

She Loves Me, She Loves Me Not – Surviving Teen Romance Surviving as a Teen, Part 8

Open

- High School is a time when many students fall into the relationships trap.
- Statistics of teen pregnancies, STDs, and abortions are alarming, to say the least, and the roller-coaster ride of teenage romance causes heartache, turmoil, jealousies, and frustrations every day.
- You don't have to be one of the statistics, though. You can survive and even rescue some of your friends from relationships that would cause trouble.

Genesis 2:15, 18-24

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

In the previous lesson, we looked at how God created Adam and Eve to be married and stay married for life. Another thing you can notice in this section of scripture is that God intended for Adam and Eve to love each other. They were not made to be alone but to be joined together in love.

God created Adam and Eve to love each other. He intended for that love to be expressed within certain boundaries, but that love itself is a good thing.

As you're growing older and maturing, you're starting to sense those same feelings of love, and they're a good thing, but only when done God's way, in God's time. Our modern style of dating is usually destructive to both parties involved, so don't get caught up in the whole teen romance thing, but follow God's guidelines.

YOU'RE MADE FOR LOVE

1. Love Means Sex

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...” – Genesis 1:28a

- What was the first job God assigned to Adam and Eve? He told them to fill the earth with kids.
- God created Adam and Eve with physical, sexual desires for each other, so that they would be able to fill the earth with kids. It's in His plan for you to be in a loving, trusting sexual relationship, as long as it's with your spouse.
- God wants sex to be within the confines of a marriage, where He promises that it'll be great (*1 Corinthians 7:3-4*).
- God wants you to enjoy sex when you're married (*Proverbs 5:18-19*).

2. Love Means Sincerity

“Let love be without dissimulation.” – Romans 12:9a

- What does it mean to be sincere about something?
- Love as God intended it to be is not limited to the physical attraction of sex, but it includes the emotional side as well.
- *1 Corinthians 13:7* says that love “always trusts” and “always hopes.” Love is supposed to be sincere and honest, a blessing to both parties involved.
- God wants you to be in a loving relationship one day that will really edify and build you up, one where the love is sincere and real.

3. Love Means Strength

“Charity never faileth.” – 1 Corinthians 13:8

- If something never fails, it needs to be strong.
- God created you so that one day you would be in a marriage relationship with love that is so strong it will never fail.
- Is there anything else that never fails?
- Love as God intended it is meant to be strong enough to be patient, kind, and humble (*1 Corinthians 13:4*).

4. Love Means Sacrifice

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13

- I hope you see by now that most teen romances are built on selfish lust and not love, yet God plans for you to have an awesome marriage built on real love one day.
- One of the biggest aspects of that love is that it should be sacrificial.
- How did God show He loved us?
- True love is willing to sacrifice everything (*John 3:16*).
- True love is willing to work hard and do whatever is asked (*John 21:17*).

YOU'RE MADE FOR HOLINESS

1. In Your Bodies

“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...” – 1 Corinthians 6:19a

- What did Paul mean when He said our bodies were temples of the Holy Spirit?
- Our bodies are temples for God. We need to treat them that way by refusing to engage in behavior that would cause us to be defiled.
- Behaviors that would defile your “temple” would include sexual immorality, fornication. See *1 Thessalonians 4:3-8*.
- If you're not sure if it's OK or not, don't do it. Some versions of *1 Corinthians 7:1* say, “It is good for a man not to touch a woman.” Don't mess with sin.
- We need to be holy in all we do (*1 Peter 1:14-16*) and “put to death the misdeeds of the body” (*Romans 8:12-13*).
- If you're living in sexual immorality, you're in sin and need to repent. (*1 Corinthians 6:9-10*).

2. In Your Minds

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” – Romans 12:2

- We need to be holy in our bodies but also in our minds and our thought-lives.
- What does it mean to be holy in your minds?
- When you don't control your thoughts and lust after a guy or girl, it's as bad as doing the sin you're thinking about (*Matthew 5:28*).
- Fill your minds with thoughts of Jesus, not of sex and lust (*Hebrews 3:1*).
- If you fill your mind with God, you'll act on what He wants. But if you fill your mind with lust, you'll soon act on it (*James 1:14-15*).
- If you're in a relationship that is causing you to lust, you need to pull back (*Colossians 3:5*). If you're looking at porn, you need to stop. If you're lusting after guys or girls at school, you need to knock it off. If you're fantasizing about someone, you need to fill your mind with thoughts of God instead.

3. In Your Words

“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.” – Ephesians 4:29

- Be holy in your bodies, in your minds, and also in your words.
- Any relationship that pleases God will not give in to “unwholesome talk,” but those involved will build each other up with their words.
- Paul also said in *Ephesians 5:4* to stay away from obscenity and coarse joking and in *Colossians 3:8* to get rid of crude language.
- If you and your girlfriend or boyfriend are using your words to incite lust, or are tearing each other down with your words, or are using obscenity and “dirty talk,” then you need to stop. (See *James 3:1-12* for more.)

YOU'RE MADE FOR WHOLENESS

1. Be Mature and Complete

“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” – James 1:4

- What does it mean to be complete?
- God wants you to be whole and complete, not feeling disjointed and confused by bad relationships, jealousies, fighting, etc.
- So many times, the drama of teen romance causes fighting, bitterness, jealousy, and other sin that God wants to spare you from (*James 4:1*).
- *Romans 12:10* says that we should be “devoted to one another in brotherly love.”
- If your quest for the perfect boyfriend or girlfriend is causing you to stir up strife, jealousy, bitterness, and competition in yourself or others, then you need to pull back. God wants you whole, not divided and torn apart inside.

YOU'RE MADE FOR WHOLE-HEARTEDNESS

1. Not Just Anything

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” – 2 Corinthians 11:3

- What God wants is for us to have “sincere and pure devotion” to Him.
- God shouldn't have to compete with somebody else for our attention (*Exodus 20:3*). This includes boyfriends and girlfriends.
- If you give a boyfriend or girlfriend more attention than you give God, then you're in sin and need to repent.
- God is jealous about us and doesn't want us to be distracted (*Exodus 34:14* and *Deuteronomy 4:24*).
- If you were God, would you want to share us with anybody else?

2. But One Thing

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.” – Psalm 27:4

- David said that the one thing he wanted was to be with God.
- With a boyfriend or a girlfriend, usually the one thing you want is to be with them. This obviously makes God jealous.
- *Mark 12:30* says that we need to love God with all that we have, not just give Him the leftovers after being infatuated with somebody else.
- Our lives should be focused on pleasing God, not on pleasing a person (*Colossians 1:10* and *1 Thessalonians 2:4*).

Close

Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.” – 1 Timothy 5:1-2

- This sums up how we’re supposed to treat people of the opposite sex.
- The teen romance roller-coaster says that everybody your age is a potential mate, but God says to treat them as family members.
- A simple rule of thumb is that if you would treat your brother or sister that way, then you can treat another person that way.
- Rather than endlessly searching for the perfect boyfriend or girlfriend, be satisfied in God and wait until you’re ready for a lifetime of love and commitment in marriage.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness – 2 Corinthians 6:14