

CHAPTER 4

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF DATING FOR MEN

DO'S

1. COME TO UNDERSTAND WHY DATING IS IMPORTANT AND WHAT ITS PURPOSE REALLY IS.
 - a. Purposes and reasons:
 - (1) To have fun and enjoyment.
 - (2) To develop a well-rounded personality.
 - (3) To expand socially and culturally.
 - (4) To broaden your education.
 - (5) To develop the art of conversation.
 - (6) To overcome self-centeredness.
 - (7) To experience a wide range of personalities.
 - (8) To build confidence.
 - (9) To prepare for courtship and marriage.
 - b. Learn to view casual dating, as opposed to serious dating, as an opportunity to accomplish two grand goals:
 - (1) To develop into a colorful and dynamic personality.
 - (2) To be a source of genuine encouragement and inspiration to others.
 - c. Unless we get the overview in mind, there's always a tendency to date for entirely the wrong reasons — first and foremost to get married.
 - d. Obviously, marriage plays a vital role in dating — but more importantly is laying a stable, strong and mature foundation before contemplating matrimony.
2. IF THE GIRLS KEEP TURNING YOU DOWN, FACE THE FACTS HONESTLY AND SEEK HELP.
 - a. You may be trying to do everything right and consider yourself a fairly nice guy.
 - b. Yet, the girls keep making excuses and seem disinterested in you as a person.
 - c. If such be true, there may be something abrasive in your personality that's turning them off.
 - d. To nail down your problem, you need the guidance and professional help of a skilled counselor.
 - e. Don't go to friends and acquaintances who will sympathize with you.
 - f. Honestly seek the truth, however painful the answer may be.
 - g. Don't argue, justify or make excuses — face reality and go to work!
 - h. Your problems will always haunt you until you make the change.
3. LEARN HOW TO PROPERLY ASK FOR A DATE.
 - a. Don't approach a girl with, "What are you doing Saturday night?"
 - b. Statements like this are an intrusion of privacy and reveal a lack of experience and good breeding.
 - c. State what you would like to do and ask the girl if she would be free to join you...that you would enjoy her company.
 - d. Give an idea of what's appropriate to wear, what time to be ready, etc. Many times a girl has to ask for this information.
 - e. It all comes down to having a mature handle on the situation!
 - f. If for perfectly good reasons the girl can't accept the date, don't take it personally and become offended.

4. WATCH YOUR APPEARANCE — LOOK NEAT, TRIM AND SHARP.

- a. The attention you give to this aspect of life says a great deal about your character.
- b. Conversely, sloppy dress and careless hygiene indicate gross indifference and lack of respect both to yourself and others.
- c. Examples:
 - (1) Soiled and wrinkled clothing.
 - (2) Unpolished shoes and white socks.
 - (3) High-water trousers and ill-fitting clothes
 - (4) Untrimmed facial hair.
 - (5) Bad breath, dandruff and dirty fingernails.
- d. You can enhance your image in any girl's eyes if you give more time and attention to your appearance.

5. EXPECT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, AND YOUR DATES WILL USUALLY BE A SUCCESS.

- a. Have a positive attitude when you call up a girl — in other words, don't call expecting her to turn you down.
- b. Express excitement and enthusiasm for the date itself and toward the girl you're asking.
- c. Stay in a positive, happy attitude — even when unexpected circumstances interfere.
- d. Inject humor — learn to laugh at yourself.
- e. Concentrate on giving your date a good time by being solicitous of her comfort, happiness and welfare!
- f. Be creative and use your imagination in coming up with new ideas before you even ask for a date.

6. LEARN HOW TO CARRY ON AN INTERESTING AND INTELLIGENT CONVERSATION.

- a. To do this you must be informed, know what's happening in the world, read widely and have special areas of interest such as in hobbies, music, art, sports, etc.
- b. To break the ice, you can always start with trivia.
 - (1) A recent movie you've seen.
 - (2) Something special about last week's party.
 - (3) An interesting experience you've had.
 - (4) Class lectures.
- c. As the date progresses, move into heavier topics.
 - (1) Her interests — what she plans to do with her life.
 - (2) Travel experiences.
 - (3) Observations and recent lessons learned.
 - (4) Your career and interesting things about your job.
 - (5) World news, the Bible, sermons, a book you're reading, etc.
- d. You'll want to break up the pattern, but don't allow the date to degenerate into useless chatter and shallow thinking.
- e. Keep the conversation moving by asking for her opinions and comments on different subjects.
- f. Really listen and pay respect while she is talking.

