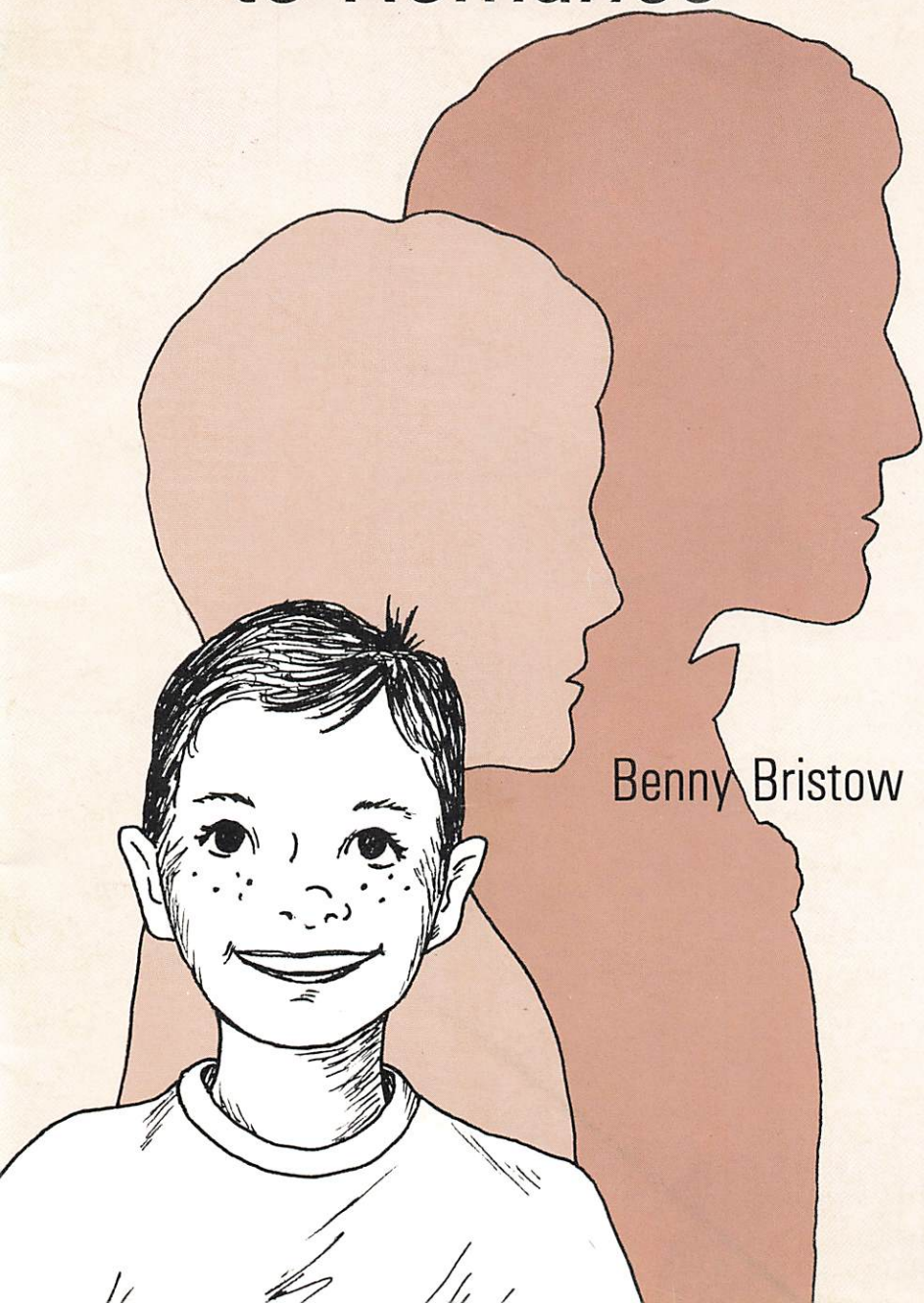


From Knee Pants to Romance



Benny Bristow

*From Knee Pants
to
Romance*

BENNY B. BRISTOW

QUALITY  PUBLICATIONS

P.O. Box 1060 Abilene, Texas 79604

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DEDICATION

This booklet is dedicated to my loving and faithful wife, Gwen, who has encouraged me to write these lessons and to our children, Corretta, Alesa and Lorin.

It is likewise dedicated to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pelham M. Bristow who faithfully did their best to help me through the period of my life *From Knee Pants to Romance.*

May the Lord Bless
and keep you.

Benny B. Bristow

INTRODUCTION

From Knee Pants To Romance is a booklet that has been written to help boys see the important things in life and to help them lay the proper foundation for Christian living. It is designed to be a companion study to my wife's booklet for girls, *From Pigtails To Wedding Bells*.

In only a few years the weight of leadership in the church, community, state and nation will fall upon the shoulders of our young men. They will be given serious assignments and therefore need to have the proper training to accept this with a deep faith in God.

This material has been taught in Bible classes, young people's classes and Christian Youth Camps. It is hoped that this booklet will be given to boys and young men as a gift and also used in special boys' classes.

May God bless this material to the successful building of strong, faithful Christian men is my prayer.

BENNY B. BRISTOW

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MEET YOURSELF

Young men, it is with delight that the lessons of this study are directed toward helping you to have a *happy life*. Now is the time for you to realize that the great things in life do not come without effort. That large butterfly you chased through the garden as a young lad was there because of struggle. It had to work hard to emerge from its silent cocoon and if you had opened its little house and released it, it would never have been able to fly. For you see, without the exercise received by struggling to come forth, his wings would never have been strong enough to fly. Therefore, you are facing a great life if you will realize early who you are, and that happiness and success will come to you only if you are willing to make the necessary efforts.

A young man was introduced to an elderly man and said, "I am happy to know you, sir!" The elderly man looked him in the eye and said, "How could you know me? You just met me!"

Have you ever met yourself? Almost every week you have the experience of introducing your friends to strangers, but did it ever occur to you that you might not really know yourself? We are living in a rushing world and the easy course is to hop into the whirlwind, follow the crowd, and never pause to know who we are and what is important for *our happiness*. Often, problems enter our lives because we don't know ourselves.

Now the requirements for your happiness may be altogether different from another, then why let others rule your life. Don't make the mistake of letting someone else set the pace or standards for your life. If so, the fads of the hour that flash in today and are gone tomorrow will become your master, and good sound principles will be neglected. Is this your way of life? If you must

answer “yes,” then why not—right now—take a good look at yourself! Why not really meet yourself for the first time and you’ll be surprised how wonderful it is to begin working toward the person you want to be, and finding happiness in your efforts.

May we consider some things that affect your life daily as you become acquainted with your outward and inward person.

PERSONAL GROOMING

In your opinion, what is meant by the expression, “a clean cut young man?” Many answers may be given, but summed up we think in terms of a young man that is concerned about his physical appearance, his clothes and his life. Clothing does not make the man, but it certainly reflects the type of person he is and the way he thinks. There is nothing wrong with dressing in style so long as it does not lower your moral standards as a Christian young man. Personal grooming, like many other facets of life, has its extremes. However, the facts are that somewhere between the extremes is the way to be properly groomed. Which is worse—the hippie or the expensively overdressed fellow in jewels and necklaces? This is truly an extreme but as Christian young men, somewhere between the extremes, we can find the proper personal grooming. Please observe the following guidelines that should help you decide:

GUIDELINES FOR CHRISTIAN GROOMING

1. Be modest in appearance.

The apostle Paul gave some good advise to women, that certainly needs to be applied to men, when he commanded them to “adorn themselves in modest apparel” (1 Timothy 2:9). It is a mistake to believe that only females can dress immodestly. It is true that the ways of the world say that it doesn’t matter about men’s modesty, but this is a false standard. Girls can and do have impure thoughts just like boys, and when we wear our clothes too short or too tight, we may cause someone to sin. Now others may choose to reveal themselves by improper dress, but you don’t have to do the same. Modest dress and a pure heart go hand in hand and both belong to those giving their lives to Christianity.

2. Be a man in appearance.

God wants men, young or old, to be masculine in appearance, but some extremists today go against that which is natural and

see how nearly they can resemble the female. Only a few years ago they would have been laughed out of town and branded a “sissy,” but this doesn’t seem to be true today. Nevertheless, the apostle Paul, guided by the power of God, asked this question: “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?” (1 Corinthians 11:14). God in creation made the male opposite in all ways to the female and intended that such be honored. This difference is what attracts dating, proper respect for each other and finally a union in marriage. You fellows are maturing toward strong, healthy adult men and for this fact you should be grateful. Then why not have the appearance of a man rather than go against the original plan of God?

3. Keep your body clean.

At first this might seem like an elementary thing, but boys, it really isn’t! Failing to practice proper hygiene is a fault of far too many young men. Now, there are times when you will be engaged in work that will cause you to become covered with dirt and grease, but this should be only a temporary situation. In this modern age of convenient bath tubs and showers, there is no excuse for one to neglect bathing. Many of you fellows are active in sports or work that cause you to perspire, but ten minutes in a shower with a bar of soap, along with deodorant, can make you feel fresh.

