

CG YOUTH NEWSLETTER

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GUYS: Three Reasons Not to Have Physical Intimacy Outside of Marriage

Let me give you three reasons why physical intimacy with a woman — at any level — to whom one is not married is potentially fraudulent, dangerous, and just as unacceptable for a man prior to marriage as it is after marriage.

1. We are made in the image of God

First, we are made in the image of God, and everything we are and do images, or represents, God. Therefore, we should be careful in what we do with our bodies. This is particularly true for the Christian, who has been united to Christ who is the perfect image of God. As Paul writes:

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Cor. 6:15-20, NIV)

Now to the male reader who says, "Lying with a prostitute is a black-and-white issue, and of course I would never do that," allow me to reply: You are missing the point. Being bought at a price by God should compel you to honor him with everything you have and with everything you are, including your body. You are an image-bearer. And if you are a Christian, you are a name-bearer. Are you bearing well the image and name of a

GIRLS: Are You Ready To Date?

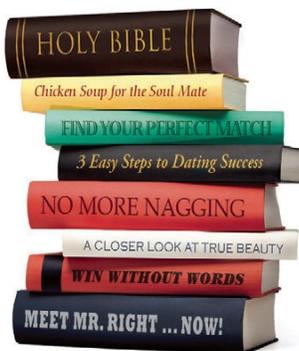
The first step in the process of moving toward marriage is to evaluate yourself spiritually. One of our guiding principles is that we are trying to be (or prepare to be) a godly spouse even as we try to find a godly spouse. All singles who profess Christ and aspire to marriage — even as a possibility — have this responsibility (even outside this area of life, we should all be trying to grow in Christ). Are you a Christian? If you're already sure of that basic answer, are you a growing and mature Christian? Are you generally humble and teachable, and do you respect authority? As a practical matter, are you responsible and holy in the way you possess your own spirit, mind and body?

As you begin to seriously consider marriage generally or a particular relationship, your first step should be to soberly reflect, before God, on your own spiritual walk and maturity in Christ. If you aspire to be a godly wife someday, what have you done and what are you doing to prepare for that ministry?

Second, are you at a place in your life at which you are ready and able to marry? "Practice" and "recreation" are not good reasons to date. Dating is for the purpose of finding a marriage partner. In my view, if you can't happily picture yourself married within a year, you're not in a position to date.

Third, once you decide that you are ready to date, look to God's Word to decide the kind of person to date, and evaluate potential dating partners on those criteria, rather than relying primarily on the world's treatment of ideas like "attraction" and "chemistry."

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SLEEP IS SO IMPORTANT FOR YOU!

1. Teens are biologically more alert in the evening. This makes it difficult or impossible to fall asleep early enough to obtain the 8-10 hours of sleep recommended before having to wake early for school.

2. Teens try to make up for lost sleep by sleeping in on the weekends. When this master clock becomes out of sync due to the shift in sleep schedule, the organ clocks become disoriented as well.

3. Sleep is needed for memory and learning. Teenagers perform better on mental tasks when they are well rested.

4. Teenagers are not dreaming as much as they once did. They are waking up for school during the time they would

normally be having the dream-rich, rapid eye movement (REM) stage of sleep.

5. Teens who are sleep deprived need up to two weeks of sleep without forced awakening to eliminate their "sleep debt".

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holy God by the way you conduct your relationships with the opposite sex?

2 We are called to protect, not take advantage of, our sisters in Christ Second, Christian men are called to protect their sisters in Christ, not take advantage of them. Consider 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6 (NIV):

It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him.

Where the NIV says, “no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him,” the NASB says, “no one should defraud.” Defraud means “to deprive of something by deception or fraud.”

What do I mean by defrauding in this context? Simply put, a man defrauds a woman when, by his words or actions, he promises the benefits of marriage to a woman he either has no intention of marrying or if he does, has no way of finally knowing that he will. Brothers in Christ in our churches are defrauding (taking advantage of) sisters in Christ, and as the apostle James says, “My brothers, these things ought not to be so” (James 3:10).

