

## **CHAPTER 3**

# **THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF DATING FOR GIRLS**

### **DO'S**

#### **1. WHEN ASKED FOR A DATE, BE RESPONSIVE AND RESPECTFUL**

- a. This doesn't necessarily mean you have to accept the date.
- b. It does mean that you be sensitive to the fellow's feelings and the way you come across.
- c. The male ego is a fragile thing — try to be gentle, courteous and polite.
- d. You destroy something of your own dignity and self-esteem by acting disinterested and cold — especially on the telephone.
- e. Whether you accept the date or not, always try to reflect feminine kindness and diplomacy.
- f. Incidentally, men do talk! If your general approach is unduly curt and cutting, the word gets around.
- g. Don't be surprised if the guys start snubbing you.

#### **2. WATCH YOUR APPEARANCE AND DRESS FOR THE OCCASION.**

- a. Your outward appearance says an awful lot: it's a reflection of your background and training — but more importantly of what you think of yourself.
- b. It's also a reflection of how you view the fellow — at least he looks at it this way. If you're not concerned about your appearance, he takes it to mean you're not concerned about him either.
- c. Intelligent and cultured men detest slovenliness — wrinkled clothing, unmatched outfits that are hurriedly put together, oversized shirts, clodhopper sandals (unless you're going to the beach), etc.
- d. Bodily hygiene plays a big role — smell fresh, look trim and neat, and watch your breath.
- e. Give special attention to your hair — even on hikes, picnics, and mountain trips take care of it as much as possible. Be balanced in this, however!
- f. If the fellow doesn't make clear the type of date he's taking you on — ask to find out and dress appropriately.

#### **3. RADIATE FRIENDLINESS, ENTHUSIASM AND A ZEST FOR LIFE.**

- a. A man finds it difficult and exasperating to date a girl who is noncommunicative, lifeless and limp. He doesn't enjoy the type who responds with nothing more than "yeah" or "huh?" to a question — the kind who's slow moving, droopy-eyed and drags herself around like a tortoise.
- b. He likes for her to bubble with excitement and to enjoy life.
- c. He likes to see her beam with smiles, happiness and good cheer.
- d. He's looking for a girl who's outwardly positive — who radiates a warmth, glow and vibrancy that you can feel.
- e. No one expects every minute to be euphoric! But liveliness, friendship and enthusiasm should be the underlying tone of your personality!

#### **4. CONCENTRATE ON GIVING YOUR DATE A GOOD TIME.**

- a. Let him lead in the conversation and respond to the things he likes to talk about.
- b. In the more vigorous activities, be fun-loving and spirited — join in with him and try to enjoy the things he does, even if you aren't very proficient at them.
- c. In group situations where several are present, defer to him. Don't flirt with other guys or divert your attention elsewhere.
- d. You can always learn something new from anybody — observe and listen.
- e. Think of your date as being a unique, interesting and important person — for at that moment he really is.

#### 5. CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONVERSATION AND TRY TO GO DEEPER THAN JUST THE TRIVIAL THINGS OF LIFE.

- a. This is one of the biggest criticisms that men have made: girls tend to be shallow and "air-headed" when deeper subjects are introduced.
- b. Female minds are generally on everyday trivia — dates, problems, latest fashions, parties, aches, pains, problems back home, etc.
- c. Trivia is important and plays a role in dating — for this is what everyday life is made of and constitutes a necessary part of human interchange.
- d. But you should broaden your scope of interests and become knowledgeable on a wide range of subjects — including geography, politics, world news, etc.
- e. Talk about your background, your goals, desires, likes and dislikes — let others get to know you and see inside you as a person.
- f. Discuss the Bible, sermons, classes — show a mature interest in the spiritual things of God.
- g. Learn to be perceptive and discriminating — explain your views to your date and solicit his honest feedback.
- h. Intelligent and hearty conversation is essential if you're to grow and mature as a woman and build meaningful friendships.

#### 6. DO LITTLE THINGS FOR THE GUY TO LET HIM KNOW YOU CARE.

- a. These can be simple acts of courtesy such as: unlocking his side of the car once you're seated, baking his special kind of dessert if you are going on a picnic, fixing your hair a way that he especially likes, or playing a particular type of game (cards, dominoes, checkers, chess) he may suggest.
- b. The big things are important — but it's these smaller, private, tailor-made gestures that really make the difference.
- c. They tell the man that you are a well-bred, empathetic and deeply thoughtful person.

