

Guy Girl Relationships: Advice from the Scriptures
John Hilton III, Education Week 2008

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.

Expect the Respect

President Gordon B. Hinckley taught,

“Woman is God’s supreme creation. Only after the earth had been formed, after the day had been separated from the night, after the waters had been divided from the land, after vegetation and animal life had been created, and after man had been placed on the earth, was woman created; and only then was the work pronounced complete and good.

“Of all the creations of the Almighty, there is none more beautiful, none more inspiring than a lovely daughter of God who walks in virtue with an understanding of why she should do so, who honors and respects her body as a thing sacred and divine, who cultivates her mind and constantly enlarges the horizon of her understanding, who nurtures her spirit with everlasting truth” (*Ensign*, Sept. 1988, 11).

Elder Russell M. Nelson said, “You young men need to know that you can hardly achieve your highest potential without the influence of good women, particularly your mother and, in a few years, a good wife. Learn now to show respect and gratitude” (*Ensign*, May 1999, 38).

“Men, take care not to make women weep, for God counts their tears” (President Thomas S. Monson, *Ensign*, Nov. 1990, 47). “God will hold us accountable if we neglect His daughters” (President Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Sept. 1988, 11).

“Respect yourself. Do not feel sorry for yourself. Do not dwell on unkind things others may say about you. *Particularly, pay no attention to what some boy might say to demean you...* Go forward in life with a twinkle in your eye and a smile on your face, but with great and strong purpose in your heart... Never forget that you came to earth as a child of the divine Father, with something of divinity in your very makeup” (President Gordon B. Hinckley, *New Era*, Nov. 2001).

“You may not realize this but we guys most commonly struggle with our eyes. I think many girls are innocently unaware of the difficulty a guy has in remaining pure when looking at a girl who is dressed immodestly. Now I don’t want to dictate your wardrobe, but honestly speaking, I would be blessed if girls considered more than fashion when shopping for clothes. Yes, guys are responsible for maintaining self-control, but you can help by refusing to wear clothing designed to attract attention to your body... I know many girls who would look great in shorter skirts or tighter blouses, and they know it. But they choose to dress modestly. They take the responsibility of guarding their brothers’ eyes. To these women and others like them, I’m grateful” (Joshua Harris, *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, Multnomah Publishers, 2003, p 99).

“Let me share an experience I had not long ago at the minor league baseball field in Idaho Falls. Our family was sitting in the grandstands at the baseball field when a group of men who had been drinking came and sat in front of us. Not long after these men sat down, two pretty young girls with cute figures wearing tight tops and short shorts walked in front of the grandstands not far from where these men were sitting. I listened to these vulgar men verbally and visually undress these young women in their minds as these girls walked by. It was disgusting... What was hard for me about this situation is that these young women... looked just as innocent as you girls look, and they weren't dressed any different than I see many of you dress when you are in your apartments and off campus...

“You can't believe all the female students I've walked past who were sitting in a chair, and when I looked down I could see their bikini underpants or even worse. I think you know what I mean. I'm sorry to be so blunt. I'm just telling you what I saw. When I looked into the faces of these girls, I could tell they probably weren't even aware of what they were showing. But young women, for the sake of the priesthood holders... you cannot continue to be unaware. (You can read this powerful talk by going to <http://byui.edu/presentations> and looking up “Susan Bednar.” The talk is called, “Reverencing Womanhood”).