7. LEARN TO BE COMPOSED, CONFIDENT AND SELF-ASSURED IN ANY TYPE OF SOCIAL SITUATION.

- a. This has to do with developing poise and finesse in blending in with people regardless of their station in life.
- b. It's having the ability to relax others, drawing them out and making them feel at ease.
- c. It means being responsive and making people feel important and appreciated.
- d. It further means just being yourself — natural, spontaneous, lively and uninhibited.
- e. This requires patience, courage and a determined attitude, but the fruits of your efforts will pay rich dividends in gaining friends and being popular.
- f. Most girls are very understanding and will overlook an innocent faux pas.
- g. But they find it difficult to admire the guy who's coarse and socially awkward if he shows no signs of wanting to improve.

8. SHOW THAT YOU'RE STABLE AND IN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE.

- a. This covers a wide gamut of characteristics.
 - (1) Having a steady job and positive goals you're working toward.
 - (2) Self-discipline over your mind, body and appetites.
 - (3) Not being naive and gullible — but thinking for yourself.
 - (4) Working to improve your life and growing in overall balance and confidence
 - (5) Consistently sticking with your goals until you see them through.
- b. When you grow in this kind of stature, you win the hearts and admiration of all.

9. BE SPIRITUALLY STRONG AND CONSCIENTIOUS WITHOUT APPEARING GUSHY.

- a. If you're not a strong spiritual leader, and show little interest in the things of God, the deeply converted girls feel insecure with you.
- b. This is not to say that you must always be talking religion and lecturing to the girls. Nor should you force your views about the Bible on them.
- c. But there should be a strong undercurrent of loyalty to God and the Church running through the whole of your life.
- d. If you're God-fearing, it's going to shine through as much in what you do as in what you say.
- e. Maintain high standards of conduct, but avoid the appearance of being "holier-than-thou."
- f. When you're growing, you will inspire the girls you date to grow too.

10. TREAT THE GIRL AS SOMEONE SPECIAL AND BE CONCERNED ABOUT HER FEELINGS.

- a. Be genuinely courteous and do little things to let her know you care.
- b. Pamper her in a mature way, as someone who needs protection.
- c. Examples:
 - (1) Opening doors.
 - (2) Bringing her a flower.
 - (3) Being thoughtful of her physical comforts such as giving her your coat if she is shivering, closing a car window if it's blowing her hair, removing her coat at a dance or party, bringing her refreshments so she doesn't have to stand in line, seeing that she gets into her dorm or apartment safely.
- d. Forget yourself — think in terms of giving her pleasure and happiness, being truly thoughtful of her feelings.
- e. Respect her views and values; her intelligence and natural abilities.
- f. Focus your attention on pleasing her as a Christian without getting mushy.
- g. Treat her as a queen, and she'll treat you as a king.
- h. Notice and compliment the girl on such things as her hair style, new dress, and appearance overall, and she'll consider you a very discriminating person.

11. LEARN TO LEAD — NOT DOMINATE.

- a. A girl admires the guy who takes control when necessary — that is, reacting to problems maturely, making right decisions and taking charge of situations with confidence.
- b. This kind of leadership imparts to her a feeling of security and a deep sense of respect for the man.
- c. To re-emphasize a point, proper dating is done with gentleness.
- d. He generally lays out plans ahead of time with her interests in view, but gets her input if changes need to be made.
- e. You'll always receive high ratings in a girl's mind when you radiate confidence and the ability to lead.

12. SOME DATES CAN BE "SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT."

- a. A quick cup of coffee.
- b. A brisk walk around the block.
- c. A bicycle ride.
- d. Many girls enjoy simple companionship and a break in routine.
- e. These dates cost you very little, if anything, and can be a most stimulating and healthy way to enjoy a few moments with another.
- f. Every date doesn't have to be a big, formal splash to give happiness.

13. REALIZE THAT ALL GIRLS ARE NOT ALIKE IN PERSONALITY AND TEMPERAMENT.
 - a. Before typesetting a girl and allowing an opinion to form in your mind, spend time in getting to know her.
 - b. Be flexible and learn to adjust to her likes, tastes and differences.
 - c. Create an atmosphere of warmth and encourage her to be herself.
 - d. The more you date a wide range of personalities, the better your chances of choosing the right mate when you decide to get married.

14. DEVELOP A CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE OF LOVE AND SERVICE.
 - a. A guy will grow in popularity who's considerate, thoughtful, compassionate and sensitive to the needs of others.
 - b. This also has to do with showing concern toward the weak, poor and elderly.
 - c. It seems that most young men today are so preoccupied with themselves and their interests that they have lost sight of the value of service.
 - d. "Let the other guy do it," is the hue and cry of the day.
 - e. Being considerate of others also involves carrying your share of the financial load and reciprocating favors shown. Example: A girl invites you over for dinner. Out of courtesy, you might ask if you can bring a bottle of wine or some item of food to help share expenses.
 - f. inscribe this motto deep into your subconscious: "Greatness IS service."

