

The A-B-C's of B-G Relationships



Biblical Guidelines for
good inter-personal
relationships

The A-B-C's of B-G Relationships

- ❖ **Accept** Gods attitudes and view points
- ❖ **Believe** In God's good plan and High ideals
- ❖ **Commit** yourself and your future in God and trust him
- ❖ **Develop** wise patterns of living and desirable character
- ❖ **Enjoy** the Lord as your basic security and your “first love”

Guidelines for good B-G relationships



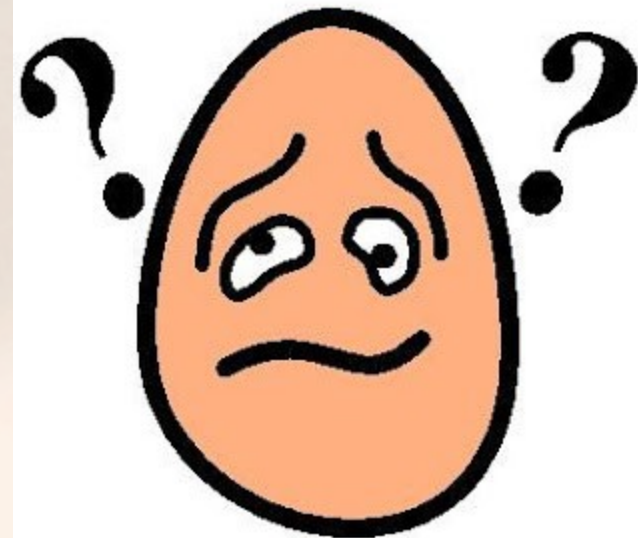
Step A

Accept Gods attitudes
and view points

Reject the confused values of the world

Idealistic dreams of perfect marriage

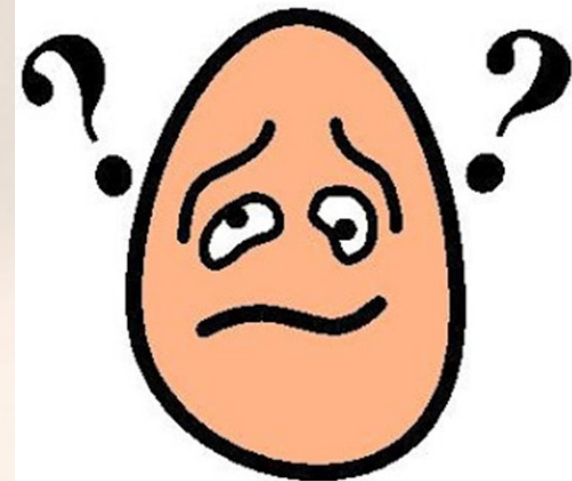
- ❖ Ideal man or woman
- ❖ Solution to ones problem in life
- ❖ Romantic love as the highest good.



Reject the confused values of the world

Pessimistic cynical attitudes

- ❖ Marriage, cannot be happy
- ❖ Outdated
- ❖ Men/women cannot be trusted
- ❖ Men/women are tricky, undependable



Reject the confused values of the world

- ❖ **Pre-occupation with sex, desire to be married**
- ❖ **Negative attitudes toward sexual desires**
 - ❖ Self righteous prudery

re:play

Reject the confused values of the world

- ❖ An independent attitude toward relations and marriage
- ❖ It is my own business
- ❖ I will do what I want to do.
- ❖ If it feels good, do it.



Cultivate healthy attitudes – John 8:32

❖ **God originated the idea of sex/marriage**

❖ He intends it to be beautiful as his plans are followed

❖ **It is normal to have sexual desire**

❖ Attraction to the opposite sex



“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

Cultivate healthy attitudes – John 8:32

This greatly needs God's control and guidance

- ❖ “Live as obedient children before God. Don't let your character be molded by the desire of your ignorant days, but be holy in every department of your lives” – 1peter 1;14,15
- ❖ “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”
- Prov – 3:5-7

Cultivate healthy attitudes – John 8:32

A happy marriage requires maturity and hard work

- ❖ It doesn't “just happen”
- ❖ you have found the “right one”
- ❖ feel very much “in love”



“Marriage is not for immature people

**preoccupied with all they are dreaming of
GETTING.**

**It is for people who have developed
enough mental, emotional, spiritual &
economic maturity to shoulder on their
own the heavy responsibilities of
marriage” -Warren Myers**

Follow Scriptural Guidelines

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? 2 Corinth 6:14

Follow scriptural guidelines

- ❖ **For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." - 2 Cor 6:14-17**
- ❖ **There are no 'evangelistic' marriages**

Girls, you need a spiritual leader

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing^[1] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”^[1] ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Eph 5:22-33

Follow scriptural guidelines

Girls, you need a man who is a spiritual leader–Eph 5:22-33

- ❖ Somebody you can obey, respect, admire and follow
- ❖ Who cares about you as he would for God
- ❖ For others more than himself



Boys, you need a Godly woman

- 10 [a]A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
- 11 Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
- 12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
- 13 She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.
- 14 She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.
- 15 She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.
- 18 She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
- 20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.
- 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- 22 She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.
- 25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
- 26 She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
- 27 She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- 28 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
- 29 “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”
- 30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
- 31 Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. (Prov 31:10-31)

