

CHAPTER 57

QUALITIES OF A TRUE GENTLEMAN AND LADY

I. When you were baptized and received the Holy Spirit, you became a begotten member of the royal family of God.

- A. Do you grasp the awesome implication and magnitude of this incredible truth?
- B. Does it really hit home and sink in?
 - 1. You are now qualifying to be born as literal sons and daughters of God's ruling Family.
 - 2. Because you have been placed in God's divine family, you occupy a position of higher rank and nobility than the royal family of England.
 - 3. You are now princes and princesses in training to become eternal spiritual kings and rulers.

II. To prove that you are of the royal seed of God, let's consider these points:

- A. The fact that Jesus Christ is living His life in you proves that you are a member of the same royal family He is.
 - 1. I John 5:11-12 — *'And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.'*
 - 2. Rom. 8:9-10, 14 — *'But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (10) And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.'*
 - 3. II Cor. 13:5 — *'Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?'*
- B. You are now joint-heirs with Christ of a glorious heritage.
 - Rom. 8:16-17 — *'The Spirit itself beareth witness without spirit, that we are the children of God: (17) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.'*
- C. Paul revealed that our true citizenship is in heaven.
 - 1. Phil. 3:20 — *'For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.'*
- D. The apostle Paul also declared that, as begotten sons and daughters, we sit in heavenly places.
 - 1. Eph. 2:4-6 — *'But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (6) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.'*
- E. Jesus Christ is called King of kings and Lord of lords.
 - 1. Rev. 17: 14 — *'These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.'*
 - 2. Rev. 19:11-14, 16 — *'And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. (12) His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. (13) And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. (14) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. (16) And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.'*
- F. The book of Revelation states that we will be kings and priests in God's coming Kingdom.
 - 1. Rev. 1:6 — *'And hath made us kings and priests unto Go and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.'*
 - 2. Rev. 5:10 — *'And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.'*
- G. Jesus Christ has also promised us that we will be given authority over cities.
 - 1. Luke 19:16-19 — *'Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. (17) And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou*

authority over ten cities. (18) And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. (19) And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.'

H. The first book of Peter tells us that we are God's royal priesthood.

1. 1 Peter 2:9 — 'But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.'

III. With this breathtaking future laid-out before us, we should come to visualize and internalize its meaning and true reality in our day-to-day lives.

- A. There's no doubt about it, we are destined to become literal members of the ruling family of God — the royal court of heaven.
- B. This necessitates that we prepare ourselves now in an intensive crash program to learn how to be cultured and well-bred as princes and princesses in God's holy Family.

IV. The vital questions we want to answer today are:

- A. How do we acquire this needed training in everyday experience?
- B. What are the standards — what is expected?
- C. Where do we start?

V. If you had the opportunity to ask Jesus Christ these questions, what kind of answers do you suppose He would give? What qualifications would He list for each sex?

- A. Interestingly, these qualifications are already identified and described in the Bible.
- B. They are found throughout its pages from Genesis through Revelation.
- C. They are the identical qualities that Jesus Christ designed for Adam and Eve to fulfill when He created them.
- D. Doesn't it behoove us, then, to study God's Word in an effort to understand our individual roles?

VI. Today, we are going to discuss 20 of the most important qualities that constitute God's ideals for a true gentleman and a true lady.

VII. Before we embark on this study, it is essential to underscore a most important foundational point common to all.

- A. That point is: Recognize God's sovereign rule over your life and develop the proper relationship with Him.
- B. This necessitates diligent Bible study, heartfelt obedience, and a willingness to change when corrected.
- C. When we're walking in the fear of God and are filled with His Holy Spirit, the fruits and qualities of true manhood and womanhood will begin to emerge.
- D. The male and female roles will naturally fall in place.
- E. The fruits of God's righteous and holy character will begin to flow and radiate in the distinctive way He intended.

VIII. To begin this study, let's envision that Christ is conducting a finishing school for princes and princesses.

- A. There are 20 steps He is going to teach each sex.
- B. We need to realize that we don't have these qualities so He is outlining them for us and showing us how to acquire them.

