

## (B-3) Commitments in Courtship

### *Submission to Parental Authority*

I will not begin any ongoing communication with someone from the opposite sex for the purpose of developing a relationship without talking to my parents first. If I am the man in the relationship, I will not enter a young lady's life through texting, calling, or communicating in any way without first talking to the young lady's father to ask permission to get to know her.

Since this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest decision of my life, I will seek counsel from other godly people in our lives and from those who know the other person as well as praying and fasting before beginning any courtship.

### *Submission to Parental Authority*

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We will obey our parents in any standard or regulation set, even if we do not agree. We will not begin or further a relationship without my parents' and her parents' permission. We will submit to our parents' desires and wishes in our relationship and to the timing and progression of the relationship.

- Ephesians 6:1-2 – "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;"
- Colossians 3:20 – "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord"
- Exodus 20:12 – "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

### *Submission One to Another*

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If there is a disagreement on a standard we will practice the highest standard of the two.

- Matthew 5:41 – "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain"
- Ephesians 5:21 – "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."
- Romans 14:21 – "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."

### *No Physical Contact*

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We will never hold hands, hug, kiss, or partake in any other form of physical intimacy or sensual contact before during the dating or engagement period. All physical contact will be reserved for marriage.

- The battlement principle (a standard to prevent a moral disaster) – Deut. 22:8 – "When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence."
- Romans 13:14 – "...make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."
  - "Keep the fire of physical intimacy in the fireplace of marriage."
  - "Stay off the down-hill on-ramp to the highway."
- 1 Corinthians 8:9 – "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

- Hebrews 13:4 – “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”
- 1 Corinthians 7:1 – “Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 – “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
- Ephesians 5:3 – “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 7 – “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor...God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:12 – “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:22 – “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

### *Never Alone*

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We will not be in a house, a car, or private place alone. We will never stay overnight at one another’s homes during our courtship.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:22 – “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”
- Romans 13:14 – “...make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”
- Romans 14:23 – “...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”
- 1 Corinthians 8:9 – “...But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.”
- Proverbs 22:1 – “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”

### *Appropriate Communication*

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We will not communicate any inappropriate or suggestive content to each other whatsoever. Nothing should be said that we should be ashamed of the Lord or others to see.

I will not tease him/her in any negative way, nor criticize his/her faults and failures. Fatal points in this are physical appearance, personality, actions, or any other thing which cannot be changed about him/her.

- Proverbs 12:18 – “There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.”
- Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”
- James 3:10 – “Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”
- Ephesians 4:29 – “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
- 1 Timothy 4:12 – “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou and example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

We will reserve any very delicate or important conversations for face-to-face conversation. A phone call would be acceptable if face to face conversation is not available within a reasonable amount of time or when other circumstances necessitate it.

We will be honest with each other if there begins to arrive some form of contention or division between us. As the devil desires to destroy us and our relationship, I will be vigilant that we stay right with each other and will not allow any seed of bitterness to take root.

- Proverbs 17:14 – “The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water? Therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.”

We will not text or call each other after a set time determined and encouraged by our parents to avoid the appearance of evil and live in moderation toward each other.

- Philippians 4:5 – “Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.”
- Hebrews 13:17 – “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

### *Spiritual Priorities*

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We will make it a point for prayer to be an active part of our relationship.

- James 5:16 – “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

We will place priority on the Bible. Sharing Scripture, devotions, messages and the like should be an active part in our relationship. Discussing Bible truths and applying them in the relationship or other areas of life will strengthen each other.

- 1 Timothy 4:12-16 – “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

We will not allow each other to take the place of God in our lives.

- Exodus 20:3 – “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”
- Matthew 22:37 – “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. “

### *Responsibilities*

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We will not exclude friends and other people in our relationship. Though there are times where it would be necessary or appropriate to have a private date or conversation, others should be an active part of our relationship.

We will not allow our relationship to consume us and keep us from fulfilling necessary responsibilities and commitments.

- Genesis 2:15 – “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”
- 1 Corinthians 4:2 – “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”
- Ephesians 5:16 – “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

### *8 Acts of Honor for the Man*

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1. I will give her more attention than any other person and will never treat anyone better than her.
2. I will open the door for her whenever possible.
3. I will pull her chair out for her if she sits next to me.
4. I will stand as she enters the room or approaches my location, unless deemed inappropriate for the setting.
5. I will walk between her and the road or any other imminent danger.
6. I will be as a servant during meal times by refilling her drink, getting her food, or taking her plate, when appropriate to do so.
7. I will offer to carry heavy objects or offer assistance if her hands are full.
8. I will compliment and praise her often and appropriately.
  - Romans 12:10 – “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;”
  - Ephesians 5:25 – “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”
  - 1 Peter 2:17 – “Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”
  - 1 Peter 3:7 – “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

### *Honoring God at our Wedding*

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We will honor God and our parents on our wedding day by only moving forward toward marriage with both sets of parents blessing as to the marriage and its timing. We will submit to the wedding policies of the pastor and church where we get married (including choices of music and modest attire for the wedding).

I am making these commitments to God, to my parents, to any person I court,  
and the parents of any person I may court.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**        \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_