We hear and see a great deal in commercials and ads about the harm that comes from having bad breath, but boys, this CAN be a real problem! In some cases, bad breath may come from a medical problem, but usually all is made well by proper brushing of the teeth and the regular use of a mouth wash.

You may not be financially able to purchase the finest clothes, but you can keep what you wear clean. Have pride in your appearance! Keep those clothes changed daily, hair shampooed and groomed, and never be guilty of neglecting to shine your shoes. The wise man Solomon in the Old Testament gives this advise: “Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment” (Ecclesiastes 9:8).

INWARD GROOMING—AND INFLUENCE

So far we have discussed your outward appearance, but this is only part of taking a look at yourself. You may make an “A” plus on personal grooming and fail the inward test! The greatest mistake we can make is to feel that the outward is the only thing of importance. The inward and outward man must be joined together.

While you are getting to know yourself better, ask this question, "What kind of influence do I have on others?" Here is a little quiz that you might take which will help you to answer the above question:

1. Am I considerate of the feelings of others?
2. Do my actions say to others that I am selfish?
3. Do I have spiritual convictions and stick to them?
4. Am I ashamed of my religion and try to conceal such from others?
5. Am I a boaster of self?
6. Am I disrespectful to the wishes of my authorities?
7. Do I seek to help others less fortunate than I?
8. Am I living the principles of Christ daily?

Study these questions carefully and seek to improve yourself. Remember, you can be whatever you determine to be. Great things are in store for you if you will only know yourself and change the things that are not up to par.

The following lessons will be of help to you if you will determine now that you want to improve, study them carefully and apply the principles to your life.

No, the butterfly cannot fly without his struggle and neither can you be what you should without personally giving to life your best. Young men, you have the material and the ability for success in all phases of life. Then why not resolve NOW to be an outstanding person in the eyes of your fellowmen, and most important in the eyes of your God!

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON I

1. Why does it take effort to be happy?
2. Discuss some reasons why someone else should not always set your standards.
3. List some improvements you need to make in your life.
4. What is the meaning of "modest apparel?"
5. How can a boy keep his God-given masculine traits?
6. Why is good hygiene important?
7. Discuss eight questions you may ask yourself to determine the kind of influence you have on others.

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1. Bulletin Board

Caption: "TOOLS FOR GOOD GROOMING"

Caption done in large white letters—background, deep Bristol blue. Cut out shapes of various tools from white construction paper. Place on each tool a magazine illustration that depicts an aspect of

good grooming: hair brush, deodorant, proper diet, toothbrush, shoe shine kit, clean clothes, exercise, sleep.

Suggestion 2.

Invite a respectable local clothes salesman to show their latest fashions. This would be an excellent time to have a Dad's Night with open discussion on fads and men's clothing.

A GUY WORTH KNOWING

Now that you have been properly introduced to yourself, it is time to consider your life. During your first years upon this earth, you were so immature in mind and busy learning the basic tools of life, such as walking, talking, eating, sleeping and exploring everything, that no thought could be given to the real meaning of life. But now that these basic skills are learned and your mind is capable of real thought, you need to have a serious look at life. For your early outlook on life, good or bad, very likely will set your pattern for living from now on.

Life can be a millstone about your neck or a joy within your heart, depending on you. May we think now of your life at home, in your community and at school. Please think seriously about the principles of life that will help you be happy, honest, spiritual and successful.

ACCEPT YOURSELF

Have you ever seen classmates at school constantly persecuted because they were unable to accept themselves? Since they were somewhat different from others, they decided this was a weakness and therefore developed an inferiority complex. Now boys, you may not have the largest muscles, the most outstanding athletic skills or the most handsome physical appearance, but remember, **YOU ARE YOU!** Has it ever occurred to you that you can display some personal characteristics that others don't have? It has been said that no two people are exactly alike in this world. Basically, we may desire the same things, but each of us has a quality of our own. The Bible teaches that man has been given different talents and abilities (Matthew 25:14-30), so use what you have! Get out

of the world of make believe and learn to accept the real you, then you will be ready to build a great life.

Someone has said, "The man who establishes himself in life must take time to lay the foundations of reality, and gradually and steadily build thereon." Don't be stuck on yourself, but neither ashamed! The same God that made the other fellow also made you. Respect yourself physically and then live in such a way that God will respect your inward life. Always remember, you will forever be you and any changes or improvements will be made on you. That which you have on the inside is what counts. If you don't respect yourself, how can you expect others to? You are important and life has a place for you. Take life as though the world has waited for you and you wouldn't dare disappoint it.

Sure you will have disappointments and burdens to bear, but every man has thorns along with the roses. If the sun is going down, look up to the stars; if earth is dark, keep your eyes on heaven and in doing so you will stand tall because you truly accept yourself.

SET HIGH STANDARDS

Setting high standards should be given top priority in your life. You may be tempted at times to feel that doing wrong is impressive, that the one who stands up for right gives up might, becoming a "sissy," but fellows, this is not true! Let me tell you something that may be more difficult for you to understand NOW than LATER in life. It takes a bigger and stronger man to do right than it does to do wrong. Why? Well, by nature we desire the road of least resistance, which is the way of the flesh. How easy it is to tell a lie, cheat, to be unkind, to retaliate when wronged and to yield to lust. It is no mark of a giant to follow this course! But, try to be honest when a lie is more convenient. Try to speak truth when a lie would save your skin. Try to be kind when someone has wronged you as an enemy, and you will find that this takes real strength.

In our voyage of life, we must not drift but steer through the rocks as we work at the oars. It is so easy to go downstream in open waters, but what about paddling up that current? This is far different since work must over-power the current and muscle power the force of the water. So boys, the next time you are tempted to feel that doing wrong is a mark of strength, stop and remember that real strength is found in standing up for right.

The world steps aside for the man that has the will-power to stand against temptation—the man that makes being good a part of him as much as breathing. Without a doubt, there are those who play the role of the hypocrite by pretending to be good and strong when they are not. But these are not worthy of being mentioned. The kind of man we are now considering is the one that is naturally good. Why is the mountain tall? Is it simply trying to put on a show for man? Why does the ocean reach out in vastness for hundreds of miles? These are not such for show, but rather because God made them this way and they are being natural. Likewise, the real strong man of God is just being natural with his goodness.

So, young friends, plant your feet on right, try to influence others for good. However, if they insist on the corrupt life, let them live it as they please, but never lower your standards for anyone. Solomon teaches in the book of Proverbs these thoughts concerning the wicked: “Walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path They lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives Walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.” Then why not let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with the salt of truth, honor, manliness and kindness and your standards will always be high.

LOOK BEYOND SCHOOL

Right now it may seem that the only thing that matters in life is to be accepted at school and I can assure you that up to a point this is important. But please don't ever lose sight of the fact that beyond school days is a big world of opportunity awaiting you if only you will be prepared. Now, if you're “not fitting in” comes because you refuse to sacrifice right principles, don't let this be the end of your dreams. Talk to almost any adult about their school days and they will remind you of how they knew boys that never made the highest grades nor dated the most popular girls, never won high honors, nor made top athlete, but later in life married the prettiest and sweetest wife and obtained the best in life. So just do your best, stand up for right, set your goals high and you will find your real place in life.

Another fine quality in life that each of you should develop is to learn when to laugh and when to be serious. Again the wise man Solomon writes, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Then he gives a long list of things

in the following verses such as a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to keep silent and a time to speak. Laughter is good, and can be recommended whole-heartedly to all, provided it is done at the right time. So is seriousness a blessing when worshipping God, during periods of deep losses and during important periods of learning. Never tell a joke or laugh at one that belittles spiritual things or suggests vulgarity.

Yes, try hard to be accepted at school, but be sure that you never give up your individuality as a person, or your standards as a Christian. Just try always to be right, stand up for your convictions and let the chips fall where they may. For our outlook on life should be summed up as the poet felt while penning these words:

I would rather be a "has been"
Who has fought for noble cause,
Although I had lost the battle—
Than to be a "never was."
I would rather toil and labor
For a principle of right,
Than to ride to easy riches
Won by mailed fist of might.
I would rather have a record
Of an honest, humble name
Than to win success and honor
That has caused distress or shame.
—Author Unknown

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON II

1. Name the basic skills we first must learn in life.
2. What happens when boys fail to accept themselves?
3. Who are the strong men in this life?
4. Contrast between one that is good just for the sake of show, and the one that is spiritually good.
5. Why should boys look beyond school days?
6. Discuss times for laughter and times to be silent.
7. What should you never give up to be popular in school?
8. What does the poem in this lesson mean?

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1: Make a flip chart or use chalkboard on "Personality Plus" lesson. These are the points to be discussed:

- Accept yourself and limitations
- Practice sincerity and honesty
- Put others before self
- Cheerful disposition
- Practice Christian witnessing

Suggestion 2:

Invite a young woman whom the class respects and admires to speak to the group on “Traits of A Guy Worth Knowing.”