IX. Here are the 20 traits and characteristics that describe the original role that God intended for a man.

A. Points listed.

1. He accepts his role and responsibility as the leader.
 - a. At the time of creation, God assigned man this role.
 - b. God designed the man to be the aggressor, provider and protector — a responsibility for which He will hold him accountable.
 - c. He equipped man with the necessary abilities — mental, physical and emotional — to step out and take the lead.
 - d. If the man relinquishes this role, the woman will feel insecure, unloved and abandoned.
 - e. Her life will become miserable and emotionally distraught.
 - f. As a final recourse, she will feel compelled to take over his functions.
 - g. God never ordained this arrangement and it only leads to further frustration.
 - h. A weak, cowardly, irresponsible man is a shame and disgrace to God and the woman.

2. *His carriage and mannerisms are distinctly masculine.*
 - a. God created the male to think like a man, act like a man and look like a man.
 - b. Manliness is a matter of attitude — viewing yourself as a capable leader.
 - c. When you receive the mind of Christ and allow His Spirit to work in you, you'll start acting like Him — a real man.
 - d. Being effeminate is disgustingly revolting — it is a sin which can keep a man out of God's Kingdom (see 1 Cor. 6:9).
 - e. Endeavor to eradicate such things as:
 - (1) *A soft, thin voice.*
 - (2) *Prissy or prim movements.*
 - (3) *A whiney and negative disposition.*
 - (4) *Shyness and timidity.*
 - (5) *Aversion to rugged challenges.*
 - f. As a king in training, develop a manly physique.
 - g. Strive to cultivate masculine characteristics and features of the true leaders of God.
 - h. Dare to do! Engage in hard physical labor from time to time such as:
 - (1) *Cutting wood.*
 - (2) *Digging a ditch or post holes.*
 - (3) *Climbing a mountain.*
 - (4) *Tackling a repair job on the car.*
3. *He is a man of courage and radiates strength and confidence.*
 - a. A healthy brand of self-assurance comes from achieving goals and building on success.
 - b. It is not to be confused with arrogance, haughtiness or self-conceit.
 - c. Rather, it is a godly attribute based on faith, drive and all-out determination.
 - d. This will necessitate a degree of gallantry, courage and some risk taking.
 - e. A man will never gain trust and respect from a woman unless he develops strength and confidence.
4. *His character is founded on honor and integrity.*
 - a. A man with these qualities leaves a lasting impression.
 - b. They are bedrock stones in the foundation of his character.
 - c. They are an out-cropping of a deep walk with God.
 - d. Conscience plays an integral role in his dealings with others.
 - e. Motivated by the fear of God, he will not lie, cheat, steal or take advantage of a person's misfortune.
 - f. His motto is: honor before wealth, fame or fortune.
 - g. Also related to honor is the emotional maturity he exercises when things don't go his way.
 - h. He keeps calm when criticized and strives for peace.
5. *He sets goals and pursues them with vigor and determination.*
 - a. You will never attain true success unless you set definite goals, plan a strategy for their attainment and see them through to completion.
 - b. Don't just let life happen by taking the easy road or basking in the comfort of mediocrity.
 - c. Crawl out of your rut, upgrade your priorities and plan for the future.
 - d. Stop pampering yourself and making excuses.
 - e. Take immediate control of your life — break the hold of fear and inertia.
 - f. Aim high and visualize yourself as a competent, successful person.
 - g. Get out of the bachelor mode of thinking and dedicate yourself to a new life of improvement and growth.
 - h. Be a wise planner and active doer.
6. *He is genuinely humble and diverts attention away from self.*
 - a. Man is prone to praise himself, boast of his exploits, and put himself in the best possible light.
 - b. He thrives on attention and innately desires to be admired.
 - c. His conversation is laced with personal pronouns to elevate his self-importance.
 - d. God hates these tendencies and turns His face from those so infected.
 - e. True humility is completely dying to yourself and allowing God's life to fill you.

