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"I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman, to lust after her?" (Job 31:1)

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

[up to and through marriage - guard your eyes and heart]



**Purity
Dating
& Marriage**



Purity, Dating, and Marriage – a short study

A jumpstart to finding or re-cultivating Biblical guidelines
in a sex-saturated culture of perversion

This is an expanded study with verses and explanation that was original posted as part of the Disney Cars1 and Cars2 report. (If you're interested in reading that, see closing section for links.)

Before we start looking at gender roles, according to God's Word, let's first look at what God says about relationships. So, I'm going to post some verses below with a little explanation as needed. (A few were in the header, of course, and I'll repost those too).

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"You shall not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14)

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for

you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Hell.” (Matthew 6:27-30)

“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.” (1st Corinthians 6:18)

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own coveting and lusts and is enticed. Then, when coveting/lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin/rebellion; and sin/rebellion, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” (James 1:13-15)

We are not tempted by God, when we go astray, and all ‘big’ sins are collections of little sins. Both of those are important to remember in a world of shades of gray.

God made guys to be strong leaders. God made men to stand, to fight, to march, to engage, to reason and hold their ground. God built men with a strong logic circuit... but when we guys are in sin, we *cannot* lead well or at all (in some cases). The only thing we can boldly lead in, when we're off-track is: into sin. God built guys to be protectors, leaders, trail-blazers - yet servants; bold yet gracious; showing leadership, yet not running anyone over to get to the goal. ~ So what does the world do with that? They scramble it. The world uses all of its media to boost men's pride through flattery and vain compliments, and then either directs them to cheer whole-heartedly for an idol, spend their years chasing money and sinful pleasures, or dumbs them down to just: find a girl that makes you happy. catch her, and then keep her happy.... please note one quick point: it's not wrong to find a godly girl who will be a good soul-mate (that's what guys ought to do). But when she is chasing the world's pleasures and trinkets, then she's going the wrong way, and a godly guy can't keep her happy unless she is letting God's Word teach her heart to love more of what God loves, and less of what the world loves.

Now to ladies. God built ladies to be nurturing. God made ladies to have a better sense of emotions, because they need that to see what others are going through and then to pray or help them. God made ladies to learn to have a heart for serving and helping, to abound in self-control, and to use the gifts and tools God gives her to reach out to others and use those opportunities to share the Word of God and the gospel. God made ladies to grow to be mothers, teaching their children to walk in the ways of the Lord, and teachers of older and younger women - as well as working alongside men and providing gentle accountability and another view of things then we men miss (way too often). ~ So, what does the world do with that? The world uses the emotional drive to get them to try to conquer men, outdo men, insult and slander and gossip about... to let their emotions get completely out of control so that they become contentious women who will do whatever necessary to get their way... to want only what makes them happy, and to avoid all that makes them stressed or worried or cry (or convicted and confronted with truth). And, ultimately, the world gets ladies to seek a guy who will make them happy and keep them happy...

... Now, I know I've said some things above that can be taken other than how I meant them. I'm blessed to know quite a few godly guys (of all ages), and quite a few godly ladies (of all ages). My main point in analyzing this is to double-check what I think I see. I never had sisters... so I feel like I have a handicap in at least understanding sisters. I had a brother from whom God's taught me much! ... but not sisters, so my sisters in Christ, if I said or analyzed something wrong - would you be willing to help me see it more clearly? I'll be eternally grateful for the tidbits and prayers. Thank you =)

But, assuming that analysis is pretty close to on target, there's another aspect of this that I feel the need to talk about - dating. Both Cars1 and Cars2 display a fast 'falling in love' setup, and never hint at marriage. What is that? Dating with no commitment. That's wrong and will hurt those who copy it. Now, this next point has two-facets that I see the need to address.

1> First of all, I want to ask you - what do the words 'handsome' and 'cute' bring to mind? What do the words 'pretty' and 'beautiful' bring to mind? Now - did you realize that the other people who just read that have a different definition of those words? Why is that? Because they are not concrete adjectives - but are subjective emotional analysis. Meaning? As the phrase goes: 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder'. Every guy has the ability to be smart and a great husband (*if he makes wise choices*). And every lady has the ability to be beautiful and a great wife (*if she makes wise choices*). Or, if God so calls them, to be single and serve their Creator and sharing His Word alone (*if he/she makes wise choices*). My point is that the world lies to us when they say that we can spot our future wife/husband with our eyes. We can't. Period. Most of those who are 'love at first sight' end up in lust at second glance... why? Because the focus was on the outward appearance rather than the real core or beauty - godly character and a heart that wants to fully please Christ. That is true handsomeness or beauty. Character - not the outward prettiness that the world fusses about. And that leads to my next note.

2> Secondly, we have gotten a long way from where dating/courting work in America anymore. You see the whole chat and social media atmosphere removes a vital part of communication: real godly people interacting with real godly people. It removes much of the ability for families to get to know one another and for a guy to watch a godly lady so he can then take the lead in dating/courtship. With social media, you can't hear tone of voice or see the expressions of the face, or see any other body language that would tell you how to adjust to keep good boundaries and how to handle the relationship well. Now, granted, with practice, one can figure out some of it... but it's still hard. But, my main point in mentioning it is not to push everyone away from social media (per se), but to help parents, leaders, and singles to realize that we need to get back to the community pattern of the home-churches in the book of Acts. The big entertainment-driven and money-driven 501c3 corporations are really hurting friendships, and make the ability for young people to find a good wife/husband much harder. With that, though, I need to make another point - dating needs to be as intentional as the time between engagement and marriage. Having worked with youth for a dozen years, I've seen far too many heart-breaks because the youths weren't

trained in Biblical boundaries that would lead to a healthy relationship which would more easily lead to a healthy marriage. My strong suggestion through experience is that guys need to not let a relationship with a girl 'fall into' a dating/courtship time, but start it verbally - just like they start the engagement toward marriage verbally. There needs to be an intentional start to it. It helps everything else work better. Now, that requires you dear sisters in Christ who are still single to keep digging into God's Word and readying yourself for your future husband, as the guys are also digging into God's Word and readying themselves for you. In time, God knows how to cross both of your paths and help you to realize that He is leading you to marry each other. He created everything - He cares about you. You need to trust Him, and make following Him the priority, and finding a life-partner needs to be at least second to that.

