your wife.

1. "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it: "Ephesians 5:25. Notice the great degree of love a man is required by God to have for his wife.
Eph. 5:28 "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself". Again in the 33 verse, "let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as him self:"
2. Never do anything to hurt her, and always respect her as a woman. I Pet. 3:7 "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel,....."
This not only illustrates the heathen conduct of a man who will strike his wife, but it shows us that a Christian husband should not expect the same physical work from his wife as from him self.
3. Express your love, often. "I love you" are three very important words. Never take her for granted or she will have a reason to neglect herself.
4. Be true to her in deed and in thought. Never covet your neighbors wife. "Playing the field" and "always looking" are not characteristics of a Christian husband.

The adulterous thought is sin in God's sight (Matt. 5: 28). "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out."

In this respect the same rule is good that will guide your dating days. As a Christian husband never put yourself in a situation with another woman that is questionable or tempting. Pauls advise to Timothy is good here, "entreat.....the younger women as sisters, with all purity" I Timothy 5:1 and 2.

5. Expect and help your love to grow.
6. Remember that we must love God and Christ more than our wife. (See for example Luke 14:26).

- B. "Dwell with her according to knowledge." Being a good husband require some learning and sacrificing and work as the statement above from I Peter 3:7. A Christian husband must have patience, kindness and courtesy. An addition he must be willing to work at helping his mate. make any adjustments to marriage necessary.
- C. Assume leadership of your home. "The husband is the head of the wife" Ephesians 5:23. Furthermore, in the verse 22 "wives, submit yourselves unto your won husbands" and in verse 33 "and the wife see that she reverence her husband".
 1. Leadership equals responsibilities-decision making and planning.
 2. Some wives "wear the pants" because the husband won't.
 3. The husband is only a figure-head in a wife lead home.
- D. Assume the Spiritual leadership of your home.
 1. It will be your responsibility to provide for the spiritual training of your children.
Read Ephesians 6:4
 2. Even though the wife actually does much of this training, it is the Christian fathers responsibility. You will help even with the very young by teaching them to pray, being interested in their progress in Bible Classes etc.
 3. Your firm spiritual leadership will help your wife in times of weakness.
- E. Support your family. Just as a woman's place is making a home, a man's place is to provide for the needs of his family. On the otherhand, to neglect them in order to provide luxuries on personal fame is very bad and un-Christian.
- F. First of All.....Christians. You should be a Christian in your profession.
 1. This is necessary for your own salvation.
 2. To be otherwise would hurt your wife and family.
 3. The example of your everyday life will effect your children far more than your commands, rules or teachings.

Part II. Things a Christian Husband should do to Increase the Happiness of His Marriage.

- A. He should continue his courtship after marriage.
- B. Show his appreciation for all his wife does.

- C. Don't be a "complainer",
- D. Be a real leader. Set the policies, provide direction.
- E. Take an interest in the home.
- F. Have the right concept of marriage. Respect your wife as an individual with worth and dignity. Someone with feelings, needs and rights.

The man who thinks of his wife as a sex partner and a household servant does not have the Christian concept of marriage.

The right attitude to marriage must be started now.

- G. He should make it clear to his wife that she is essential for his happiness. Every one needs to be needed.
- H. He should not burden the wife with all business problems.