- f. As one writer said, *'Humility is not just thinking lowly of yourself, it is not thinking about yourself at all'* (author unknown).
7. *He is polite and courteous and reflects good breeding.*
- This describes the kind of gentleman who has dignity and class.
 - Such a man practices old-fashioned chivalry and is particularly attuned to the sensitivities of a lady.
 - He educates himself in matters of etiquette, diplomacy and protocol.
 - He is tactful and carefully guards his manner of speech.
 - He keeps reminding himself that he is a king in training and will someday occupy a position of grandeur in the family of God.
8. *He exercises common sense and good judgment, and continues to grow in wisdom.*
- A leader who is respected and honored has a track record of making wise decisions.
 - He has developed a sense and perception for what is good and proper.
 - Even the little details don't go unnoticed.
 - He thinks matters through to the end result and steers his life to avoid pitfalls and dangers.
 - A woman admires and trusts a man who exhibits these qualities.
9. *He is temperate, balanced and keeps his drives under control.*
- God commands moderation in all things and to abstain from fleshly lusts (see Phil. 4:5, I Pet. 2:11).
 - Few things are more repulsive than to see a man motivated by greed, gluttony or other carnal excesses.
 - If a man is unable to discipline his instincts, he will be looked on by the opposite sex with derision and contempt.
 - When we think of the emperors of ancient Rome who withheld no desire or pleasure, we evoke images of gross sensuality at its worst.
 - To be the kind of son that God admires, restrain your urges and passions by staying close to Him.
10. *He is open and honest, and willing to admit when he is wrong.*
- Most men fear they'll lose face if they acknowledge their mistakes.
 - However, women view this matter quite differently.
 - To them it takes a big man with courage and grit to confess error.
 - Remember that genuine confession and heart-felt repentance are a vital part of true Christianity.
11. *He is caring, thoughtful and generous.*
- This giving attitude should pervade every nook and cranny of his life.
 - He has discovered the true joy that comes from sharing the blessings and bounty God has given to him.
 - Conversely, he is repelled by the ugliness of the get way, including the notorious self-sins: self-pleasing, self-gratification, self-aggrandizement and self-importance.
 - The tone and tenor of his nature is that of love to God and neighbor.
12. *He radiates happiness and a positive outlook on life.*
- God's basic disposition is one of joy and enthusiasm (see Ps. 16:11).
 - If a person is filled with and led by the Holy Spirit, he, too, will express these emotions.
 - A sour, bland, dull personality repels others.
 - Avoid cynical remarks and negative put-downs.
13. *He maintains impeccable standards of personal hygiene grooming and appearance.*
- A gentleman with culture and class places a high premium on these qualities.
 - His personal hygiene and appearance reveal how he feels about himself.
 - If he appears slovenly and unkempt, and reeks with B.O., he manifests a disregard for God's standards and a contempt for fellowman.
 - Can you picture yourself in God's Kingdom, sitting on a throne in a rumpled robe, having disheveled hair, and looking like a bum?
14. *He is alert and sensitive to the needs of people around him.*
- A true Christian leader is people-oriented and attuned to their comfort and best interests.

