

Guy Girl Relationships: Advice from the Scriptures

John Hilton III, Education Week 2005

Some “Whys” of Morality

Alma 39:5

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“Do not be misled by Satan’s lies. There is no lasting happiness in immorality. There is no joy to be found in breaking the law of chastity. Just the opposite is true. There may be momentary pleasure. For a time it may seem like everything is wonderful. But quickly the relationship will sour. Guilt and shame set in. We become fearful that our sins will be discovered. We must sneak and hide, lie and cheat. Love begins to die. Bitterness, jealousy, anger, and even hate begin to grow. All of these are the natural results of sin and transgression (President Ezra Taft Benson, *New Era*, Jan. 1988, 5–6).

Standards

“Firmly establish personal standards. Choose a time of deep spiritual reflection, when there is no pressure on you, and you can confirm your decisions by sacred impressions. Decide then what you will do and what you will not do to express feelings. The Spirit will guide you. Then do not vary from those decisions no matter how right it may seem when the temptation comes. The realization of your dreams depends upon your determination to never betray your standards” (Elder Richard G. Scott, *BYU Devotional*, 3 March 1996).

“Before marriage, do not do anything to arouse the powerful emotions that must be expressed only in marriage. Do not participate in passionate kissing, lie on top of another person, or touch the private, sacred parts of another person’s body, with or without clothing. Do not allow anyone to do that with you. Do not arouse those emotions in your own body . . . Do not participate in talk or activities that arouse sexual feelings” (*For the Strength of Youth*, 27).

Dating

“Do not date until you are at least 16 years old. Dating before then can lead to immorality, limit the number of other young people you meet, and deprive you of experiences that will help you choose an eternal partner” (*For the Strength of Youth*, 24).

“A vicious, destructive, social pattern of early steady dating must be changed . . . It is my considered feeling, having had some experience in interviewing youth, that the change of this one pattern of social activities of our youth would immediately eliminate a majority of the sins of our young folks . . . and would be most influential in bringing a great majority of our young men and women to the holy marriage altar at the temple—clean, sweet, full of faith to become the worthy parents of the next generation” (*Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, 287-288).

“When you are young, do not get involved in steady dating. When you reach an age where you think of marriage, then is the time to become so involved. But you boys who are in high school don’t need this, and neither do the girls” (President Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 51).

Repentance

“For a moment I speak to anyone that has succumbed to serious temptation. Please stop now . . . Serious transgression such as immorality requires the help of one who holds keys of authority, such as a bishop . . . Do not . . . assume that because someone did not ask you all the important details of a transgression that you need not mention them. You personally must make sure that the bishop or stake president understands those details so that he can help you properly through the process of repentance for full forgiveness” (Elder Richard G. Scott, *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 69-70).

If you have any doubts about what you’ve done, talk to your Bishop.