THE DATING GAME

Love, whether it is applied to man's feelings toward God, family, friends or mate, is truly a "splendorous" thing! It suggests warmth, friendliness, laughter and even joy. But not all love affairs have a happy ending. Love for the opposite sex can be the richest experience in your life, or it can make you most unhappy. Please remember that this subject, like all others that deal with your happiness, must be sought after. Happy love costs a big price as we shall presently see, but be assured that the cost is not too great.

THE DESIRE TO DATE

There is a time in each boy's life when he feels that girls are strange and the farther he can get from them, the better he likes it. He resents even being accused of having a girl friend and often such accusations become fighting words. But yes, you are right, he changes his mind! In just a few years the same girl that got in his way and caused him trouble, comes forth as a woman in new splendor overnight. There kindles up within his thoughts a new and exciting attitude toward her. Instead of wanting her away from his sight, her very presence is satisfying. He no longer sees her as a misplaced tomboy, but now it is obvious to see that her nature is different and she has many mysteries. Girls like this change which comes over boys and begin to take more interest in themselves as they turn to laces, perfumes, jewelry and other things that will add to their beauty. This is the foundation of dating. This is nature working in you as your body and mind mature toward adulthood.

Is this something for which to be ashamed? Certainly not! In fact, if you fellows never came to this point, something would be

wrong with you. For God intends this to happen and even made you in such a way that it will! We might say that a miracle of nature is performed in you. But this sudden change can bring with it many serious problems if you are not aware of how to meet them. The following principles should be of help to you.

THE RIGHT BEGINNING

Having the right beginning in dating is like all other aspects of life, very important! It is best for you to begin dating with a group. Group dating gives you a chance to take your time and gradually get into this important part of your life. If there is a party of those in your Bible class, meet that favorite girl at the party. You don't even have to take her home at first; tell her good-night at the party. This will give you some experience before you begin dating in a full way.

Next, you can spend some time with her at school. If you both walk from school, walk her home occasionally. Later on, you can ask to meet with her at her home and do homework together. This will give you a chance to meet her parents, and once again you are getting experience. Why not plan a picnic together with either your or her family. This may all seem slow and old-fashioned, but it has many good points. Too often, boys rush dating to the extent that they miss the happiest part of growing up. You have only a few years to be this young since the majority of your life will be lived as an adult. So don't become too anxious to become an adult. Such has its advantages, but it also carries added responsibilities. Then take your time and enjoy these first steps of early dating.

WILL MY PARENTS UNDERSTAND?

Often the period of dating is marred because of a poor relationship with parents. Some youth begin dating by slipping around and always keeping their parents in the dark about their feelings. Now it is a fact that too often adults make the mistake of over-teasing about dating, but please remember that the more you resent such, the more it will be dished out! Let your parents and others know from the beginning that this is a part of your growing up as much as anything you do. Talk to them about the girl you are dating. Bring her home to meet your Mom and Dad, and don't make the mistake of always leaving them in the dark—especially in those areas where they feel that you might be in danger. If you plan to attend a football game, go bowling or golfing, let them know.

This builds trust between you and your parents. And after all, if you are living for Christ, you are not ashamed to tell others what you do on dates! Yes, with your help and cooperation from your parents, they will understand and dating will be a greater experience.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT DATE

Since you are unmarried, you may feel that you have the right to date whomever you please, but this is not the case. You can be serious about your choice, without becoming serious about the one you choose. Avoid dating those who have bad reputations, such as those who curse, drink, and are disrespectful to Christian morals. Do I hear some of you say, "But I'll reform them!" Or, "They'll be different when out with me!" Maybe so, at first, but beware of later on after they have gained your confidence. Avoid becoming involved with such people. They don't really talk your language or have the same outlook on life. For real happiness, be truly a Christian yourself and seek to date those with the same attitude toward life and living.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLACES TO GO

In most cities there are many places for dating couples to go, but so many times such places are not for Christians. John warns in the New Testament, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." Then Paul gives us this advise, "Abstain from the appearance of evil." "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." "He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption." Now, in the light of these and other scriptures, how could we go to night clubs, dance halls and parties where lustful games are played along with the serving of beer? Such places are against God's Word. "How shall the young secure their hearts, and guard their lives from sin? Thy word the choicest rules imparts, to keep the conscience clean." So then, we need God's Word and not the things which encourage sin.

Thousands of youth began their downfall by attending such places. The lights were gay, the music was toned for a "don't care" attitude and sins were committed that made scars forever. Then seek not the thrill of the passing moment. Go only to those places on dates where you would not be ashamed to invite Jesus, your parents or minister, and this will add joy to your life and respectful dating.

THE ART OF BEING COURTEOUS

Courtesy is a word that you need to cultivate early in your life since it is a principle of Christianity plus being a must in happy dating. If you are not willing to respect a girl with the common courtesies, then you should not ask her for a date. But some fellows fail on this score simply because they have never been taught how to be courteous. Would you then refresh your minds with me on some of the most common courtesies while dating.

ASK FOR A DATE EARLY WHEN POSSIBLE

This gives the girl time to make necessary plans. She has a scheduled life too and some boys get a "no" simply because they wait until she is already involved in something else. Also a last minute call may make her wonder if you chose her as a last resort after failing with many others earlier. Sometimes a last minute call is necessary, then by all means apologize to her and she should understand.

ASK IN PERSON WHEN CONVENIENT

Some boys deliberately avoid asking a girl face to face and hide behind a telephone receiver. Why not ask in person and you have already broken the ice before the date. If you are somewhat of a stranger to her, maybe she would like to decide by seeing you again in person. You may have been interested in her and have been observing her, but has she really noticed you?

If you must call on the phone, don't "beat around the bush" in asking her. Let your call be sincere and important. Some young men get a big "No" because they act like a clown. This explains why some girls choose to date boys who are older as they enjoy someone more mature and settled.

DRESS FOR THE OCCASION

You are not required to dress formally unless the occasion requires such, but you should be concerned about your clothes. Have you ever seen a couple where the girl had gone all out to dress beautifully and her escort was dressed in such a way as to say "I don't care"? Again, if you don't respect her enough to put forth some effort, don't date her!

CALL FOR HER AT HOME

Later after you have dated her many times, there might be an occasion to meet her at the “malt shop,” but it is not good to do this often. Especially on those first dates, set a time and be there ready at her home on time. Go inside and meet her parents. Usually the girl is not ready when you arrive, but comes in shortly. If this is the case, stand up when she enters the room. Act as though you really came for her. Don't be afraid to act interested in her before her parents, because friendliness and respect will impress them. If she puts on a coat, offer your assistance. As you leave, open the door and then open the car door.

Now this may all seem a bit stuffy, but it really isn't. Practiced, it can be just as natural as saying “thank you!” These are simple things, but without them one can be considered rude.

RESPECT HER ALL THE WAY

Whether it is your first or 600th date, always respect her as someone special. Her reputation is trusted in your care—don't mar it. Treat her as you would want your own sister treated on a date. Please remember that respect is a wonderful word.

DON'T STEAL THE SHOW

This simply means, don't do all of the talking. By nature we like to blow our own horns, but too much becomes deafening. When she asks you a question about yourself, don't give a full biography. If you must do this type of talking, employ a psychologist, but don't spoil a good date.

RETURN HOME SAFELY AT PROPER HOUR

Driving fast and recklessly may or may not impress her, but it can kill or cripple both of you. Be an adult when you get under that wheel and if any foolishness must be practiced, exercise it somewhere else. When you endanger your lives, you are gambling with something very precious. Accidents can happen when you are doing your best to be safe, but the odds are really against you when you drive carelessly into the realm of chance.

Bring her home at a reasonable hour and you can return to your home respecting yourself and all parents involved. After conducting yourself as a fine Christian young man, your conscience will be clean. The next day at school, you can look at her with no regrets or shame.

Yes, dating can be a wonderful part of your life if you will only give it your best, and most of all **BE A CHRISTIAN!**

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON III

1. Discuss boys' attitudes toward girls while very young and then compare it when they are older.
2. How should a boy begin dating?
3. Why should boys never rush growing up?
4. Discuss how to have the proper relationship with your parents in regard to dating.
5. Why is choosing the right date important?
6. Name some places Christians cannot go on dates.
7. Name and discuss seven courtesies that boys should practice while dating.
8. Why should you act like an adult when driving a car?
9. At what hour should you return your date home?

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1:

Lesson on the "Dating Game." Use flannel board or flip chart for presentation. Show a black silhouette of a young man on a white background. Stress points found in this lesson in red lettering.

Suggestion 2:

Use pictures of "Ken" cut out from the teenage coloring book of "Barbie and Ken" to stress good dating habits. These can later be placed for bulletin board displays.

Suggestion 3:

Show filmstrips with recordings on dating by "Family Filmstrips" or others.