- b. His mind works like a radar screen surveying his immediate environment.
 - c. He is aware of every person within his proximity.
 - d. Viewing himself as a servant, he befriends, assists and lends a helping hand to those who need it.
15. He motivates others by making them feel appreciated and important.
- a. One of the most powerful hungers in human beings is the need for acceptance and recognition.
 - b. The true Christian leader understands how to fill this need by reaching out to fellowman and expressing agape love.
 - c. He lifts their spirits, builds up their faith, and helps them to put their problems in perspective.
 - d. He encourages them by showing how their efforts and contributions have value and importance.
 - e. Such a leader is able to turn the negative thinking of others into a more positive outlook.
16. He reads widely, keeps current with world events and continues to upgrade his education.
- a. A true leader knows the importance of being well-read and knowledgeable.
 - b. He is curious about the world in which he lives and makes an effort to learn from every opportunity.
 - c. Knowing the value of time, he prudently selects material that has relevance and meaning to life.
 - d. He builds a varied library consisting of research material, biblical aids, self-improvement books, biographies, etc.
 - e. Remember that the desire for knowledge and understanding was a hallmark of Mr. Armstrong's life.
17. He has a knack for conversing with others and putting them at ease.
- a. The ability to converse with ease and confidence is a goal to be earnestly sought after.
 - b. Effective and pleasing conversation is a mutual give-and-take experience or sharing of ideas.
 - c. You can achieve this skill if you're willing to devote yourself to it and pay the price.
 - d. Most libraries and bookstores carry material covering this subject.
 - e. Learning the techniques of good conversation will pay high dividends and make you an interesting and scintillating person.
 - f. Equally important, however, is the ability to ask the right questions and be an interested listener.
18. He appreciates music, art and the refined types of entertainment.
- a. People of royalty and good breeding realize the intrinsic value of adding this dimension to their lives.
 - b. One who has cultivated these tastes has come to appreciate the hard work, self-discipline and hours of sacrifice needed to attain artistic excellence.
 - c. All this is a necessary ingredient in becoming a well-rounded prince.
 - d. It is time to reach beyond your present diet of TV, movies, rock and country music and include a higher caliber of entertainment.
19. He views all mankind as God's created sons.
- a. A true gentleman deeply understands and recognizes man's potential.
 - b. He sees fellow human beings the way God does — as diamonds in the rough.
 - c. Deep in his heart he wishes the best for them and is grieved by the state man is in.
 - d. Thus, he always extends honor and respect when interacting with others.
20. He treats women with gentleness, honor and utmost respect.
- a. A test of man's true character and leadership skill shows in the way he interfaces with the woman.
 - b. He is kind and gentle and cares about her feelings.
 - c. Although she is called the 'weaker vessel' (see [1 Pet. 3:7](#)), he never views her as being inferior.
 - d. He remembers that God created her as a special gift to man.
 - e. This fact endears her to him and impresses on his mind the responsibility it entails — being a provider, protector, example, pillar of strength and a shoulder to cry on.
 - f. In marriage, this means that he is fully devoted to her — even being willing to lay his life down for her if necessary (see [Eph. 5:25](#)).

X. Here are the 20 traits and characteristics that describe the original role that God intended for a woman.

A. Points listed.

1. She recognizes her God-ordained role as helper and companion.
 - a. The woman who is deeply converted will go back to the beginning and study the purpose for which God created her (see Gen. 1 and 2).
 - b. She will seek understanding and desire to please Him by fulfilling her role.
 - c. God explicitly states that she was made for the man — to be his helper and companion (see Gen. 2:18; I Cor. 11:8-9).
 - d. In essence, this means that her ultimate calling in this life is to be a wife, mother and homemaker.
 - e. Thus, she will go all out to prepare for this responsibility with a positive outlook and joyful attitude.
2. She defers to the man and practices true and willing submission.
 - a. The road to joy and real fulfillment in a woman's life is in practicing the God-ordained command of willing submission (see Eph. 5:22, 24).
 - b. True submission should be viewed as a profound privilege and an expression of love.
 - c. It should not be thought of as an irksome duty or a demeaning burden to be endured.
 - d. When the woman resists the position that God has assigned her and takes an independent stand, she introduces chaos and confusion into His holy plan.
 - e. Even a single woman needs to realize the importance of practicing this attitude when interfacing with men in general.
 - f. Be on guard against Satan's suggestions of being assertive, career-driven and a loyalist to the ERA.
3. She wisely directs her power of influence and inspires a man to believe in himself.
 - a. Most women are unaware of the latent power that resides in true femininity.
 - b. God has equipped the woman with the potential to inspire the man to achieve great heights.
 - c. If used wrongly, however, she can undermine his confidence and eventually destroy him.
 - d. This unique power brings out the best in the man and heightens his drives and ambitions.
 - e. When he's discouraged, she can infuse new life and determination in him through support and positive reinforcement.
 - f. It has been said that behind every great man there's a great woman.
 - g. Think beyond your personal realm and aspire to this noble duty.
4. She desires to please the man and do those things that will make him shine.
 - a. On the physical plane, her primary aim should be to complement the man and do all she can to help him succeed.
 - b. She should be willing to step aside and let him have center stage.
 - c. She knows that by pleasing the man, God will bless her and in her own special way she, too, will shine.
 - d. In interacting with men, whether boss or friend, she should keep this principle in the forefront of her mind.
 - e. This does not mean that she should sacrifice her own hopes and dreams and lose her identity.
 - f. Quite the contrary, Proverbs 31 describes a successful, multi-talented woman who brought fame to herself by fulfilling her role and honoring her husband.
5. She reflects godly character and highest integrity.
 - a. In this decadent society, character and integrity have become lost values.
 - b. The time-honored virtues such as honesty, morality, trustworthiness and truthfulness have been cast aside.
 - c. To become the kind of woman God wants you to be, you must recapture these values.
 - d. This will require courage and sometimes even mean the loss of popularity.
 - e. However, the rich rewards God promises will make the sacrifice well worth it.
6. She manifests the culture and refinement of a well-bred lady.
 - a. A woman who is a member of God's royal family needs to acquire the social graces this position demands.