#### 7. SHOW AN INTEREST IN THE FELLOW'S LIFE.

- a. When dating a guy, watch for clues that will indicate what he values and considers important.
- b. Draw him out by asking his opinions and viewpoints on particular questions or social issues of the day!
- c. Encourage him to talk about himself — his hobbies, his background and family, his hopes, dreams, career and plans for the future.
- d. If you can do so honestly, let him know you value his judgment and that you find his insights helpful and scintillating.

#### 8. TRY TO MAKE HIM FEEL CONFIDENT AND COMFORTABLE AND TO INCREASE HIS FEELINGS OF SELF-WORTH.

- a. This requires that you be warm and open, and reflect a mature understanding of man's sensitivities.
- b. Exercise care by not putting him down or making him feel uptight and defensive.
- c. Regardless of whom you're dating, always try to show respect. God says in 1 Peter 2:17, "Honor all men."
- d. Treat him as a fellow human being made in God's image, and a potential son of God.
- e. Men generally will rise to new heights of dignity and confidence when you increase their feelings of self-esteem.

#### 9. LEARN TO ADAPT TO NEW EXPERIENCES AND TRY OUT NEW ACTIVITIES HE MAY SUGGEST.

- a. Men like girls who are willing to respond to new challenges and opportunities.
- b. We are talking about on-the-spur-of-the-moment, out-of-the-blue type of things.
- c. This might include such suggestions as: a game of volleyball on the beach, a game of checkers, a new card game he learned, a race to a specific point and back (with him giving you a head start, of course), a helicopter ride, etc.
- d. So long as his ventures are appropriate and harmless, make a sincere effort to enjoy them.
- e. Learn to be flexible and fit in with his plans.

10. ALWAYS BE SWEET NATURED AND POSITIVE, NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCE.
  - a. Don't allow the pressures and problems of life to overwhelm you.
  - b. Don't magnify trifles and get bent out of shape.
  - c. In spite of heartaches and trials, bounce back and keep your emotions in check.
  - d. Maintain a cheerful, optimistic outlook.
  - e. Try to smooth out the rough edges and accept defeat with a smile.
  - f. People will love you a great deal more when you're calm, collected and don't react.
  - g. Always be mentally prepared to handle the unexpected when disaster strikes.
  
11. IN ANY DATING SITUATION, SHOW KINDNESS AND COMPASSION TO OTHER PEOPLE.
  - a. Most men will think "you're unusually special" when they see your love and concern for others.
  - b. True feminine kindness is one of the most desirable qualities you could hope to attain — it says practically everything.
  - c. If you want to add several inches to your stature as a woman, incorporate this godly virtue.
  - d. Get involved with people and make an effort to serve — visiting the sick, spending time with the elderly, encouraging a friend, etc.
  
12. DEVELOP A BEAUTIFUL, GENUINE, SINCERE PERSONALITY.
  - a. Enough can hardly be said about this phase of personal development — it's a high and lofty hallmark that sets you apart.
  - b. Have conviction in your standards — strongly live up to them.
  - c. Physical beauty means less and less to a man — once your inner charm and character start to emerge.
  - d. It's not always the physical that attracts the guy — it's your inner self-poise, graciousness, tender emotions, spontaneity, and the outward radiance of your personal qualities.
  
13. PLEASE SUGGEST WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO DO IF ASKED.
  - a. Some guys may run out of ideas and would like a suggestion from you.
  - b. If you sincerely have a preference, enthusiastically say so.
  - c. Normally this should not be expected — after all, he's supposed to be in charge.
  - d. But on occasion you can help him out by giving your input.
  
14. SUGGEST GOING "DUTCH" FROM TIME TO TIME, OR AT LEAST OFFER TO HELP WITH SOME OF THE EXPENSES.
  - a. Most young guys are broke like you are — and don't have a lot of extra money to spend.
  - b. Every so often, you might suggest paying your own way to the movies, picking up the bowling tab, or chipping in to help buy food.
  - c. This is not the normal custom — but it's perfectly "legal" and acceptable.
  
15. BE DEEPLY DEDICATED TO GOD AND THE CHURCH, WITHOUT APPEARING GUSHY.
  - a. We call this attitude a "spiritual mentality."
  - b. It's an aura — an underlying love — that men admire. They are impressed when you show an interest in the things of God.
  - c. Little else needs to be said when your example is telling the story.
  - d. Such demeanor can come only from prayer, Bible study, and walking daily with God.
  