PETTING— A DANGEROUS ROAD

Young men, we are living in a society that encourages disrespect toward the pure morals given in God's Word. Every way we turn, voices are crying, "Leave the way of the Bible, this is the 20th century and the modern way is the best!" To make their evil way more appealing, pictures encouraging low morals are presented in magazines, books, billboards and television. The modern way says that happiness on a date is found only in heavy petting and even in giving up purity and chastity. But don't you believe them. This idea is false and from the devil. For real beauty in dating comes from a deep respect for each other. Petting has no place in dating and this lesson will seek to show you why a Christian cannot practice such. Please consider carefully the following thoughts.

HOW TO WEIGH RIGHT AND WRONG

It seems to be the modern trend that most things are weighed as to being right or wrong by whether or not all are doing them! But fellows, this is wrong! The question shouldn't be is everyone doing it, but rather, as a Christian should I do it? The majority vote may elect our president, select Miss America and raise taxes, but it is not God's way of setting moral standards. In Noah's day the majority were for sin and for rejecting Noah's warning of a flood, but when they were all washed away, they were proven wrong. Adam and Eve represented the whole human population when they sinned, yet they received the death sentence!

Learn to think for yourself. Don't be a puppet with society pulling the strings. Accept heavenly standards and rise up against any that oppose them. For if society corrupts your life and soul, it will not

even bother to apologize. Therefore, the right or wrong of petting must be determined by God's measuring stick and not by the majority of society.

WHAT IS PETTING?

Some of you may say that petting is simply necking, but this definition stops short of its real meaning. My dictionary says that petting is "to fondle or caress." When you young men become guilty of this, you have cheapened yourself and the girl you are dating. Petting often begins with simple necking—just a few so-called harmless kisses which get out of control and finally lead to an emotional state of "don't care."

Most couples with Christian training never plan to go this far, but our emotions play tricks on us if not completely controlled. God intended for man to guard his life and emotions in this respect for the holy state of matrimony, and when they are not controlled before marriage, such is lust and sin. Now fellows, please don't misunderstand. It is right for man and woman to desire each other, for God created these natural desires, but God also made man capable of controlling them and preserving himself for his mate in marriage.

When young people engage in heavy petting that gets out of control, reputations are shattered, children are sometimes born out of wedlock, shame and reproach are brought upon themselves and their parents and God's great law of marriage is mocked.

PETTING BREEDS LUST

The Bible teaches us that lusting is sinful. The apostle John lists the lust of the flesh as one of the three major headings of sin. Jesus taught that the sin of lust can be committed simply by looking, "But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). Now since the sin of lust can be committed by just looking, how easy it would be to lust while engaged in petting!

Those who pet are playing with fire. Solomon gives this advise, "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adultriss will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?" (Proverbs 6:25-28). This principle applies to the young

and old—to all of us. To avoid the sin of lust and possibly adultery, avoid petting.

PETTING MARS CHARACTER

So far we have viewed petting from the angle of sin, but what about the boys' responsibility toward the girl he is dating? If you choose a girl that doesn't care, you push her even lower. What about the girl you choose for your wife someday? Do you want her to have loose morals and come to you with a record of letting other boys lust with her? Each girl you date will be the mother of some man's children. Shouldn't you help keep her life and yours clean?

Lovemaking is not to be thrown around in a common way, for it is from God and belongs with true love and marriage. God never planned it to be used as a game, present thrill or a simple means of just passing time. The subject of petting involves the character and "character is a diamond that scratches every other stone." "The character is like white paper; if once blotted, it can hardly ever be made to appear white as before."

PETTING CAUSES GUILT

Happiness comes to us only when we can have a free mind. Christian boys who indulge in petting live constantly in fear of being caught. They become angry when parents ask what they did on a certain date. They may find it difficult falling asleep after heavy petting and church work becomes less interesting. During worship fear may shoot through their minds as they recall their conduct the night before, and some may even develop mental problems now and later in marriage. Some go as far as losing respect for themselves and this should never happen.

Yes, you can see that it is definitely sinful and dangerous to go all out for petting. You alone hold the golden key to your purity of character. Physical lovemaking with the one you truly love, can be the most beautiful thing in your life, if such is put in marriage where there is no sin or guilt attached. Therefore, while you are choosing that girl of girls, why not remain Christian in your actions and your life will be enriched now as well as in future years.

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON IV

1. What does society encourage young men to do as to their morals?
2. Discuss the false standard—everyone is doing it.

3. Define "petting" and "necking."
4. Name some evil effects when "petting" gets out of control.
5. Prove that adultery can be committed without the act.
6. Show how a boy has a responsibility to the girl he dates.
7. Can petting cause guilt? In what way?
8. Who holds the golden key to your purity?

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1: Lesson on Weighing Right or Wrong

Bring to class an actual balancing planter scales. Let one side represent right for God, and the other side represent a young man's life. Add stones or other objects to this side as you stress points in petting: mars character, breeds lust, causes guilt.

Suggestion 2:

On chalkboard draw a highway with "dating" as the main road. Draw other roads leading off representing highways of misconduct.

Suggestion 3:

Ask a Christian physician or psychiatrist to speak to the group on "Sex vs. Religion."

“LUSTING ON THE DANCE FLOOR”

I do not recall ever teaching a group of teenagers for long without them bringing up the question, “Is dancing a sin?” This indicates to me that this is something that every youth must face. Most of you boys will have to take a stand one way or the other. If you have not confronted this, possibly during this year someone will phone and invite you to a dance. I’m asking you now to set your convictions based on Christian principles and stick with them. Study from the Bible has convinced me that it is wrong for a Christian to dance and I would like to show you why this is my conviction. May we discuss five major factors on which my decision is based:

DANCING IS A QUESTION OF DOUBT

The fact that thousands who claim Christianity oppose dancing, and many who practice dancing feel guilty, lets us know that it is truly a question of doubt. Do you know of anyone that feels guilty after true worship to God? We must answer, no! Why? Because we are positively sure that worshipping Jehovah is the right thing to do. But not so with dancing! For when you answer the question as to why so many people feel that dancing is wrong and why so many wonder if such is sin, then you will answer the question, **IS IT WRONG TO DANCE.** The old saying, “where there is smoke, there is fire” surely applies here. With so many doubts involved, dancing becomes a risky experiment with your Christianity.

DANCING CAUSES CLOSE BODY CONTACT

David of old tells us in the book of Psalms that man is “fearfully and wonderfully made.” This is so true! For we are more than

animals; we have emotions, a soul made in the image of God, the ability to respect nature and the capacity to fall in love. God made man and gave to him woman who was able to fill his needs. Thus it is natural for you boys to enjoy the company of girls. However, like all of God's creation, there must be order in regard to man's relationship with woman. For this order, God set forth marriage. In this union God intended for man and woman to express their deep emotions of love, but never has God given his permission for this to be done out of marriage! Therefore, when a boy becomes too closely involved with a girl before marriage, such actions are sinful.

The closeness in dancing arouses desires which should be aroused only in marriage. Young people often say, "But it doesn't cause me to go out and commit sin!" Maybe not, but sin can be committed in the heart. Listen to Jesus, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart." When you become closely embraced with a girl on the dance floor, you stand a chance of two things happening: (1) committing sin in your heart, (2) causing your dancing partner to commit the same.

But others may reply, "You can be close in ways other than the dance." Yes, this is true, but does this make either of these right? Any extreme closeness that arouses lust and passion becomes wrong and destroys the proper respect between you, and your girlfriend and God. Yes, sin can even be committed by one that doesn't ever touch physically the opposite sex. But the truth remains that you are more likely to sin when bodily contact is present.

DANCING CAN BE A DIVORCE MILL

Just like the sawmill is constantly turning out lumber and the gristmill grinding corn, so the modern dance is busily breaking up marriages and causing divorce. It has been estimated in the past few years that one out of every three marriages in this country result in divorce and this figure continues to climb higher. In the state of California where men and women are thrown together in movie making, lovemaking and night clubs with the modern dance, the divorce rate is 50% or more above the national average.

No, the modern dance does not cause all divorces, but you can be assured that it causes many of them. You may be ready to ask, "How does the modern dance cause divorce?" To answer this question, let us go for a few moments into your imaginary world. Suppose that later in years you meet a nice girl and she becomes your wife. You love her and begin planning your life and family

together. She is yours and you count it an honor to hold her in your arms. But would you be happy for your beloved wife to be in the arms of another man? No! This is against nature. And yet, if you go all out for dancing, this could be the case. Many wives lose respect for their husbands as they fall in love with another on the dance floor. Since God hates divorce, it is reasonable to believe that he hates that which helps to create it.

DANCING IS A BAD INFLUENCE

This is one evil of the modern dance that must not be ignored. For suppose you are able to attend dances and not lust. What about your influence as a Christian? You have others watching you, and when you attend dances they may decide to do the same. It is quite possible that they will not be as strong as you and will lust in their hearts or commit an evil act. But, you might ask, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Yes! Paul said, "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend" (1 Corinthians 8:13).