15. EXPRESS GRATITUDE AND LET YOUR DATE KNOW YOU ENJOYED HER COMPANY.
 - a. A follow-up phone call or a handwritten note after the date means an awful lot to a girl.
 - b. It tells her that you're uniquely different, and that you really care.
 - c. Mention a few things that made the date enjoyable.
 - d. Such a practice builds goodwill and enhances her feelings of self-esteem.

DON'T'S

1. IN CHOOSING DATES, DON'T TAKE THE SELFISH APPROACH: "WHO CAN GIVE ME A GOOD TIME?"
 - a. What girl is the most friendly and outgoing — the one I can relate to best?
 - b. Who's best able to subdue my fears and make me feel relaxed and comfortable?
 - c. Avoid the attitude of "What's in it for me? What can I get out of it? Who can give me the greatest happiness and fun?"
 - d. Shift the emphasis away from self to an active concern for others.
 - e. Think of dating as a growing experience, to be shared with a wide range of personalities.

2. DON'T DATE A GIRL JUST FOR LOOKS.
 - a. Don't reject the so-called "outcasts" or the "less desirables" in preference to the glamour girls with the prettiest faces and sexiest figures.
 - b. To limit your dating to the knock-out sex-bombs may bolster your ego and arouse envy in the other guys, but such a practice degrades your worth in God's eyes.
 - c. Girls can generally sense when a fellow's motives are wrong:
 - (1) By his stares and sensuous demeanor.
 - (2) Taking her places to "show her off," yet leaving her empty and unfulfilled!
 - (3) By pouting when she's not giving him 100% attention or responding to his "cry-baby" whims.
 - d. Some fellows have been heard to say: "I'll never date an ugly girl."
 - (1) Why? She's a human being made in God's image with feelings and sensitivities as any other person.
 - (2) Was Jesus Christ partial in His treatment of people, favoring only the elite? Of course not!
 - (3) Did you know there's not an ugly woman in God's sight, unless she's made herself ugly through acquiring wrong attitudes and habits.
 - (4) You're a greater gentleman in God's sight when you give yourself in equal time, attention and consideration to all the girls with whom you have contact.

3. DON'T SIZE UP EACH GIRL AS A POTENTIAL WIFE.

- a. No self-respecting girl appreciates being looked over, studied and analyzed as a future wife.
- b. In fact, this not only irritates her — she resents it deeply.
- c. Such scrutiny makes her feel like a horse, cow or used car on display at a public auction.
- d. Symbolically, the prospective buyer with clipboard in hand goes down a list of good and bad qualities checking off those he likes or doesn't like.
- e. A fellow who's wife-shopping too early in the game betrays his motives by asking personal questions such as:
 - (1) At what age do you plan to marry?
 - (2) Do you intend to go to college and graduate
 - (3) How many children would you like to have?
 - (4) What are you looking for in a husband?
 - (5) is there a history of insanity in your family?
- f. This thoughtless approach puts a strain on the girl, causing her to withdraw and play an unnatural role.

4. DON'T GET SERIOUS AFTER THE FIRST DATE OR TWO.

- a. This attitude, similar to the one above, puts a girl on edge and makes her uptight and nervous.
- b. It may cause her to act cool and distant or scare her off completely!
- c. Intelligent and mature girls don't want to be rushed or pressured into a premature courtship.
- d. It isn't that they've decided they don't like you — they simply need more time.
- e. Why do fellows get turned on so fast?
 - (1) Physical attraction and sex appeal.
 - (2) Personality of girl.
 - (3) Getting caught up in an aura of infatuation and romance.
 - (4) Yet, he hasn't dated long enough to get to know her.

5. DON'T GET TOO PHYSICAL.

- a. Sitting too close.
- b. Holding a girl too tightly while dancing.
- c. Putting arm around girl at movie or attempting to hold hands.
- d. Getting carried away and attempting to indulge in heavy petting.
- e. Girls resent the idea of being pawed over and having to engage in a wrestling match to protect their morals!
- f. They want to be treated like ladies and will respect you a great deal more when you treat them with dignity and honor.

6. DON'T PUT ON AIRS AND TRY TO BE SOMEBODY ELSE.

- a. Be yourself — warm, open, honest and sincere.
- b. Trying to project an artificial image makes one phony, unnatural and hard to get to know.
- c. Let your feelings, convictions and opinions come out — just be humble and discreet in the way you express them.
- d. Why do people put on airs?
 - (1) They feel insecure about themselves.
 - (2) They're afraid others will not like their personalities and accept them for what they are.
- e. This exercise in play-acting not only takes the fun out of dating, but creates barriers of mistrust and doubt.