Executives from the corporate giants Enron and WorldCom were recently on trial for fraud. They had painted a picture of business health, growth, and prosperity when in fact it was all false. The single men in our churches must be encouraged to ask themselves, “in your relationships with single women, are you painting a false picture and committing fraud?” What may be considered innocent — holding hands, putting an arm around her in the pew, some “light” kissing, long talks over Starbucks coffee — all send the message to a sister that reads, “You’re mine.” Single men must be careful here. A Christian woman is first and foremost

a sister in the Lord. I trust none of us would do anything inappropriate with our own flesh- and-blood sisters. How much more a sister in the Lord! She may or may not become the man’s wife. But she will always be a sister. Her heart, the “wellspring of life” (Proverbs 4:23, NIV), must be guarded as if it were the man’s own! Statistically speaking, a single man should recognize that any single woman with whom he speaks will probably be someone’s wife, and he will probably be

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In short: Pick a potential dating partner with an eye toward godly manhood and womanhood — with an eye toward who would make a good husband or wife, defined by those characteristics God esteems in His Word, not the ones Hollywood likes.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 admonishes us not to wrong or “defraud” our brother or sister by implying a marital level of commitment (through sexual involvement) when it does not exist. A broad (but sound) implication of this passage is that “defrauding” could include inappropriate emotional — as well as physical — intimacy. Romans 13:8-14 calls us to love others, to work for their souls’ good rather than looking to please ourselves. More specifically, verse 10 reminds us that “Love does no harm to its neighbor.” Romans 14:1-15:7 offers a discourse on favoring weaker brothers and sisters above ourselves, valuing and encouraging that which is good in the souls of others.

Bottom line: I believe it is extremely difficult and rare — as a practical matter — to honor these principles in the context of a close, intimate friendship between two single Christians of the opposite sex. Intimate friendships between men and women almost always produce confusion and frustration for at least one of the parties involved. Close friendships by their very nature tend to involve extensive time talking and hanging out one-on-one. They tend to involve a deep knowledge of the other person’s hopes, desires and personality. They tend to involve the sharing of many aspects of each other’s daily lives and routines. In other words, they tend to

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The ARISE Vision

2 Timothy 2:22

“Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

God and the Gospel is preached

Ongoing Discipleship

Serving in the church

Parent partnerships

Equipping youth to know, love, and worship God

Loving the world in practical ways

The ARISE Purpose

- We want youth to know, love and worship Jesus in full authenticity.
- Connections are important to youth and we want to build relationships.
- Communication is key in understanding one another and helping one another.
- Community is what every youth seeks and we work to provide a safe place.
- Commission has youth will be challenged to reach outside the walls.
- We value parents and seek to build partnerships with them.

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someone’s husband — maybe each other’s, maybe not. So there should be no difference in standards of physical intimacy between the single man’s conduct with a single woman and my standards as an already married man. Single men must conduct themselves in a way that will not result in embarrassment or shame in the future.

3 We need to guard our eyes and hearts and bodies for marriage

Third, single men need to guard their eyes and hearts and bodies for marriage. “For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life” (1 Thess. 4:7, NIV). A person will not fully know how critical this is until marriage, but trust us old married guys and know that what is done with the eyes, heart, and body before marriage matters. Too many times we have seen a Christian man and woman fall in love, get engaged, and then discover, during pre-marriage counseling, that their past relationships are no small factor. Too often, past physical relationships become impediments in the marriage bed. We do not want a brother standing at the altar on his wedding day looking at his beautiful bride only to imagine behind her the boys and men who took advantage of her and robbed her of the trust and confidence that she now needs for her husband. We do not want a sister standing at the altar on her wedding day looking at her handsome groom only to imagine behind him a string of relationships with girls and women he failed to honor, and knowing that images in his head from pornography use and past flings may stick with him for a long time.