Some say, "I will stop dancing when I get married." Suppose you do, what about the ones you have influenced to dance? Will they stop too? As Christians, we must lead people from evil—not toward it. How can we let our light shine when we are covering it over with a bad influence?

DANCING WOUNDS ONE'S CONSCIENCE

There are thousands that come home from the dance with a wounded conscience. True, there are some who are attempting the Christian life that say it doesn't affect their conscience, but either that person is deceived and does not know himself, or else through a desire to rationalize, the truth is evaded. For when you as a Christian do something that almost all preachers in the church believe to be wrong, and at least the majority of elders in the Lord's church oppose, surely there is doubt.

Please answer these questions:

1. Do you think one feels closer to Christ and his church after attending a dance?
2. Would you be ashamed to be seen at a dance?
3. Would you want your minister to attend dances?
4. Would you want to be at a dance when Jesus comes again?
5. When you have children of your own, do you want them to attend dances?

Surely we can see that much evil is connected with the modern dance. Why not take the apostle Paul's advice and "shun the very appearance of evil." This is why I believe it is wrong to dance.

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON V

1. Why is dancing a question of doubt?
2. What does David mean by, "Man is fearfully and wonderfully made"?
3. Dancing arouses desires that should be aroused where?
4. When closely embracing a girl, what two things may happen?
5. Illustrate how modern dancing can cause divorce.
6. Show how your influence at a dance could cause someone else to fall.
7. Why does dancing wound consciences?
8. Discuss the five questions listed in this lesson.
9. What does Paul advise about evil?

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1:

Cut out large question marks from various colored poster board. On each question mark, write questions that deal with dancing. Discuss with class members.

Suggestion 2: Bulletin Board—"Satan's Music"

Cut out a large picture of a couple dancing and place in middle of board. Cut out black music notes and place around picture. On each note, write different evil effects of dancing: lust, evil thoughts, divorce, etc. (Caption done in red glittered letters)

THE DEVIL IN LIQUID FORM

One day I was driving down a street and saw a man lying between a parked car and the curb. He was struggling to get out, but was so intoxicated that every effort plunged him back into the gutter. His face was bleeding from scratches and he looked half insane. My first impulse was to drive on and let him wallow in his own sin, but then I remembered that alcoholism is the fourth most prevalent disease in the United States. Realizing that this man was not only groping in sin, but was also physically ill, I lifted him from his trap and took him to a boarding house nearby.

Boys, this is the part of drinking that the devil does not want you to see. He wants drinking to appear beautiful—"just a nip," he says, "will make you sociable, manly and full of fun." But this is a lie! For when you begin drinking, you have chosen a road of ruin and defeat. Drinking will make you everything else besides a man. It weakens your mind, vision and perception, and causes you to lose control of your physical body. Fellows, this is not my definition of a man.

ALCOHOL DESTROYS ONE'S HEALTH

Even if drinking were not a sin, it would be wrong for you to do it. Why? Because it destroys your health. Strong drink, when consumed, enters quickly into the bloodstream since it needs no digestion. You fellows have learned in school the importance of blood to life. This blood rushes rapidly to the brain, an organ that receives more blood than any other organ. This accounts for the immediate loss of memory of things done in the past, slowing down of skills, and the weakness of self control found in those who drink.

Experiments have been run by scientists which prove that even 1½ ounces of whiskey slows one down in performance. For remember that alcohol is a depressant—not a stimulant. It actually paralyzes nerves and blocks them from sending and receiving messages. We are told that alcohol affects one's liver. The liver functions to neutralize poisonous substances in the bloodstream. Since alcohol is a poison, you can imagine the difficult time it has clearing up the bloodstream.

ENCOURAGES OTHER SINS

Add to these facts the fact that drunkenness is the basis for all other types of sins, and you have a terrible total! For man has often done things while drunk, that he could not even remember after becoming sober. A judge in Los Angeles County, Stanley N. Barnes says: "In 80 percent of the cases coming through my court, liquor is involved in the crime. In nine times out of ten, alcohol is involved in a person getting into trouble the second time."

Most of you have read Thomas A. Edison's statement: "I have better use for my brain than to poison it with alcohol. To put alcohol in the human brain is like putting sand in the bearing of an engine." The success you obtain in life will depend so much on the strength and health of your body. Surely, none of you would want to poison the only physical body you will ever have.

ALCOHOL AND CHRISTIANITY

Can one be a drunkard and go to heaven? Paul answers this, . . . "nor DRUNKARDS, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:10). That verse answers the question as plainly and simply as it can be answered. Drunkenness is listed with the most dreaded sins of the flesh.

Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, had this to say about intoxicants: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). Then he gives this advise that all of you fellows should observe lest you are trapped by this curse—"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup . . . at the last it biteth like a serpent" (Proverbs 23:31-32).

In the Bible as well as secular history, the trail of fallen men is paved with the sin of drunkenness. The fruits of strong drink are divorce, neglected families, financial failures, homeless children, death, murder and hell fire in eternity. Truly liquor is no more than the devil in liquid form. Some may try to convince you that just

a beer will not harm you, but just remember that every alcoholic had to take his first drink. Most of them did not intend to lose their health, respect and self-control. But it happened! Perhaps they thought they saw a beautiful flower just over the edge of the cliff. They didn't intend to fall, but only wanted to reach over and get it. But one drink led to another until such got out of control.

TEMPTED BY OTHERS

Many of you boys will be mocked by your classmates if you don't drink. They may even call you a sissy or a coward. But let them call you names. You have a great life ahead of you and can't afford to wreck your body and soul just to shut the mouth of a misled classmate. He that offers you the drink is not trying to lift you higher to be a man, but is dragging you down to weakness and defeat.

You may not see any harm in trying just a little drink, but you may very well be opening the gate to torment here on earth and in the world to come. Young men, see how far you can stay away from alcoholic drink of any form. Fear it as you would a rattlesnake that is ready to strike. If I can get you to see the dangers of alcohol to the point that you will never touch it in any way, then I will have given you a gift of more value than all the silver and gold of the world.

The Japanese say, "A man takes a drink, then the drink takes a drink, and the next drink takes the man."

ALCOHOL AND YOUR HOME

Most of you boys look forward to the day that you can find a lovely wife, have children and enjoy a Christian home. This dream can never be if you accept alcoholic drink as a partner, for liquor and happy homes do not go together. In fact, if you begin using strong drink of any form, the girl you marry and the children born to your home are to be pitied! The following quotation will explain why alcohol destroys happiness:

"Drink has drained more blood, hung more crepe, sold more homes, plunged more people into bankruptcy, armed more villains, slain more children, snapped more wedding rings, defiled more innocence, blinded more eyes, twisted more limbs, dethroned more reason, wrecked more manhood, dishonored more womanhood, broken more hearts, blasted more lives, driven more to suicide, and dug

more graves than any other poisoned scourge that ever swept its death-dealing waves across the world.”

—Evangeline Booth

Take a stand early against strong drink, and never compromise for anyone or on any occasion, and you'll never regret turning down such a vicious, sinful killer!

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON VI

1. Is alcoholism a sin, disease or both? Discuss.
2. Show how strong drink makes you everything except a strong man.
3. What organs of the body are especially affected from drinking alcoholic drink?
4. Name some other sins caused by drunkenness.
5. Prove by the Bible that drunkenness can keep you out of heaven.
6. Name the things Solomon mentions about wine.
7. Name some of the fruits of strong drink.
8. Describe how alcoholism can destroy a home.

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1:

Invite a speaker from the Alcoholics Anonymous Association to speak to the group on the “Effects and Results of Alcoholism.”

Suggestion 2:

Dress up a large liquor bottle to represent “SATAN.” (Any lady would be able to assist you.)

Apply hand written labels with cellophane tape to be pulled off as you present the lesson. Labels should read: 1. Destroys Health 2. Encourages sin 3. Breaks down homes 4. Unhappiness 5. Lost eternally.

CHRIST IN YOUR EDUCATION

When the summer is over and school bells begin ringing across the country, it becomes time for thousands to enter college for the first time. But the question that each must ask is, "Where will I attend college?" You probably had no choice as to high school but not so with colleges. Drive in almost any direction from your home town and you will soon come to one. Now, how important is the choice you make in seeking a college? To some it makes very little difference since an education can be obtained at all leading schools, but as Christian young men, we must consider more than just the courses that will be taught. For in reality when you attend college, you are earnestly preparing yourself to face life; and life is more than book knowledge. We must know how to live for happiness and get along with others. This is where Christian education comes into full strength. There are so many advantages received from a Christian school that can't be obtained from others. Will you study to see what these advantages are and what is meant by Christian education?

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN COLLEGE?

This is a college operated by members of the Lord's church who desire to not only train students for life, but also for living. Such schools do not receive financial help from the state, but in addition to the funds paid by students, money is raised from interested individuals and corporations. As to the quality of work, these schools must have high standards to be accepted and accredited, but they are at freedom to add the many spiritual experiences to the lives of students. To better acquaint you with these schools, let us take an imaginary trip.

