

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.

Jackson, TN 38305

www.oldhickorycofc.com

November 12, 2017

Volume 37, # 46

What a Guy Needs: 8 Musts Before Marriage

The only kind of girl a guy needs to date is the kind of girl he will marry.

Girls be this - Guys hold out for it.

1. He needs a sustainer.

The assault on the hearts of men is epic. God knew it would be. That is why he wove “ezer kenegdointo” into the fabric of Eve and her daughters. “Ezer kenegdo” often gets watered down in our English bibles as “help meet.” God didn’t form Eve to be Adam’s secretary or housekeeper. God created her to be his sustainer beside him. And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him (Gen. 2:18). The only other person that is identified as being this kind of help is God Himself in relationship to the children of Israel in their most desperate of times. Whoa. I look up to the mountains— does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth (Psalm 121:1).

Ladies, your purpose is essential. You bear God’s image as a sustainer. Don’t mess around with the boys until you are ready to dig deep and offer your life-giving strength this way.

2. He needs a woman.

Little girls like to play princess. Little girls whine and complain when things don’t go their way. They manipulate with their emotions and throw fits. Women have grit. Real women aren’t petty or catty or self-serving. Real women offer their maturity, wisdom and grace. She is clothed with strength and dignity (Prov. 31:25).

3. He needs the real deal.

Be you. Girls leave the superficial stuff behind. Forget covering yourself up with too much make-up and expensive clothes. Don’t hide behind popularity, status or success. Let the

real you through. Offer your truest self. It is the best thing you have to offer. And guys, it is the best thing she has to give. Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain (Prov. 31:30).

4. He needs to lead.

Ladies, shhhh. Talk less. Listen more. Give the man a chance to lead. Don't squash his God-given ability to be a man. God ordained him as the head of the family as Christ is over His body, the church. Let him fulfill his call. Guys, don't diminish your created purpose. Step up and lead. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land (Prov. 31:23).

5. He needs encouragement not nagging.

If she is constantly criticizing, offering "suggestions" and reminding you of all the things you need to say, do or be, consider yourself warned. Ladies, give it up. Let him do his thing. Encourage him. Speak affirmation. Instead of reminding him of his weaknesses, draw out his strengths. Let him know he's got what it takes. She tormented him with her nagging day after day until he was sick to death of it (Judges 16:16).

6. He needs acceptance.

Stop trying to change him! I'm going to go ahead and say that again. STOP TRYING TO CHANGE HIM! If you are dating a guy you think needs fixed, move on. He is not a project or puppy you need to house train. He is a man and he is what he is. Love him as is. Embrace who he is and appreciate what he's about. Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life (Prov. 31:11-12).

7. He needs a partner.

From recreation to his life's work, a man needs a partner. He needs someone shoulder to shoulder with him to share the adventure. It's the way he's made. Have fun together. Work toward a common goal side by side. And guys, if she isn't ready to share your vision and embrace your mission, she's not the one for you. "It isn't good for the man to live alone. I need to make a suitable partner for him...God gave them His blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control." (Gen. 1-2).

8. He needs a woman who honors God-centered marriage.

If she leads you to lust she is leading you to destruction. Girls, cover it up. All of it. Until you are Mrs. Wife don't offer your body in any quantity. Guys you need a woman who will help you guard your eyes and your heart. Marriage was created by God from the beginning of time. Honor it. Save yourself for it. Pledge yourself to it. Make sure the sacred vows of marriage are honored before and after the "I DO's."

For the lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey... But in the end she is as bitter as poison... Stay away from her... Share your love only with your wife... Prov. 5.

- Serena Degarmo [edited]

Bitterness, Meaningless ,or Healing?

“See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.” Heb. 12:15-16

Others have said that bitterness is like drinking poison and wishing the other person would die. There is truth in that.

Experience has shown me that there is often a correlation between bitterness and godlessness. I have noticed many times that when one gives up on God and becomes dedicated to the world, he also becomes bitter toward believers and God. He may consider himself “enlightened,” having learned that God is a sham and the church has held him down and enslaved to a hypocritical and evil religious system. Every encounter with those among whom he formerly walked is laced with his sarcastic rebuke and acerbic rhetoric. He now hates what he perceives what he once was, and he makes no apology in letting everyone else know about it. He now knows the true meaning of care and love, you see. Yet how tragic that he cannot understand that the root of bitterness has clouded his judgment. He cannot see that the very attitude he despises has become embedded in his own personality. And he now has, for his authority, nothing greater than himself. And with this authority he proudly pronounces all who hold to that outdated, superstitious view of religion to be the bane of all society. Bitterness, you see, perverts our view of all that is good and right, and forces our thinking into a futile, darkened world where the only thing left to grasp is meaninglessness.

Sadly, “A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy” (Prov. 29:1).

Others may not completely give up on God and His people, but may still harbor resentment and bitterness in their hearts. This, in turn, affects all of their relationships. They won't allow themselves to enjoy life, to be happy, to find the real joy of the Lord. There are days we may feel a connection to Job's words: “My spirit is broken, my days are extinguished” (Job 17:1). “When the heart is sad, the spirit is broken” (Prov. 15:13b). Life is broken and needs a renewal.

“Bring Christ your broken life, so marred by sin. He will create anew, make whole again.”

I understand disappointed. I understand angry. I understand depressed. I understand sinful. I understand hateful. I have experienced these and more. What I don't understand is allowing these to govern our future. Being disappointed or mistreated in the past is not an excuse to show ill will and hateful feelings toward others now. Being angry about your personal past is not an excuse to lash out in anger at those who are in your present and future. “But you just don't understand. You wouldn't say this if...” Stop. Yes, I do. More than I wish to say. In fact, many, if not most, understand this. Choices have to be made. Decisions need to reflect that we will seek out what is honorable and right. How we proceed from here, while influenced by our past, can demonstrate wisdom in overcoming our past.

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction” (Phil 4:13-14).

I couldn't have done it without God. I cannot continue to do it without God. No one can overcome permanently without God.

No, it's not a matter of just saying, “Get over it.” Very little is so simple. I'm not a psychologist or counselor, but I know that the human psyche is quite complicated (and here I'm not even discussing true physical and mental issues that need professional attention). I am saying that getting “over it” is possible if we will allow the Lord into our hearts and minds. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones.” (Prov. 3:5-8). “The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (2 Tim 4:18).

- Doy Moyer

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- > “When God measures a man, He puts the tape around his heart, not his head!”
 - > “Many have learned never to dive head first into a shallow creek; unfortunately, many dive head first into shallow religion!”
 - > “A Christian shows what he is by what he does with what he has!”
 - > “The world has too many cranks and not enough self-starters!”

> "A chip on the shoulder indicates there is wood higher up!"

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: "*Brevity!*" (Text: James 4:13-15) by guest speaker, Gordon Percell; Sunday evening: Guest speaker: Jerry Holt.