

You need clear knowledge of how to behave with a girl.

It is clear from a simple study of how human beings were fashioned by the Creator that the powers of sex which they were given are designed for the necessary purpose of procreation of children. It is also clear, therefore, that they may be used, and the pleasures connected with them lawfully enjoyed, only in the state of marriage, where children can be properly brought forth, cared for, and reared. This means that any deliberate indulgence in sex actions or sex pleasures outside of marriage is always a serious sin.

Such indulgence may become deliberate either in a direct or an indirect way. Directly a young man sins seriously against chastity when he induces his girl friend to permit or take part in certain actions for the very purpose of experiencing sex pleasure. It does not matter whether the actions are what is called complete or incomplete; whether they consist of immodest touches or actual fornication. If their purpose is to gratify pleasures that are sanctioned by God only in marriage, they are directly and seriously sinful.

Indirectly indulgence in such pleasure is deliberate when a young man places an unnecessary cause that ordinarily and almost always leads to the effect of indulgence in sinful pleasure. This is where the evil of so-called "petting", "necking", "love-making", etc., arises. A young man and his girl friend may say to each other: "We don't want to do anything wrong; we only want to show our love for each other." Then they proceed to prolonged kissing, intimate embracing, etc., which ordinarily and of their very nature lead to the same sensations that are wrong when directly desired and sought after.

As a matter of fact, there is much self-deception on the part of young people in regard to "petting" etc. They say they do not want the sinful effect. Yet they do the things that naturally produce the sinful effect. It is true that sometimes perfectly normal and lawful actions, such as sitting together in a theatre, or walking hand in hand, or decent dancing, may bring about a temptation. Such temptations may be resisted and disregarded. But actions that of their nature are designed to produce a sinful effect are themselves sinful.

2.

You need strong convictions about the importance of being pure with your girl friends.

There are several bases on which your convictions in this matter should be founded.

The first is the terrible evil of every mortal sin. By one mortal sin you deprive yourself of sanctifying grace, throw away your hope of heaven and make yourself liable to eternal hell.

No sin, no matter how violently you are tempted to commit it, nor how alluring its rewards, is worth this terrible price.

The second is the gross malice and hatefulness in the sight of God of the sin of scandal. If you do wrong with your girl friend, thus actually leading her into the state of serious sin, you are at the head of the list of those whom Our Lord had in mind when He said, "it were better for him that a millstone be hanged around his neck and he be drowned in the depths of the sea." To say that you love a girl, and then



Six serious sins of the s



Photo by Jean-Louis Tremblay

to induce her to besmirch her soul with the stain of impurity, is a direct contradiction and great hypocrisy.

The third is the practical argument attested by wide experience, that those who evade God's law by sexual sins before marriage, rarely, and then only by complete conversion to good, achieve the happiness in marriage that God wants us to have. Sins against sex cause not only the loss of souls (which is the greatest of all losses); they are usually punished by unhappiness even in this world. The libertine before marriage usually becomes the adulterer after marriage.

The fourth is the fact that, as Catholic or a Christian, you have the obligation of upholding the ideal of purity which Christ set up against the evil example of a pagan world. If you succumb to evil with your girl friend, you are hastening the complete collapse of the society in which you live, as every human society in history has collapsed when lust ruled its members.

3.

You need to plan ahead of time what you will do on a date, so that, by being engaged in interesting or useful occupations, you will eliminate much of the danger and temptation to evil that arise on dates.

Many young men "drift" into evil actions with their girl friends merely because they

The following excerpts are from a pocket-size text on dating practices written by D.F. Miller, published by the Redemptorist Fathers of Liguori, Missouri in 1957. This warehouse of moral ethics sold for five cents and is one of those rare chuckles that makes life worth getting out of bed for.

Read on

It is not easy for young men to keep themselves and their girl friends chaste when they are dating today. The difficulty begins, of course, with the tendency of human nature to misuse the powers and pleasures of sex in one way or another. This tendency is the result of original sin. It is increased by the false principles and evil example that are so common in the world.

There are people in the modern world who deny the clearest dictates of the human conscience and reason in regard to sex morality. They advise and even urge young people to "have no inhibitions" about sex. There are thousands of young people who have smothered the voice of their conscience in order to be free to give rein to their passions in any way they wish. There are innumerable instruments of entertainment and information, such as movies, television, newspapers, magazines and books, which, by pictures, advertisements, jokes, stories, etc., incite young people to give in freely to unlawful sex pleasure.

All this adds up to a tremendous influence that many young men do not have the will nor the courage to resist.

thought of nothing worthwhile to do. God gave human beings intelligence, for one reason, that they might be able to look ahead, to foresee danger, and to offset the danger by busying themselves with innocent occupations.

For every date you are to have with your girl, you should have a definite plan as to how you will spend the time together. Your purpose may be either entertainment or profit. If it is entertainment, you can plan on going to a show or concert together, with lunch afterwards; or to a decent dance in a reputable place; or to the home of mutual friends or the relatives of one of you for a game of cards or other social activities; or to an athletic event, or athletic activities of your own; or you can take a drive to some out-of-town attraction this, preferably, with another couple going along. There are dozens of places of innocent entertainment to which a boy can take his girl friend on a date.

If your purpose is mutual profit, you can attend a lecture, or a study club meeting, or an adult education class such as are held in many cities in the evening. You can take part in religious services in church, or in some social or charitable activity on behalf of others under religious auspices. These useful activities are not nearly so "stuffy" or "uninteresting" as many young people might scornfully think or say. They constitute a fine preparation for the mutual work and sacrifice that are a part

Nevertheless it cannot come from any individual's instinctive virtue of purity. And a little meditation on what chastity is and why it should be practiced will help many young men to themselves and their girl friends habits that might otherwise be characters, their happiness.

The rules that young men should put in the form of frames that anybody can understand they will both clear up what is right and wrong and strengthen the motivation to want to obey God's laws. Friends from sin, and the possible way for a happy marriage, of course, that of are lawful dates. This are dates of men who are with girls or women who marry. Regular dating married or divorced men or divorced women, is apart from any other rule

of marriage, and they come of character in both boys.

The important thing, you have planned something each time you go on a date.

4.

You must, on principle, practices on your dates short of a strong invitation.

The following practices are dangerous and foolish for any young man who wants and girl friend pure:

1] Making a drinking party. If you spend most of an evening with your girl friend in a tavern or a club imbibing alcoholic beverages, almost invariably find that purity will begin to disappear. temptations to sensuality are nearly so bad to you then for sinful actions as it mind is completely clear.

2. Driving your girl friend to a secluded spot where, you yourself, you "just want to sit and talk, there is darkness and solitude at your dates, and avoid the want to sit and talk, there to go where there will be to a city park or a public