

# BIBLICAL COUNSEL TO YOUNG MEN

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This is a very significant point in the course of your life as you become more independent from your parents and make decisions that will affect your life for many years to come. I would like to share a few thoughts with you which I hope will be helpful as you plan the course of your adult life.

First of all, always seek first the kingdom of God (*Mt. 6:33*). This means far more than attending church faithfully. It means to always prioritize doing what is right, according to God's word. When you consider a job offer or career, the first thing to do is pray that the Lord will guide you according to His will. You will enjoy far more peace and contentment if you have a sense of God's approval of your decisions as opposed to taking a job solely based on the pay, position, or prestige it offers. The best paying job is not necessarily the one the Lord would have you to take. To make the right decision, you must engage in diligent prayer asking the Lord to help you discern His guidance as opposed to being led by your human ambitions. "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*" (*Isaiah 26:3*).

There are also some factors to consider which will help you make the right decision. First of all, you know it is not of the Lord to accept a job which requires you to move to an area where there is not a church which believes and preaches the truth. To do so would be to disobey the command of *Matthew 6:33* and we know the Lord would not lead you to do something which requires you to disobey his word. Frankly, I would not live in an area where there is not a good Primitive Baptist Church because we all need the fellowship and accountability which the church provides.

The Bible teaches that "*...a prudent wife is from the Lord.*" (*Proverbs 19:14*) and "*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.*" (*Proverbs 18:22*). Paul wrote, "*...to avoid fornication, let every man have his own*

wife...” (1 Cor. 7:1). However, Paul also wrote that remaining single is a good thing if a man is not tempted with fornication (1 Cor. 7:8-9). Choosing a wife is the most important decision you will ever make in this life with regard to consequences. Do not be in a hurry to get married. Pray diligently in private and with the woman you hope to marry. If she does not want to pray with you, do not marry her because we are commanded in scripture, “*Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...*” (2 Cor. 6:14). Make sure you marry a woman with whom you can openly communicate so that you may help bear “...*one another’s burdens...*” (Gal. 6:2). Any problem you have while dating will intensify once you are married. If you can’t control your anger, don’t get married until you get counseling to help you conquer it. The best counselors are your pastor and the older members in the church. By far, the most common problem that husbands face is bitterness towards their wife (Col. 3:19). This is manifested when a man gets aggravated and raises his voice, or does anything to make his wife feel unloved or insecure.

You are the leader and the scripture instructs the wife to submit to the husband (Eph. 5:22). However, the scripture never instructs you to announce that you are the leader or instruct your wife to be submissive. She is described as “*the weaker vessel*” (1 Peter 3:7). This expression conveys the idea of “valuable but fragile”. She is different in that her emotional needs are greater than the husband’s. Therefore, God instructs husbands to “...*love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*” (Ephesians 5:25). How did Christ love the church? He sacrificed himself to provide for all her needs. A Christian husband is one who provides for the material and physical comforts of his wife, even if he must sacrifice his own. Do what pleases your wife even if it doesn’t please you. For example, if she would like a new appliance, buy her one. She is likely not impressed that you can save a lot of money by repairing the old one. If she wants new curtains, don’t say, “but there’s nothing wrong with what we have”. I’m not suggesting that you spend money you don’t have. But if she knows that you want to do what pleases her, she will be more understanding when you cannot afford to do so. Do the little things that mean a lot to her. If she wants the bed made up every day, don’t say to yourself, “that’s no big deal”. It is to her. If you sleep later than her, do it for her. Remember, this is the woman who cooks for you every day

whether she feels like it or not. When she says, “I don’t know what to cook”, that means she’s burnt out (no pun intended) on cooking. It’s time to take her to a nice restaurant.

If the Lord blesses you with children, you are primarily responsible for training them to obey and honor their mother. Since she is with them all day while you are at work, take over when you get home. Never say, “I worked hard all day, I need to relax when I get home.” She’s doesn’t get to clock in and out like you do. She’s on call 24/7. When she’s up with sick children all night, she doesn’t get to sleep the next day because she still has the responsibility of caring for them. When your children are young, let her enjoy church on Sunday by overseeing the discipline. When they misbehave, take them out, apply the rod (according to the directives of God’s word), and bring them back in to sit still beside you. It won’t take them long to learn that it is much more comfortable in church than it is outside. If their diaper needs to be changed during church, take care of it. You will never come close to changing as many as she has. During lunch at church, attend to the children and let her enjoy a time of fellowship with women her age. In doing these things, you will be pleasantly surprised when she approaches you one Sunday after church and says, “You have been so good to me. I want you to enjoy visiting with the men today. I will take care of the children.”

The most important person in your life is your wife, not your children. She is your lifetime companion. You are one flesh with her. Taking her out to eat and to the movies is just as important as doing so with the children. It’s great for the family to do things together, but she still needs to go on dates with you. By doing so, she will know she is still special to you. You will reap what you sow. The more you love her, the more she will love you. The key to a happy marriage is not finding a woman to “meet your needs”. To the contrary, it is found in “meeting her needs.” After you are married, the days of “hanging out with the guys” are over. You can no longer “live for the weekend” when you can hunt, fish, or go to ball games. There is nothing wrong with these activities, but someone once said that “love” is a four letter word spelled, t-i-m-e. Again, you will be pleasantly surprised when she says, “Thank you for the wonderful weekend. I would like to stay at home next weekend. Why don’t you go to the game?” As you spend more time with her and

get to know her, you will come to realize that you would rather be with her than go out with the guys.

The scripture instructs husbands to “*nourisheth and cherisheth*” (Eph. 5:29) their wives. In a literal sense, nourishment is that which produces growth. Likewise, to nourish your wife is to provide for her spiritual growth. The literal meaning of “cherish” is “to keep warm”. To cherish your wife is to provide for her emotional security. Make it a regular practice to take her in your arms and say, “I love you and I’m going to take care of you.”

In reference to their wives, Peter instructed husbands to, “... *dwell with them according to knowledge...*” (1 Pet. 3:7). Unless you get to know wife, you will not understand her and know how to live with her.

Never forget how important your wife is:

*Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates. (Proverbs 31:28-31).*