I also need to note that 'cute' 'handsome' and 'pretty' talk about the outward appearance, and are - in themselves, stereotypes. And yet if we look at things God's way - no one is better than another. The shade of melanin or the cost of the clothes we wear doesn't make us better than others. That's just pride and arrogance that God has to humble or oppose. Now, some people are walking in more obedience to Christ than we are. So, rather than begrudge that - let us allow that prompt us to grow to Christ ourselves! Remember, God's Word says: **"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'"** (1st Samuel 16:7) -- That attitude is also partiality: favoring a person over another because of looks or possessions. **"Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself', you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors."** (James 2:5-9)

Men, please do not strive to be like the world wants you to be. To not respond in pride is not weak, but self-control. The kind guys don't finish last - they just learn not to fight useless and frivolous battles. Remember, God commands us guys to actually love those around us. Now, a warning - do not chase the loud-mouth and flirty ladies who emphasize their outward appearance and superficial qualities, for those are the very contentious women God talks about in Proverbs. If you want a godly lady, you will not spot her with your eye - you will only find her by her pattern of caring about what God cares about, including people. So. grow in character, hunger for God's Word, and wait for the lady God picks for you. When you find her, God will confirm it to you - you will not be able to tell by appearances. Husbands - love your wife. She needs you, but she will likely say very few words. Give her as much of your attention as you can and in the process of helping her, you'll grow too more like Christ. (See more tips in the conclusion.)

Ladies, please do not strive to be like the world wants you to be. The world wants you to think you need to make your appearance perfect (or as close as you can), and to always be friendly and never say the word 'no'. The world teaches you to accept the wrong flirting of guys or sexual comments as 'compliments'. The world also teaches you a satanic replacement for modesty - dressing 'appropriate' for the 'occasion'. But, God's standard of modesty for guys and ladies has only one occasion - modesty at all times; intimacy with your wife/husband alone. You cannot make yourself better by polishing the outward appearance. Outward prettiness is not handsome or beautiful. But genuine consistent spiritual growth in inward character, self-control, and patience and following Christ - **now that is true nobleness and beauty**. You need to set boundaries for yourself that keep you and your heart safe. Build trust with the honorable ones, but always keep those boundaries secure and intact. And for those who are married, make sure that your husband is your closest confidant.

In conclusion (to several categories):

>>> Single guys, single ladies - God has the right one for you, if you just seek Him with all your heart, and make pleasing Him your number 1 priority - not to bribe Him, not to do things for the praise of men, but just to grow in seeking, serving, and honoring Jesus. God truly honors those who seek Him, with good things. =)

>>> Husbands - your wife needs your love, your attention, your affection, and your help. A typical godly wife will not usually pester much, but she needs whatever care you can/will give her. When you find something that is both taking your time and diverting you away from following Christ and gets you away from quality time in God's Word (several times a week if not daily), then your Biblical logic needs to kick in and you need to get that out of your life, as soon as possible - or modify it so that it isn't a problem.

>>> Wives, your husbands need your love, your attention, your affection, and your help. A typical godly husband will not usually pester, but he needs whatever you can give him. When you see something that moves your emotions on a roller coaster, or gets you away from quality time in God's Word, and/or is taking up time and diverting you away from Christ (several times a week if not daily), your Biblical logic needs to kick in and you need to get that out of your life and home, as soon as possible - or modify it so that it isn't a problem.

>>> Parents, your kids need you! They really do. The world tries to prop them up in pride telling them that they know more than you, and telling you to get out of the way. The world tells the kids that they already know more than you, and tells you to leave your kids alone and let them 'grow up' (without your understanding of right and wrong). There is only one word to describe the message of the world: LIES! God's Word is true, and He does not lie. This is what God says: **"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."** (Proverbs 22:6) ~ And again: **"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.'** And you, fathers, do not

provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:1-4) ~ So, again, your kids need you to teach them.

They're blank slates with a leaning toward rebellion because it looks fun. You need to see God's wisdom to teach them right and wrong through thoughtful, caring discipline and training of what's right and what's wrong. So, parents - let's not stick with the empty patterns of past generations, and set a pace - training our kids in righteousness. That's going to require us to spend regularly quality time in the *whole* of God's Word. I'm in. Are you?

Praying for you all ~ Please pray for me and my family! Thankyou!
a growing servant/life-slave of Jesus, SH

Closing links:

This is an expanded study with verses and explanation that was original posted as part of the disney Cars1 and Cars2 report. If you're interesting in reading the original studies, below are the links to part1, 2, and 3.

Part1:

<http://vineoflifeneeds.com/short-report-cars1/>

Part 2:

<http://vineoflifeneeds.com/report-cars2-pt2/>

Part 3:

<http://vineoflifeneeds.com/report-cars2-pt3/>