16. SHOW APPRECIATION FOR THE DATE.
  - a. It's customary and proper at the conclusion of the date to express your thanks and let the guy know you had a nice time.
  - b. Send a "thank you" note for a very special occasion — particularly if he's bought you a flower and taken you to a fancy restaurant.
  - c. Remember that some guys go all out to give you a good time — in some cases spending more money than their budgets allow.
  - d. Your personal acknowledgment and appreciation goes a long way in building your esteem in his eyes, and makes him think you are a discerning and grateful person.

## DON'T'S

1. DON'T KEEP YOUR DATE WAITING — TRY TO BE ON TIME.
  - a. This applies as much to group dating as to personal dates.
  - b. So often, several people are made to wait because one or two stragglers show up late.
  - c. To detain your dates as a frequent practice says that you're not in control of your life and also implies that you don't have much regard for the fellow.
  - d. A lack of punctuality is a source of irritation to most men and may hurt your chances of building a meaningful relationship later in life.
  - e. Think long-range about the repercussions your present actions can bring.
  
2. IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT A DATE, BE CAREFUL NOT TO LEAVE HIM BRUISED AND WOUNDED.
  - a. For many guys, it's hard enough to ask for a date in the first place.
  - b. To be rejected — coldly and rudely — without good cause, can deal a crushing blow to his ego.
  - c. He may feel humiliated, rejected and that he's an abysmal failure.
  - d. If you can give a logical reason, your refusal will be much easier to accept.
  - e. You might say, "I already have other plans, but could we make it some other time?" Or, "I really must study for a test, or do a term paper tonight, but I will be free later this week."
  - f. Your thoughtfulness will soothe his feelings, and open the way for a continuing friendship.
  
3. ON THE OTHER HAND, DON'T ACCEPT A DATE JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF HURTING HIS FEELINGS.
  - a. Perhaps the guy is coming on too strong — he's assuming too much and taking you for granted.
  - b. Perhaps he's socially clumsy and unskilled! He's starting to get possessive and wants you to get serious with him "right now"!
  - c. Maybe he's misreading your intentions too early in the game.
  - d. It's better to be forthright and tell him how you feel! Honesty is the best policy — but be tactful.
  - e. Generally speaking, most men want the truth and would prefer to know where they stand — even though it may deeply hurt at the time.
  - f. Future dates would be uncomfortable for both if you were tense and unhappy and really didn't want to go out with him.
  
4. PLEASE DON'T CRITICIZE THE GUY IN FRONT OF YOUR FRIENDS JUST BECAUSE HE DOESN'T MEASURE UP.
  - a. You may do irreparable damage to his reputation — or at least create a bad impression of him.
  - b. This thoughtless cruelty will drive girls away and make it harder for him to get dates — if you've labeled him as "Mr. Oddball" or "Mr. Creep."
  - c. Maybe your opinions are partially justified, but let others judge for themselves.
  - d. Suppose he's just terribly shy and self-conscious?
  - e. Wouldn't it be better to overlook his idiosyncrasies and try to encourage him as a friend?
  - f. The Bible pronounces a dire warning against offending a little one. It even states that one who's guilty is in danger of the judgment. See Matthew 5:21-22.
  
5. DON'T BE TOO AGGRESSIVE AND FLIRTATIOUS, OR TRY TO ENSNARE HIM BY YOUR COQUETTISH CHARMS.
  - a. To be perfectly honest, most men don't like flirts.
  - b. You may momentarily capture his attention and cause his blood pressure to rise, but in the end he'll question your integrity and cast you aside.
  - c. A certain amount of aggressive behavior is purely natural and to be expected in normal dating relationships such as teasing, joking, and frolicking around in a spirit of clean fun and enjoyment.
  - d. We're referring to the type of girls on ego trips who try to tantalize, mesmerize, hypnotize, and subdue every guy in town.

6. DON'T ASSUME THAT EVERY GUY IS THE SAME AND THAT ALL ARE TO BE TREATED ALIKE.
  - a. Every fellow is unique and has his own individual tastes and standards.
  - b. Some like sports and outdoor life; while other less active types enjoy reading, writing poetry and listening to music.
  - c. Learn to figure each one out, and try to adapt to his particular personality.
  - d. Look on every date as a unique challenge and a learning opportunity that will enrich and round out your total life.
  
7. WATCH THE TENDENCY TO COMPETE AND MAKE HIM LOOK INFERIOR.
  - a. Hearty interchange of opinions can make a scintillating discussion.
  - b. But when you try to make yourself look good and put him down, you render a great disservice to yourself.
  - c. Men resent a belligerent, arrogant, competitive spirit in a woman, and will in due time lose respect for her.
  - d. The Bible condemns this type of behavior and labels her as "an odious woman" or by today's definition "a women's libber."
  - e. Bruising a man's ego is the greatest blunder you can make in dating.
  