- b. To bring honor and glory to God, she should embark on this venture with heartfelt commitment.
 - c. Read everything at your disposal on these subjects and observe elegant women who are poised and polished.
 - d. Learn, for example, from the gracious manners of Queen Elizabeth and Queen Sirikit who portray qualities of true womanhood.
7. *She radiates an aura of inner calm, peace and joy.*
- a. This disposition is acquired by walking in faith, being close to God and living a sin-free life.
 - b. It's a matter of being self-assured and confident in dealing with any situation that may arise.
 - c. God says great peace have they who love His law (see Ps. 119:165).
 - d. Joy & contentment are a matter of overcoming pessimism and replacing it with a positive mind.
 - e. Habitually look for the good in life and be thankful for God's blessings.
8. *She is virtuous and modest in her appearance.*
- a. The woman who is zealously preparing for God's Kingdom practices modesty and virtue in her personal life.
 - b. She is aware of the importance of her posture and graceful bodily movements: sitting, standing, walking, stooping or reaching.
 - c. A God-fearing lady steers clear of any action that might lead others to think she is morally loose.
 - d. She learns how to coordinate a stylish wardrobe while avoiding fashions that are revealing or suggestive.
 - e. She never forgets that she's a daughter of God and always carries herself in a manner that glorifies Him.
9. *She controls her moods and strives for emotional maturity.*
- a. Generally, a woman is more sensitive and emotionally expressive than a man.
 - b. She tends to cry more easily or collapse under pressure.
 - c. Because of her genetic and hormonal makeup, her moods are prone to fluctuate throughout the day.
 - d. However, with God's help and determined willpower, these mood swings can be brought under control and leveled out.
 - e. Be aware that when your emotions are running rampant and you give in to depression, Satan finds an opening.
 - f. A refined lady comes to grips with herself and overcomes these tendencies.
10. *She glows with charm and effervescence.*
- a. The woman who has developed a vibrant personality greets people with a smile and a radiant countenance.
 - b. She has a zest for life and a twinkle in her eye.
 - c. Be animated and let your enthusiasm flow out to others.
 - d. Resist depression and the doldrums.
 - e. Wake up and recognize the opportunities for service all around you.
11. *Her voice is soft and feminine.*
- a. She is always conscious that her voice expresses warmth and friendliness.
 - b. To a converted man, one of the most pleasing sounds in all creation is a soft, feminine voice.
 - c. It is the opposite of what we so often hear from women in the world today: loud, raucous, harsh, coarse.
 - d. Ladies who possess a meek and quiet spirit temper their speech with tact and wisdom.
 - e. They know the power of fitly spoken words (Prov. 25:11), and choose them with discretion.
 - f. This charming quality comes from God and yielding to His Holy Spirit.
 - g. Look for the good in people around you and be on guard against the destructive tendency toward gossip.
12. *She shows kindness and compassion toward people at all levels of society.*
- a. God stresses this as one of the primary qualities of the virtuous woman described in Proverbs 31.
 - b. Men are particularly drawn to women who possess a kind and gentle nature.