REGISTERING FOR A SEMESTER

Let's pretend that you have completed your high school work and are ready to enter higher education. You pack your clothes and head for college. As you arrive you are shown the dormitory where you will live for the next nine months. You enter your room and begin to unpack, but before long you discover that you have a roommate moving in. This person, like you, has come to obtain his education. Thus you two will become very close during the coming months. You will come to know each other's problems, family background, religious strength and future plans. This can be said also of many other young men you will meet and associate with from day to day.

Next comes the time for you to register for classes. Forms are to be filled out, subjects selected, meal ticket purchased and many other things are to be done. But this work of registration is led by men and women who are Christians. They consider their work more than just a job. The majority love Christian young people and are ready to assist you in this first step of college work. This should take much of the fear out of the beginning. These people are on your side because they are Christians themselves.

BIBLE CLASSES

On your list of classes, you are required to have at least one Bible class. They recognize that you must feed your soul as well as your mind. After each listing of class, number, and subject, you will find the name of your instructor. Likewise, these men and women are Christian teachers; and they want you to do well. Their happiness is in seeing you study and make good grades. If you are in trouble, they offer their time after class to help you. You are not just a number or name on their roll book—they want you to succeed and mature into young Christian men.

Some of your Bible classes will be doctrinal, but others will be designed to lead you closer to God. You will be shown that the church is the most important thing in the world. That living for Christ is the key to success in all walks of life. As you attend classes, whether Bible or otherwise, you will be with other young men that will be preaching for small congregations while in college. Many of these will be our leading gospel preachers in only a few years, and whether or not you choose the ministry for your life's work, they will be an encouragement to you. From these classes will someday come elders, deacons, missionaries and faithful Christian wives.

DAILY WORSHIP

Each day all students must assemble for chapel service. At this time there is worship in song, prayer and inspirational talks. This lasts for only 20 or 30 minutes, but it brings you close to God daily. It is easy to become so involved in books that you forget your creator, but not so at a Christian college.

After the day of classes is over, hundreds of students go to the library to prepare their lessons for the next day. Here they can find good lighting, thousands of reference books and quietness with other Christians, to prepare assignments for the next day. About 9:30 p.m. many students are tired of studying and begin gathering at a traditional spot to sing hymns. No song books are used, and yet one by one young men lead spiritual songs. As you sing, you may gaze across a beautiful campus or look into the starry skies. At these singings you can come and go as you wish, but each experience draws you closer to God.

Between 10:00 and 11:00 o'clock most students have returned to their rooms for the night's rest, but before retiring for sleep each dormitory has a vesper service. This is not compulsory, but those that attend find these very inspirational. These are conducted by students only and consist of singing, praying and scripture reading. Sometimes a student will just make a short talk about spiritual matters. After a day of work and worship in such an environment, you can lie down for sleep, feeling truly close to your God.

CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT

So far, we have talked about the special activities that go on daily in the college, but these are only the beginning. As you walk across the campus, you will first be surprised at how the majority of students speak to you. Why? Because they, like you, are striving to be like Christ. Thus you will make many friends among this type of youth.

It is believed by the leaders of Christian education, that all work and no play makes one dull. Thus, many special programs are planned. You may see a ball game at night or during your free time before the evening meal; you may have a game of tennis or touch football. Then, don't forget dating! Can you think of a better place to find a future wife? You may take a date to the many religious services at the church, or you might prefer just walking over a beautiful campus or sipping a coke. There are many plays and musical programs, along with spiritual lectureships and workshops provided during the year.

You will not see any liquor or beer! You will not be invited to dances! In fact, this type of life does not appeal to the majority attending a Christian college. Even tobacco is forbidden out on the campus by most of the colleges. So you can readily see that the environment is great at a Christian college.

CONCLUSION

By now you may be ready to say that we have taken an imaginary trip to a college that is perfect. This may seem to be the case, but no, this is not true. Where you find human beings, you find weakness. We're not trying to say that you will not find faults, but we are saying that you will find hundreds of students striving to be like Christ day by day.

But the real proof of anything is determined by its product or fruitage. Out of Christian colleges have come thousands of faithful Christian marriages. Out of such colleges have come youth stronger in Christ and the work of the church. This cannot be said about our universities! In fact, in too many cases young men and women come out of state schools weak in faith and some caring little or nothing at all for Christianity.

Yes, it costs more to attend a private school. But who can put a price tag as to value on the things we have discussed. Jesus said, "What would it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" A real Christian education cannot be valued in dollars and cents. So, begin today to make plans to enter a great Christian college. This is one decision you will treasure in the years to come and even more so in eternity.

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON VII

1. Show how education is more than book learning.
2. What is a Christian college? Compare to a state university.
3. What should take the fear out of your first experience at college?
4. What is the important subject offered at a Christian college?
5. Discuss the advantages of daily chapel services, hymn singing and nightly vespers.
6. What advantage can be found in dating at a Christian college?
7. Name some of the fruits from Christian colleges.
8. Why can't a Christian education be valued in dollars and cents?

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1:

From white poster board cut out silhouettes of graduation caps. On each cap, write an advantage found at Christian colleges.

Suggestion 2:

Invite a representative from a nearby Christian college to come and speak to class and parents. Order free brochures and catalogs from Christian colleges in area and distribute them in classroom.

Suggestion 3:

Plan a class "college day" trip to your nearest Christian college.

DOCTOR, LAWYER, MERCHANT, CHIEF?

Ever since you were old enough to understand, you have probably been asked what you want to be when you grow up. You may have said, doctor, lawyer, merchant or chief, but these expressions came from a little boy that was at play. But by now you young men are mature enough to begin thinking seriously about what you want to do in life. Some boys decide this big decision too early and others put it off until it becomes difficult to decide. Please remember that whatever your decision might be, it is a very important one, for at work is where you will spend the majority of your waking hours; and this will furnish support for you and your family. Then, don't choose the road you will travel, vocationally speaking, with only the toss of a coin, but stop and view it from every angle.

The purpose of this chapter is to break this big subject down to where you can look at it from every viewpoint.

CHOOSE A FIELD TO MATCH YOUR ABILITY

We hear a great deal said about how we can be whatever we want to be. Others have said that the greatest artists that ever lived were not born with a brush in their hand and each had to paint his first picture. All of this is true and has its place, but don't forget that man is also supplied with certain talents, and some minds are more receptive to certain fields than others. Add to this the fact that we have built-in fascinations, and you come up with the need for us to choose in life the field that fits our abilities. You may have an I.Q. high enough to be successful in any field you choose, but does this mean you would be happy and would give your best?

In matching your abilities to an occupation, consider your growing up. What have you leaned toward? In what field have you

worked well and shown the most interest? This can be of value in deciding your vocation. If it is impossible to pursue the exact desire of your heart, find a work that is similar. As you choose, don't take a larger bite than you can handle. Be sure that the goal you have chosen is possible to reach, then you will find happiness exercising your abilities. "Think out your work, then work out your thought!"

CHOOSE A FIELD THAT YOU LIKE

Your father may dream of having you follow in his footsteps in his occupation; this is fine if it happens to be the line of work you love best. But don't choose an occupation ONLY to please Dad, for if this is the only basis for your choice, Dad has a great disappointment coming. Try to remember that you will spend 2,400 hours per year on your job, and that is a mighty long time to spend unhappy.

Keep in mind though, that you are not going to find a job that is all joy. There are ups and downs in any occupation! However, happiness at work is found when the enjoyment out-weighs the rough spots. If you can endure the disappointment and rough spots of a vocation and still like it, then you have found your field.

CONSIDER EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

There are many things that are necessary to be successful at work, but at the top of the list is the knowledge you have obtained to work well. The most difficult tasks can be made simple when you know what you are doing. Never make the mistake of cutting corners in your education. Truly there is a temptation for you to rush through college and begin making a salary. Or you may be able to start work without college and this may tempt you not to train your mind for the future. But don't ever forget this one fact, conditions and opportunities may be reversed at a future point in your life when you need success most. The man that is best trained having college degrees will be most likely considered first. So fellows, relax and get the most from school, and don't get in a big hurry. If all goes well you have a lifetime to earn money.

COUNT THE COST

It is good to sit down with Dad and count the cost of your education. If it becomes necessary, work on the side to help relieve financial burdens, but never let this hinder you from getting the most from your classes. In some cases it becomes necessary to

obtain a loan which will see you through training. This can be fine provided you may wait until you are settled in a job to pay it back. Yet, the more you pay without a loan means less burden later on. Just count the cost, do your best, and plan to go all the way in preparation. The going may get rough, but don't give up. "If a spider breaks his web, over and over he will mend it again." Yes, it may seem impossible to reach the finish line, but always keep before your mind this fact—it becomes even more difficult when you fall short of your degree or goal and have to finish later. Why not then, consider a college background very important.

