

093 08/06/01 Teach your son that dating is preparation for marriage

Before your son is old enough to date, you should spend time helping him prepare for the choices he will make. Teach your son that dating is preparation for marriage. It is a time to explore the types of personalities with whom he is compatible. It is a time to find girls that share the same values that are important to him. It is also a time to learn how to treat girls with respect and care.

A good place to begin teaching your son about the kind of girls to date is to read Proverbs 31:10-31 with him. Through discussion with him, you can help him see that the same traits that make a woman a good wife also make a teenage girl a good date. With competition from the media, this task will take much prayer and diligence on your part.

Teach your son that he should notice how a girl treats him. Three important traits found in the Proverbs verses are that he can trust her (v.11), that she brings him “good, not harm,” (v. 12) and that he is respected by others because of her (v. 23).

Translated into a teenage environment, those verses tell a young man that he should date a girl that he can trust to keep his confidences. She will not report to her friends when he shares with her what is important to him. She can also be trusted to do what she says she will do.

Bringing him good rather than harm means that she will respect what his parents require of him. She will be understanding when he must study rather than talk to her on the phone. She will not insist on his spending more money than he can afford. She will not demand that he do things for her that are not in his best interests.

Finally, he should feel that she is the type of girl that he can be proud to introduce to his friends as well as his family. Her value and character should be such that others respect him for dating her.

Stay with me, now. I know that boys and men first want a girl to look good. Next week, I will be writing about the traits found in Proverbs that make girls and women beautiful.