- c. Some married men have admitted that this was a major factor in choosing their mates.
 - d. A man can learn how to be tender and sympathetic from the example of such a lady.
 - e. It helps to soften his aggressive drives and adds a dimension of empathy he could learn no other way.
13. *She listens with interest and offers encouragement when needed.*
- a. This is another area where you as a woman can excel.
 - b. God has given you a special disposition to help nurture, console and comfort others.
 - c. It is a power that can particularly inspire the man and help him regain his perspective.
 - d. Cultivate the art of being a good listener and a genuine friend.
14. *She is a gracious hostess and makes each guest feel welcomed.*
- a. A truly refined lady has the ability to entertain others and put them at ease.
 - b. The atmosphere in her home is warm and cheerful.
 - c. She is calm, organized and well prepared.
 - d. She looks after the needs of all her guests and gives each of them special attention.
 - e. If an awkward situation develops, she handles it with kindness and diplomacy.
 - f. She tries to make each occasion a memorable experience.
15. *She grows with goals and pushes herself to achieve.*
- a. To be a daughter God will admire, commit yourself to a life of growth and improvement.
 - b. Falling into a rut or coasting blocks your vision and stifles your initiative.
 - c. Isolate areas of your life that need attention.
 - d. Set realistic goals and prioritize them.
 - e. Establish target dates and pursue your goals with vigor.
 - f. Grow in some small way every day.
16. *She seeks to improve her mind and education.*
- a. Your mind is your greatest physical asset.
 - b. As to gaining knowledge, it has no limitations.
 - c. God expects you to develop your mind to the highest possible degree.
 - d. Someday you will be privileged to help Him rule the universe — so learn all you can now.
 - e. The true knowledge acquired in this life will be carried over into eternity.
 - f. Also, it will make you a more scintillating and productive person today.
 - g. Therefore, read widely, study worthwhile materials and expand your mind.
17. *She cultivates her skills and creativity as a woman.*
- a. Here is another area of life where every woman can excel as an individual.
 - b. It involves a wide gamut of challenges: decorating a home or apartment, trying new and exciting recipes, sewing a new wardrobe, etc.
 - c. Brighten up your life and extend yourself into new areas of growth where you've held back.
 - d. Get the best mileage out of your God-given talents and strengths. (Every woman has them.)
 - e. Take classes in creative skills and ask older, more experienced women to teach you.
 - f. Men greatly admire women who have acquired a wide range of homemaking skills.
18. *She gives proper attention to her health and personal hygiene.*
- a. Without good health, life can be a drag — it can even affect your relationship to God.
 - b. Poor health could also mean the difference between attracting the right man and having to settle for second best.
 - c. To keep physically and mentally fit, watch your diet and get plenty of rest.
 - d. Moreover, never minimize the importance of proper hygiene: fresh breath, bodily cleanliness, clean hair, etc.
 - e. Untold scores of relationships have been ruined because of inattention to these areas.
19. *She watches her figure, exercises regularly and tries to look beautiful the way God intended.*
- a. Remember, again, you are a princess in training — and a temple of God's Holy Spirit.
 - b. A pleasing figure enhances one's self-respect and engenders confidence.
 - c. Are you striving to please God by keeping fit and trim?
 - d. Also, are you aware that you can increase your chances of finding a mate by taking a greater interest in your appearance?

20. *She sees herself as the affianced bride of Christ.*

- a. This concept should be the heartbeat and driving force in your life.
- b. You should share a deep and close relationship with Jesus Christ (see Rev. 3:20).
- c. You should excitedly anticipate His coming and plan your hopes and dreams around that event.
- d. Day by day, seek to prepare yourself for your spiritual marriage to Him.
- e. As a result of doing these things with your whole heart, you will also prepare for a physical marriage in this life.

XI. A final word of advice.

- A. Throughout this lecture I've been describing the ideal gentleman and lady.
- B. Obviously, none of us yet measures up to these high standards.
- C. Attaining them will take time and perseverance.
- D. Therefore, don't despair, become discouraged or succumb to guilt.
- E. Take these steps one at a time.
- F. Commit yourself to a new life of growth and be determined.
- G. Realize that with the help of God, self-mastery is possible (see Phil. 4:13).
- H. Picture in your mind the kind of person you'd like to become and start living that role today.
- I. Don't procrastinate — do it now!

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