If I have just described you, you may have a painful road ahead of you, but our God is a great deliverer. The grace of God displayed in the shed blood of Christ on Calvary is more than sufficient not only to forgive you of past sins but to fit you for offering the comfort you have received to others, whether you eventually marry or not. If you have failed or are failing in this area, then remember your calling and resolve to stop now and prepare yourself for marriage. Guard your eyes and heart and body. In short, single men must know now that what they do prior to marriage is not inconsequential to what happens in marriage. They will reap what they sow. So they must decide now to sow well. The short-term pleasure of physical intimacy outside of marriage must not be allowed to damage the prospects for long-term joy inside marriage.

Matt Schmucker Guys Guide To Marrying Well and Dating

For the rest of the handbook email steve@cgyouth.ca and he will send you the rest of this fantastic handout. There is even an audio file he can send you.

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involve much of the type of intimacy and companionship involved in — and meant for — marriage.

And yet, even with all this deep communication going on, at least one aspect of these friendships inherently involves a mixed message. No matter how clearly one or both of you have defined what’s happening as “just friends,” your actions are constantly saying “I enjoy being with you and interacting with you in a way that suggests marriage (or at least romantic attraction).”

The simple reality (of which most people are aware, whether they admit it or not) is that in the vast majority of these types of relationships, one of the parties involved either began the “friendship” with romantic feelings for the other person or develops them along the way. Either way, that person is now hanging on to the “friendship” in the hope of getting something more despite the “clear words” from the other person that he or she wants nothing beyond friendship.

To the extent that one person’s romantic feelings have been clearly articulated to the other (and were met with an unfavorable response), to continue in some no-man’s land of “good friends” is arguably to take selfish advantage of the vulnerable party. Yes, I know, the other person is an adult who is free and responsible to walk away if he or she is so unsatisfied, but like it or not, it tends not to work that way. Hope springs eternal, whether it should or not.

Scott Croft





February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Missions Extravaganza Serve At Church 5:15pm to 9:00pm FREE	2 
3 Mini Jolt 1st Service Adult Leadership Team Meeting 2nd Service	4 Young Adults 7-9pm	5 Homework Drop In 3-7pm Arise 7-9pm Affinity Series 1	6 Jolt 6:30-8pm	7	8 	9 Church Annual Celebration Dishwashers and Helpers 6pm to 9pm FREE
10 Mini Jolt 1st Service Youth Leadership Team Meeting 1st Service	11 Young Adults 7-9pm	12 Homework Drop In 3-7pm Arise 7-9pm Affinity Series 2	13 Jolt 6:30-8pm	14	15 Fishy Friday 7:00pm-9:00pm Jolt and Arise FREE	16 
17 NO MINI JOLT	18 Family Day Holiday	19 Homework Drop In 3-7pm Arise 7-9pm Affinity Series 3	20 Jolt 6:30-8pm	21	22 ARISE Amazing Race 7:00-10:00pm \$5.00	23
24 Mini Jolt 1st Service Discipleship Group Celebration Lunch 1pm	25 Leadership Dinner Leaders Only 6pm to 8:30pm	26 Homework Drop In 3-7pm Arise 7-9pm SOAK RICO	27 Jolt 6:30-8pm	28 	29-31 	

MARCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 	2	
3 Mini Jolt 1st Service Adult Leadership Team Meeting 2nd Service	4	5 Homework Drop In 3-7pm Arise 7:00-9:00pm Choose Wisely 1	6 Jolt 6:30-8:00pm	7	8	9	
10 YOUTH RETREAT NO MINI JOLT	11	12 Homework Drop In 3-7pm Arise 7:00-9:00pm Choose Wisely 2	13 Jolt 6:30-8:00pm	14	15 Fishy Friday 7-9pm Jolt and Arise	16	
17 NO MINI JOLT	18	SPRING BREAK NO ARISE OR JOLT CONTACT YOUR LEADER TO HANG OUT				22	23 JOLT AND ARISE Hike 9am to 3pm
24 Mini Jolt 1st Service	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31 Mini Jolt 1st Service	SPRING BREAK NO ARISE OR JOLT CONTACT YOUR LEADER TO HANG OUT						