TRAIN THE MAN

Thus far we have been considering education in the light of training for the skills of your vocation. However, this is only part of the training one needs in order to succeed. The kind of man you are, the attitude you have toward people, your peace of mind which comes only from pure religion, and your home life will play a great role in making you successful. This is where Christian education comes in. These colleges not only train the mind, but also the man. They help you set the proper goals and make it easier for you to answer correctly the three major questions in life: "Where did I come from?" "Why am I here?" and "Where Am I Going?" Without a real purpose in life, our jobs can drive us to the attitude described in the song, "Ole Man River"! They had to "lift that barge, tote that bale, raise tators and cotton, and those that raise them are soon forgotten." But with the Christian man, life means more than just physical performance. His work becomes a means to support family that all may glorify God and prepare their souls to live happily in eternity.

WILL MY WORK DESTROY HOME LIFE?

Many lines of work are good within themselves, but the side effects are undesirable. Most of you will marry and have families and this will bring added responsibilities. Don't ever make the mistake of thinking only of physical means and neglect your duties as a Christian father. When choosing a line of work ask the following questions:

1. Will I be pulled away constantly from my family?
2. Will I be able to go home without taking my work with me?
3. Will my work bring unnecessary temptation?
4. Will my work keep me from working as a Christian?
5. Is this job wrong within itself?

It is hoped that from this chapter you will be able to see that the occupation you choose and the way in which you train for it, are very important as you prepare for your future. A good rule to follow is to "GO, KEEP GOING, AND HELP SOMEONE ELSE TO GO!" "BE WISE IN TIME, THAT YOU MAY BE HAPPY IN ETERNITY."

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON VIII

1. Why should one never take his choice of vocation lightly?
2. Why is it important to match your ability to your choice of work?
3. What will help you decide what occupation you enjoy most?
4. Should you follow Dad's footsteps, regardless?
5. Why is education an important factor in planning your vocation?
6. What is the difference between training the mind and training the man?
7. Discuss five questions you should ask in choosing a line of work.

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1: Bulletin Board—"EVERY YARD COUNTS"

Caption done in one of the local school colors. Cut out a large picture of a football player (Make him represent running to the goal, "GOAL OF LIFE.")

"Goal of Life" done in crepe paper with school colors.

Place green football field marked off with various lesson points: ability, cost, education, training, God.

Suggestion 2: Show a 16mm film on motivation.

Two excellent ones are "Life's Highest Goal" and "Motivation For Living"

Order from: Film Library, General Mills, Inc., 9200 Wayzata Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55440

STANDARDS FOR MARRIAGE

Sometimes when the subject of marriage is mentioned to young people, they feel that this is a matter so far in the future that it is not important now. But, let me remind you that time has a way of flying by and sooner than you think this will be a part of your life. And in one sense of the word you cannot discuss dating without dealing with marriage, for it is true that we marry one from the many we have been dating. Then too, now is the time for you to train yourself as to the standards you will follow and the type of girl you hope to marry. Therefore, will you study this subject with the thought of preparing your minds to think in the right channel toward marriage? May we study the following standards:

MARRIAGE IS FROM GOD

Marriage is not an invention of man, but comes to us from God. In the beginning when God made the first man and woman and put them together as husband and wife as he gave this instruction, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Down through the ages man has rebelled against the sacredness of marriage, but this has never pleased God. It is not uncommon for you to hear today someone say that they are getting married and if it doesn't work out they can always get a divorce. Yes, they can get a divorce, but can they get one and please God is the real question? Can they break up a home where in so many cases children have come, without being hurt and hurting others?

HISTORY BEARS WITNESS

As I read through the history of the human race as recorded in the Bible, it is evident to see that much of the heartaches and defeats in physical battle as well as spiritual breakdown, came because man failed to take marriage seriously. God's people were warned not to marry among heathen people, but they refused his warnings. And often, these people were led into idol worship and captivity. Perhaps the greatest example of this is found in the life of Ahab the king. He married Jezebel, a worshipper of the false god Baal, and led God's people into such worship. God was displeased with him (1 Kings 16:31-33).

Thousands of lives today have become useless and miserable because of jumping into marriage without realizing its importance. This is not to suggest for a moment that you refrain from marriage, but rather that you do everything you can to choose the proper mate and make this a lifetime commitment.

BE OLD ENOUGH TO MARRY

We cannot quote you a scripture that states an age you must reach before marriage, but we can show you that early marriage is a dangerous thing. Society has a great influence on our lives at this point. We look around and say, "Everybody is doing it, why not?" This is not a reliable rule. Now you may marry extremely young and have a good marriage, but the odds are against you. Why? Even though you are very mature, you still have much maturing ahead. This can be said of all ages, but it is more critical in youth. Some of your most serious changes will come between the ages of 16 through 21, for some of the things that were so important to you at 16 will seem foolish when 21. This maturing can truly harm a marriage. The court records are full of cases where 16 year old young people married and later after maturity came to realize that they were not interested in each other. You may say that this can happen at any age, and you are so right, but it is not as apt to happen if the couple is older and both enter marriage considering it a serious matter.

The younger years should be years of preparation. Your shoulders are capable of carrying many responsibilities, but marriage and family should not be one of them. Supporting a family, rearing children and other related tasks become routine. This role in life is more easily accepted when one realizes that according to age, this is what he should be doing. But the very young who have this task may feel cheated. They still want to enjoy their freedom of being

like other young people and may neglect their responsibilities. You have the rest of your life for adulthood and marriage so why begin such before your time. Yes, marriage will mean more if you will wait until you are old enough.

CHOOSE MATE OF SAME RELIGION

Choosing a mate of the same religion is often a major assignment, for we know that the majority of youth that you associate with from day to day, do not hold your belief in religion. But when we ask you to marry in the same religion, we are telling you what any good psychologist would advise you. However, it is more than just the proper psychological thing to do, since this is what God wants. The Bible teaches that husband and wife are one flesh, (Matthew 19:6) and what God has joined together man is not to put asunder. This oneness is hampered when husband and wife are divided in religion. The children become confused and often Christianity is just about dropped in such marriages because they cannot solve the many problems. If you are a Christian, failing to choose a Christian mate could cause you to stop living for Christ.

I once read of a young man that went to his preacher for advice since he was in love with a girl that had no interest in religion. The young man had great hopes for the church and was strong in faith. After much discussion, the minister heard the argument that the young man would convert her and help her become strong. The wise minister moved his chair near the table and asked the young man to step on the chair and then upon the table. After he had ascended to the table top, the minister reached out his hand and said, "Now son, pull me up to where you are!" The young man began to pull, but soon realized he was trying the impossible. After the boy's try, the minister gave only a slight pull and down came the young man to the chair and then to the floor. "Now son, I did this to teach you an important lesson. It would be very hard to pull your girl up to your level, but so easy for her to pull you down." The young man got the point and refused to marry until he was able to convert her.

But how does one go about finding a faithful Christian mate? The answer—by going to the places where Christians are found. During young high school years, attend a Christian youth camp each summer. After you get older, perhaps you could work as a counselor, Bible teacher or in other assignments. This will bring you in association with many fine Christian girls. After high school attend a Christian college. Here you will be in the company of

thousands who are Christians. Many, many happy marriages have come from these colleges.

Don't be in such a big hurry. A fine Christian wife is worth years of working and waiting. Jacob of the Old Testament worked 14 years in behalf of Rachel, the woman he loved (Genesis 29). Real happiness does not come accidentally, but one must work for such.

These are a few of the important standards that you should set that will help you someday have a happy marriage. It is hoped that you will add these to your thoughts and life.

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON IX

1. Show why you should set standards on marriage early in life.
2. Who first ordained marriage? Where? With whom?
3. Discuss God's feelings toward the sacredness of marriage.
4. Why are extremely young marriages often dangerous?
5. Name some responsibilities in marriage.
6. Is it best to marry within your own religion? Why your answer?
7. Give two ways to be associated with Christian girls.
8. Why should you not be in a big hurry to marry?
9. Does happy marriage come accidentally?

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1: "Marriage Bonds"

Use on flannel board. Draw a large wedding band glittered in gold. Connect a small brass colored chain (found at a hardware store) from ring to a large Bible. The Bible is God's Word for us. Let each link in chain represent standards for a good marriage. Stress the fact that "death and infidelity only" can break the chain from marriage to God.

Suggestion 2: Bulletin board or chalkboard

Title: TO TAKE A BRIDE

Sketch or cut out a picture of a bride: List points to be discussed:

1. Mature
2. Loves home life
3. Loves children
4. Industrious
5. Devoted Christian.

ROMANCE AND WEDDING

It has been said that marriage can bring the greatest happiness or become the strongest disappointment in our lives. In the previous chapter we learned some standards that will help a young man choose the right girl. Now let us assume that these have been followed and you are engaged to the girl of your dreams. This should be the happiest time of your life, and each day should be a time of preparation for the big event. If either you or your intended bride is not thrilled by the very thought of being together in marriage, something is wrong.

