

GOD'S



SIGNS

The church was filled with guests, and Sheila and John's marriage ceremony had begun.

In a short time the minister pronounced them husband and wife. As dedicated Christians, they are now serving the Lord together through their home, work, and church.

A week before the wedding, Sheila told me that during her high school years she had decided not to date non-Christian boys. She also said no to dances, R-rated movies, late night parties, and other activities she felt were not pleasing to God.

John, too, had often stood alone. He refused drugs, cigarettes, and alcoholic drinks that his classmates offered him.

God honored and rewarded Sheila and John for their purity and brought them together to become one, to begin a lasting and happy Christ-honoring home.

Establishing a happy home is the dream of every sensible young adult, but this doesn't just happen. God has given STOP signs in His Word, the Bible, for a happy marriage.

KEEP YOURSELF PURE.

Purity begins in the heart. Jesus said, "*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God*" (Matthew 5:8).

This includes the posters on your wall, the books and magazines you read, the music you listen to, and even the words on the T-shirts you wear. It involves your whole life.

REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO GOD.

Intimate sexual relationships are for those who are married, not those who are going steady, or even engaged. When a guy says, "If you loved me you would have sex with me," he doesn't really love you. He is showing selfish lust, not love.

"...the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord..." (1 Corinthians 6:13b).

DATE ONLY THOSE WHO ARE BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIANS.

Choose friends to date who have high ideals and convictions, who are kind, thoughtful, mannerly, considerate of others, on time, and who dress neatly and modestly. Date those with religious beliefs that are similar to your own. A mate who is not

a Christian at marriage can cause great heartache for you during your life together. "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?*" (2 Corinthians 6:14).

PLAN AHEAD FOR WHOLESOME ACTIVITIES ON YOUR DATE.

Choose activities that will build you up spiritually, mentally, and physically. Avoid dances, un-Christian music, sexy movies and TV shows. Attend church activities together, start a Bible study group, see a nature or travel film, go to the zoo, work at a hobby, play outdoor and table games. "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report...think on these things*" (Philippians 4:8).

OBEY YOUR PARENTS.

The rules they make, such as coming home on time, are for your good. When you have a problem, make an honest attempt to talk it over with your parents. "*Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord*" (Colossians 3:20).

PRAY FOR GOD'S LEADING AND WILL FOR YOUR LIFE.

God is interested in who you marry. In His perfect timing He will lead you to the one who is to be your husband or wife and to a happy, lasting marriage. Never rush into a marriage because you are lonely. A hasty marriage seldom lasts. "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*" (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

TURN TO JESUS AND AWAY FROM SIN IN YOUR LIFE.

Christ promises forgiveness, peace, and happiness that the world can't ever give to you. If we really love Him, we will understand that His commandments are for our own

good and long-range happiness. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (1 John 1:9).



YOU ARE NOT IN THIS ALONE.

Jesus has given you a Guide, the Holy Spirit, and written instructions, the Bible. The "narrow way" of purity and walking with Jesus leads to happiness and endless joy, while the "broad way" of impurity and walking with Satan leads to sorrow and ultimately to eternal death. . . *"...wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life..."* (Matthew 7:13, 14).



BE AN EXAMPLE FOR CHRIST.

At home, church, school, camp, at work—wherever you are, stand tall for Jesus. You will be an encouragement to other Christians. Non-Christians will respect you even though they may not let you know. *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"* (1 Timothy 4:12).

Approach your friendships with members of the opposite sex joyfully as a conscientious Christian. Let God lead you to a person with whom you can share a life of genuine happiness as He did with Sheila and John.

—Lois A. Kreider

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