



For the Guys



by Adam Griffin

How should a godly man treat a woman?

Opening:

Who is it harder to be patient with...your mom or your best friend?

Why do men often fail to treat women with respect?

Why aren't we braver and more honorable when it comes to pursuing, romancing, or breaking up with a girl?

Biblically every Christian woman is your sister (even your girlfriend) unless she is your wife. If that is true, how are you doing at treating women the way you are supposed to treat them?

Rank these manly responsibilities. 1 being easiest for you, 10 being hardest.
As it pertains to his sisters (women), a man should...

- protect her from selfish and perverse men.
- defend and build up her public and private reputation.
- assure that she has what she needs and if she doesn't, provide it.
- encourage her in her relationship with the Lord.
- set for her, an example of a Godly man.
- build her up as a woman of God.
- get to know her heart and encourage her Godly desires.
- treat her with respect.
- gently correct and assist her when she is in the wrong.
- be honest and open about your care and concern for her.

Discuss.

Study

Read 1 Peter 3:7.

How are we supposed to treat women?

Why does the scripture say to treat them like a "weaker vessel" or "like porcelain"?

Is it calling them weak?

Is it calling them precious?

Read John 12:1-8. Christ is the ultimate example of manliness.

When someone started picking on Mary what were Jesus' words?

How does Jesus treat women?

Share a moment when you should have told another man who was not respecting a woman to "leave her alone"?

The difference between a man and a boy is that a boy is self-centered and is more concerned with his own welfare than that of anyone else. A man, on the other hand, is selfless and heroic. His concern is always first for those around him and he lives with maturity, integrity, chivalry, and discipline.

Look through this list of dating situations and label whether these are the activities of a boy or a man.

Some of these may seem ridiculous, and I agree. But they do happen and so the question is then, why? As you go through this list as a group, discuss the motivations for why a man or boy might act this way. Take note of how many of our boyish behaviors are selfish and cowardly.

In the pursuit of a godly woman's heart...

- _____ meet her face to face and ask her if you can take her out to get to know her better.
- _____ tell her a dirty joke to try to make her laugh.
- _____ slowly find opportunities to see what she is like.
- _____ pick on her in a sarcastic but flirty way.
- _____ get her number off facebook and send her a sext.
- _____ read every piece of information about her that's available online, look through all her pictures, and fantasize about dating her.
- _____ come up with creative ways to let her know you think she is interesting and worthy of being pursued with care.
- _____ talk about how other guys she knows are jerks.

When dating a Godly woman...

- _____ let her set the boundaries on "how far is too far" and then test the limits.
- _____ set the standard for purity and talk about it openly.
- _____ avoid meeting or hanging out with her parents.
- _____ seek opportunities to ask her questions about things she cares about and encourage her in things she's gifted at.
- _____ if she asks you to, go to church with her or pray with her.
- _____ find an older man that you trust to hold you accountable to being selfless and pure in your relationship.
- _____ tease her about things that she is sensitive about.
- _____ be quick to apologize when something has gone wrong.
- _____ if she's ready for sex, you're ready.
- _____ keep your eyes open for someone hotter who might be interested in you.
- _____ don't let her talk to other guys.
- _____ talk to your guy friends about her physical attributes.
- _____ try to find opportunities to serve her well.

When breaking up...

- _____ just stop talking to her.
- _____ sit down with her face to face and explain the situation.
- _____ tell a friend to tell her.
- _____ text her that it's over.
- _____ leave her a voicemail.
- _____ blame her and hold a grudge for how you were wronged.
- _____ tell your friends what a great girl she is and how unfortunate it is that it didn't work out.
- _____ even after you're broken up, check in from time to time to see how she is doing, if it is okay with her.
- _____ warn her new boyfriend how terrible she was as a girlfriend.

Closing

Offer God prayers for the group about being more like Christ and less of a selfish boy. Thank God for His forgiveness for your past mistakes.

Make your commitments to "how" you will be more like Christ.

thESource is published on the Web by LCMS District & Congregational Services—Youth Ministry. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 South Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; 1-800-248-1930; www.youthesource.com. Editor: Sherrah Holobaugh Behrens. VOL. 8 NO. 2. February 2011.