8. DON'T WHINE AND COMPLAIN OR ACT SPOILED AND IMMATURE.
  - a. Whiners and complainers are a bore to be around, and can spoil an otherwise beautiful evening.
  - b. Such girls are totally self-centered and seem to care less how others may feel.
  - c. They complain about the weather, about their job, about their parents, about their teachers and grades, about living conditions — about any and everything.
  - d. Look for the good, the lovely and the pure in all your experiences and associations.
  - e. Check up to see if you're infected with "complaintitis." You'll never be popular and have many friends until this attitude is changed.
  
9. DON'T LEAD A GUY ON UNLESS YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN HIM OR READY TO GET INVOLVED.
  - a. Some girls manipulate men like puppets on a string.
  - b. And some naive men allow themselves to become entangled in their web — usually ending up deeply seared and scarred.
  - c. These girls like to have a reserve to fall back on in case their other relationships don't work out — plus they like the attention of men.
  - d. It's deceitful, cruel and fiendish to lead a guy on when you have no intention of getting serious.
  
10. DON'T DISCUSS OTHER GUYS OR PAST DATES.
  - a. This is an Unpardonable sin" in dating.
  - b. Such behavior evidences a gross lack of wisdom, discretion and maturity.
  - c. Few things will turn a guy off faster than to be compared to other men or to share the spotlight with them.
  - d. Your first duty is to give your date a good time and make him feel appreciated and important.
  
11. DON'T BE FLAMBOUYANT, LOUD-MOUTHED AND BOISTEROUS-FOREVER CALLING ATTENTION TO YOURSELF
  - a. Even the dogs would tuck their tails and run if they beheld this type of behavior.
  - b. It's crass, vulgar and totally unbecoming of a lady.
  - c. Such a person would probably do well behind home plate as an umpire — but would usually strike out and rarely get a hit if she should play the game.
  
12. DON'T MAKE YOURSELF THE CENTER OF THE CONVERSATION.
  - a. This weakness indicates a lack of confidence and low self-esteem.
  - b. It's an effort to prove that "I'm somebody just in case you didn't know it."
  - c. This problem can be resolved by filling your mind with knowledge outside the tiny little bubble that surrounds your life.

- d. Project your thoughts and comments upward to higher ideals and to the good you see in others.
  - e. Monitor your words! You may be shocked at how often you refer to yourself.
  - f. Heavy doses of self-praise or an ongoing diary of your life can become a drag.
13. DON'T ACT AS THOUGH YOU'RE TOTALLY INDEPENDENT AND DON'T NEED THE HELP OF YOUR MALE COUNTERPART.
- a. This is not according to nature.
  - b. At heart, men want to be your protector and defender.
  - c. They want to be sweet and do tender things for you — such as opening doors, picking up books you may have dropped — playing their role as a masculine leader.
  - d. By acting cool and ungrateful toward their gestures you rob them of a satisfaction that God meant for them to experience and enjoy!
14. DON'T TURN A GUY DOWN AT A DANCE JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE HIS LOOKS OR HE'S A NOTCH BELOW YOUR SOCIAL STANDARDS.
- a. This is devastating to a man, and especially so if he's a Church member in good standing.
  - b. Such prejudice and favoritism should never exist among God's people.
  - c. If you have a legitimate reason for not dancing and must decline his request — remember his feelings and be considerate.
15. DON'T CANCEL A DATE AT THE LAST MINUTE UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNAVOIDABLE.
- a. If you must do so because of circumstances outside your control, apologize and give an explanation.
  - b. Don't set him up with someone else.
16. DON'T TRY TO BREAK UP SOMEBODY ELSE'S ROMANCE OUT OF SPITE, ENVY AND JEALOUSY.
- a. It's sinister and evil to destroy another girl's relationship just because you can't have the guy she likes!
  - b. Taking vengeance by spreading rumors or fabricating stories to break them up does greater harm to you — you destroy something of yourself.
  - c. If you resort to fraud or trickery to win a guy over, you're headed for disaster.
  - d. If it's a matter of your being hurt, forgive and forget and bury the past.
  - e. Continue to make yourself look beautiful by upgrading the inner qualities of your life.
  - f. Rest assured if you've laid the right foundation and are properly playing the role God intended, you'll have no trouble getting dates and eventually attracting the right man.

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