7. QUIT TRYING SO HARD TO MAKE A DATE SUCCESSFUL.

- a. Don't become overly concerned about how things are going, or whether you are making a good impression.
- b. Don't worry about every detail and doing everything right — learn to relax, enjoy yourself and give your date a good time.
- c. By getting so involved with the mechanics of the date, it's easy to forget that the girl is a person.

- d. Dating relations should be easy, free, natural and spontaneous.
 - e. But when dating is taken too seriously — worrying over it and thinking it's not turning out right — you defeat its purpose altogether!
8. DON'T COMPETE ON A DATE BY ENGAGING IN DISPUTES AND CONTROVERSIES.
- a. A friendly exchange of opinions can be healthy and stimulating — but you should never try to show the girl up and make her feel inferior.
 - b. Don't overwhelm her with facts and knowledge and the brilliance of your mind.
 - c. Avoid backing her into a corner by challenging her views and making her feel that her opinions don't count.
 - d. Find out why she thinks as she does and welcome her points of view.
 - e. You might just discover she's keenly perceptive and can offer intelligent answers to many of life's problems.
9. DON'T PRY FOR INFORMATION A GIRL CONSIDERS PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.
- a. Her personal IQ
 - b. Past romances and names of boyfriends.
 - c. Sexual views — is she a virgin?
 - d. Personal hangups and family problems.
10. DON'T ACT MOUSY AND HANG ON TO A GIRL LIKE SHE'S YOUR MAMA.
- a. There are few things that will turn off a girl quicker than for a male to be unsure of himself, fail to assert his leadership and take initiative, wait for her to make the next move and become overly dependent.
 - b. She can overlook a lot of faults and be very understanding when the guy is trying, but this type of weakness is grossly repulsive.
 - c. Show some spunk, leadership and independence! Be a real man — not a quiet and timid mama's boy.
 - d. Watch that you don't become possessive and attach yourself to her like a leach at social gatherings.
 - e. Special note: Don't make a nuisance of yourself at parties and dances by monopolizing her time — especially if she's not your date for that occasion.
11. DON'T TALK ABOUT PAST DATES.
- a. This may give the girl the feeling she's not measuring up to your standards or pleasing you.
 - b. Don't discuss other girls' weaknesses, faults and idiosyncrasies.
 - c. Don't give the impression you have an interest in certain girls and are considering their merits for marriage.
 - d. Girls resent being compared to each other.
12. DON'T BECOME CRITICAL AND NEGATIVE TOWARD LIFE.
- a. A guy who's negative — who whines and complains about his bad breaks and misfortunes — is an obnoxious bore to be around.
 - b. Moreover, a downcast, critical temperament makes you appear weak.
 - c. Steer clear of personal gripes, problems and hangups — at least wait until you get to know the girl as a friend.
 - d. A guy who feels sorry for himself and is generally negative toward others and life overall, can have little hope for building meaningful friendships until he truly sees himself.
13. DON'T LEAD A GIRL ON, AND THEN DROP HER WITHOUT WARNING.
- a. This is one of the cruelest things you can do to the opposite sex.
 - b. Particularly, if you've been dating regularly and have given the impression you're getting interested and serious.
 - c. A sudden change without explanation can utterly crush her heart, destroy her feelings of self-respect, and do irreparable damage in building other relationships.

- d. Don't allow yourself to get carried away and become that involved with any girl until you know you're basically right for each other.
 - e. The key is to get to know each other inside and out, and to know that you're deeply in love before making any plans for marriage.
14. DON'T OVERDOMINATE AND GIVE THE IMPRESSION, "I'M THE BIG MALE LEADER."
- a. Girls detest a guy who's overconfident, arrogant and cocky, who struts around like a proud peacock.
 - b. They want to be lead — but not stomped on or stampeded over.
 - c. In this connection, don't treat a girl like one of the boys. Example: Slapping her on the shoulder, saying in a raucous tone, "Come on down to the gym and watch me lift weights!"
 - d. Further, don't give the impression, "I'm doing you a big favor by taking you out. So you had better appreciate me."
 - e. Being masculine doesn't mean throwing your weight around and popping buttons!
 - f. Learn the art of being gentle, and you will have discovered one of the greatest marks of Christian leadership. It takes strength and intelligence to be gentle.
15. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO ASK FOR A DATE.
- a. There may be exceptions, but normally you can avoid this situation if you try.
 - b. A girl doesn't like to be thought of as a nobody who's been passed over several times and she's all that's left.
 - c. Consider the fact that it takes time for girls to prepare for the more formal dates — ironing clothes, fixing their hair, etc.
 - d. Let her know the type of date so she can dress appropriately.
 - e. Be punctual — don't keep her waiting.

-END-