

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES ON MALE AND FEMALE RELATIONSHIPS

*This Message Relies Heavily Upon Joshua Harris' Book
Boy Meets Girl, Multnomah Books.*

Seven Goals for Relationships with Members of the Opposite Sex that Move Beyond Friendship

1. Keep the Purpose in Mind

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

2. Know When and Where to Begin

3. Skillful Living (Wise Relationships)

- a. Patience
- b. Selflessness
- c. Reality

4. Grow and Guard

2 Corinthians 1:12 (NIV)

Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.

- a. Friendship
- b. Fellowship
- c. Romance

5. Embrace Your God-given Role as a Man or Woman

6. Benefit from Godly Counsel

“What you are as a single person, you will be as a married person, only to a greater degree. Any negative character trait will be intensified in a marriage relationship, because you will feel free to let your guard down -- that person has committed himself to you and you no longer have to worry about scaring him off.” – **Josh McDowell**

7. Know When to Ask and When to Say Yes

1. Is your relationship centered on God and His glory?
2. Are you growing in friendship, communication, fellowship, and romance?
3. Are you clear on your biblical roles as man and woman?
4. Are other people supportive of your relationship?
5. Is sexual desire playing too big (or too small) a part in your decision?
6. Do you have a track record of solving problems biblically? (acting like adults or self-centered children?)
7. Are you heading in the same direction in life? (leaving and cleaving)
8. Have you taken into account any cultural differences you have?
9. Do either of you have complicating entanglements from past marriages or relationships?
10. Do you want to marry this person?