AN EXAMPLE OF JOY

Perhaps your experience can be like that of a government clerk who received an unexpected raise in his salary. At the close of the day he rushed to the telegraph office and sent his question to the girl of his choice: "Will you marry me?" He prepaid the return fee, which permitted ten words and very shortly this message was returned: "Yes, gladly, willingly, joyfully, delightfully, gratefully, lovingly, yes, yes, yes!"

With this kind of love and joy, all the details and planning for the wedding should be easier. Although it is customary for the girl and her family to bear the expense of the wedding, this does not relieve the young man of his duties. Some of these are often neglected simply because the young man has never taken time to study. Therefore, please give your special attention to some of the things you can do in helping prepare for your wedding.

COOPERATE

There are many decisions that must be made together. It is so rude for a young man to rebel at her every plan because most girls have spent their lifetime planning for this one day. It is a fact that fancy church weddings do not mean as much to men as they do to women, but show your love for her happiness by letting her have the type of wedding she and her family desire. So often young men pull against all plans just for the sake of raising a fuss, but how do you suppose this makes your bride-to-be feel? So many hours and dollars are being spent by her family, and it would add so much joy to the occasion for you to cooperate.

LEND A HELPING HAND

Don't let her bear all the responsibility. Just because society says that she is to bear most of the expenses of the wedding, doesn't mean that you are not involved! Offer your services to help in any way possible. It may be simply running an errand or going with her to select the cake, flowers, etc., but these small things will be a great source of strength for her since there are so many tasks to be accomplished.

YOUR PART IN THE WEDDING

It is a mistaken idea to believe that the bride takes care of all the planning and expenses of a wedding, for as we shall presently see, the groom has his responsibilities. Don't wait about getting your part complete since this would be an added burden to your beloved. But rather, get all in order and she can concentrate on getting her part complete.

1. Buying the rings:

It is customary for you to take your bride with you to purchase the wedding ring. In fact, since she will be wearing it for years, she should have a part in selecting the ring that will look best on her finger. You may purchase a simple band of white or yellow gold, or a band with diamonds. If she happens to be one that never wants to remove her ring for sentimental reasons, the plain band should be chosen since the diamonds must be cleaned underneath occasionally and even replaced when lost. It is also proper for you to choose your band on this occasion, provided it is the wish of the bride.

2. The Bride's Present and Bouquet

Only the rich can take his bride to the jewelry store and let her choose the gift of her choice, but you can still show your love to her by choosing a gift moderately priced for her personal adornment. If you stay within your ability to purchase, she will understand and the price tag will not make that much difference. Just the fact that you remembered her will count.

As to the flowers, you are required to buy boutonnières for the ushers and best man along with the bride's bouquet. It is often customary for you to purchase gifts, ties and gloves for the ushers and best man. In some cases, you might prefer a corsage for her to wear, rather than the bouquet.

3. Select The Minister

Very early in your preparation you should select the minister to perform the ceremony. He can also help you in making arrangements for the place to be married. It will be your expense to pay him and his fee usually ranges from \$10 to \$100 or \$200 depending on your financial standing and the importance of the wedding. The amount you choose should be sealed in an envelope and given to the best man who in turn gives it to the minister shortly after the ceremony. Never ask the minister, "Well, how much do I owe you?" It is proper for you to select the amount and let the best man present the gift.

Of course, the marriage license should have been purchased several days before the wedding and in some cases a blood test taken if your state requires such.

4. The Wedding Trip

The wedding trip is always the expense of the groom even if his wife is rich and himself poor. It is good for you to decide your trip and contact the resort, hotel, or motel where you plan to go for reservations. You should never spend all your money on a wedding trip and have to begin your marriage in a financial bind. But if you have properly planned this wedding over the months, you will have saved your money and counted the cost. This will truly make for a more pleasant beginning.

BE A CONSIDERATE HUSBAND

Finally all plans have been made. The wedding rehearsal is completed and with your beautiful bride you hear the minister ask, "Will you love, honor and cherish her?" and you answer, "I will!" But will you keep this promise? To some young men this question and answer just becomes a part of a wedding ceremony. But from the moment you two motor away for your honeymoon, each of you has a responsibility of making the other happy. You

are no longer to think only of self, but your bride has become “one flesh” with you. Where are some of the places a groom can show consideration?

1. On The Honeymoon.

The honeymoon is a very important part of success in marriage. It is a time of adjustment—it is a time when certain freedoms are allowed which have been forbidden all of your lives. With this in mind the groom should be extra considerate. Lovemaking of any kind is successful only when mutual. Some grooms approach the first night of marriage with a long dreamed plan and when things don't go to schedule he feels cheated and disappointed in marriage, instead of being patient and realizing it takes time for adjustment.

One of the things that will help a groom to be considerate on his honeymoon is to have previously studied good books informing him of the nature of woman compared to man and what to really expect. Each successful husband learns to find happiness only when he brings happiness to his wife. If after much patience there still are problems which can't be solved, don't hesitate to get help from the proper source, such as a doctor, minister or marriage counselor. Learn to be Christian in attitude and most difficulties will be solved.

2. During Married Life.

Many newlywed husbands drown their brides in love and concern at first, but after the new is worn off they swing in the opposite direction. Someone has said that you can tell the honeymoon is over when the dog starts carrying you your house slippers and the wife begins barking. But how often the wife begins barking because the husband drops her after a few weeks of marriage. You fellows will not be expected to act like newlyweds all the time, but neither should you completely lose interest. It will be the little things of appreciation that will mean the most to your wife.

She may not be able to cook like Mom at first, but do you have to make her feel bad about this? Give her time! As she shows improvement, compliment her for a job well done. The simple words, “thank you,” accompanied by a kiss can say more than a book of words.

Plan your life with her. This doesn't mean that you can't have a sport which you love that doesn't interest her, but don't go overboard turning her into a maid always at home alone. In short, share your life completely with her. Surprise her with gifts and flowers—not just on birthdays or special holidays, but just to show your love and appreciation.

3. By following God's rules

Since God designed the home and marriage, we should not be surprised to learn that he has set the rules. The apostle Paul writes about these in Ephesians 5:23-28: "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church." Being head of the wife does not mean that you push her aside and do as you please, but rather that you have her interest at heart and help guide and direct her life. If you will follow the next statement of Paul, there will be no difficulty being the head. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it . . . So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself."

But God's rules also include meeting each other's needs. You and your bride will have many needs for happiness and to neglect any of these will weaken your marriage. There is the need for physical or financial support, sexual needs, the need to be loved and appreciated, and spiritual needs! For her to be a good helpmeet, you must do your part, for there is no room in a happy marriage for selfishness. Just as you must work to keep yourself free from lusting after other women, you must work to keep your wife from lusting after other men. And remember, when you both meet each other's needs, these temptations will disappear.

Surely this is what Paul was teaching in 1 Corinthians 7:2-5, when he wrote:

Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: (conjugal rights) and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Therefore, as you seek to fulfill your own needs, don't ever forget her needs. It is important for each of you to have sexual satisfaction, but your wife will not feel this unless such has been performed with love. Never make her feel that you are simply using her, but rather that all is an expression of your love for each other.

LASTING HAPPINESS

Young men, marriages that are good and successful are built by giving and receiving! As you give your best to make her happy in every respect, you will in turn find happiness. Yes, there will be rough times while seeking happiness, but just grow, love, weep and mature together and your lives will be knit together in love and joy.

Above all, put God in your marriage from the beginning to the end, and your wife, children, and self will find the happiness God intended when he made woman for man! And true romance will never leave your marriage.

STUDENT QUESTIONS—LESSON X

1. Why would it be wrong for a couple to get married if either or both are not thrilled to do so?
2. Discuss why a young man should be especially willing to cooperate with his bride-to-be in planning the wedding.
3. Explain the proper procedure in buying a ring or rings.
4. What should be the most important thing in buying your bride a gift?
5. What flowers should you purchase?
6. What is your obligation toward the minister?
7. Discuss a wedding trip as to expense, time and planning.
8. What is involved in the words, "Will you love, honor and cherish her"?
9. Explain why the words patience and adjustment are important on your honeymoon.
10. Name a common mistake made by many husbands shortly after the honeymoon.
11. What is meant by, "plan your life with her"?
12. Who should you place first in your home?

TEACHER'S SUGGESTIONS

Suggestion 1:

Make an 8 by 10 hand flip booklet entitled, "Duties of a Husband." Use pictures to illustrate scripture references on these duties.

Suggestion 2:

Invite a minister to read and discuss vows and marriage ceremonies with the class.

Suggestion 3:

Have each boy write his own personal standards in the selection of a mate.

Suggestion 4:

Bulletin board, chalk board or flannel board lesson:

Title: "THE GROOM'S PART" Use white large letters for caption on dark blue background. In center, place picture of a groom. Around groom, place cut out white wedding bells. On each bell write in the various duties of a groom in planning a wedding.