Follow scriptural guidelines

Boys, You need a godly Woman -Prov 31:10-31

- ❖ You enjoy being with for life after the romantic feelings fade
- ❖ Reverences the Lord in her daily life
- ❖ Relates well to people, especially in the home
- ❖ Faithful to responsibilities
- ❖ The kind to help raise your children



Discussion

- ❖ **Enact two scenarios highlighting the difference of a couple being “in love” and of genuinely loving the other.**
- ❖ **Enact a scenario on how you control yourself to act and think appropriately when “in love”.**
- ❖ **Enact a scenario of submission and love in a family.**

Guidelines for Boy-Girl relationships



Step B

Believe In God's good
plan and High ideals

Believe in God's plan and high ideals

❖ **“Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path.” – Prov 23:17-19**

Believe in God's plan and high ideals

❖ **“For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.”**

❖ Psalm 84:11,12

Believe in God's plan and high ideals

- ❖ **Satan's lie from the beginning has been, "God is withholding something good from you. Come my way and I will show you what life is all about"**

The Christian position

- ❖ **Sexual self control outside marriage**
 - ❖ Abstinence from intercourse
- ❖ **Sexual freedom and honor in marriage**
 - ❖ No particular restrictions
- ❖ **God gives specific commands in 3 areas**
 - ❖ Action, Word, Thought

God's ideals regarding sex are reliable.

❖ Action

❖ “Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers or homosexuals – will have no share in His kingdom .. Sexual sin is never right; our bodies were not meant for that, but for the Lord and the Lord wants to fill his bodies with Himself.”

■ 1 Cor 6:9.13 Living Bible

God's ideals regarding sex are reliable.

“Avoid sexual looseness like plague!.. You are not the owner of your own body. You have bought, and what a price! Therefore bring glory to God in your body.”

God's ideals regarding sex are reliable.

❖ Word

❖ “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.”

God's ideals regarding sex are reliable.

❖ Thought

❖ “But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart”

■ Matt 5:28

❖ This can be translated, “ whoever casts his eye on a woman with an impure intention and cultivates lustful thoughts has already committed mental adultery with her”


God's ideals regarding sex are reliable.

- ❖ **"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl"**
 - Job 31:1
- ❖ **The principle of Psychological acceptance:**
"If a person goes over an act enough times in his mind, when given the opportunity he will act"
- ❖ **Beware of lustful day dreaming**

Immorality

❖ Results

- ❖ insecurity,
- ❖ fears,
- ❖ guilt feelings,
- ❖ a lowered self concept,
- ❖ disease,
- ❖ pregnancy outside marriage



**“ The best gift that you can give
your partner in marriage is your
virginity”**

Disobeying God's rules hurts love

- ❖ **The end of the very love you wanted to express**
 - ❖ “If you examine a messed-up life, you will see that the mess always started with the transgression of a divine commandment”
 - ❖ “We always hurt our neighbor when we break a commandment, even if we don't see it immediately in our present situation. But God is greater than our situation. He looks beyond what I can see. He has the film of my whole life in view, and not just a snapshot of my present situation..”



“And His commandments are not burdensome’.(1Jn3:3). They are not a burden but a help. They are not a load, but a force. They do not incapacitate us, but make us mature. Actually it is much simpler to keep them than to transgress them. Life becomes more difficult and complicated if we try to discover for ourselves what is good and bad.”

-Love is a feeling to be learned, Walter Trobisch



Guidelines for Boy-Girl relationships



Step C

Commit yourself and your future in
God and trust him

Make commitment a way of life

- ❖ Commitment is a definite act that must be renewed every day.
 - ❖ In your daily QT, and in our practical choices at life's cross roads.
- ❖ He is worthy of our complete commitment
 - ❖ Life, desires, fears, future, whether or not to me married, the timing, selection of our partner

Transformational thinking

❖ **“With eyes open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him and acceptable by Him.**

Transformational thinking

❖ **Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves toward maturity”**

❖ - Romans 12;1,2 Phillips

Commitment

❖ **Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.- Psalm 37:4,5**



Commitment

**“With thoughtless and impatient
hands**

We tangle up the plans

The Lord has wrought

And when we cry in pain, He says,

Be quiet, dear,

While I untie the knot”

Guidelines for Boy-Girl relationships



Step D

Develop wise patterns of
living and desirable
character

1. Control your thought life

- ❖ **Do not “feed” your longings/cravings prematurely**
- ❖ **Watch what you feed your minds**
 - ❖ Movies, TV, Books, magazines, Ads

1. Control your thought life

❖ Ps 101:3

❖ “I will set before my eyes no vile thing”

❖ Don't make it harder to wait for God's time and plan.

❖ “we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” – 2 Cor 10:5

Youth Aflame!

❖ **The sexual desire of a single girl**

❖ to be present like a dormant flower.

❖ **The sexual desire of a single boy**

❖ Active from puberty

Youth Aflame!

❖ **Arousal begins with thoughts, goes to action**

❖ “ Be careful of what you think, because you life is shaped by your thoughts” – Prov 4 :23

❖ **To unfold beautifully in marriage**

2. Relate properly to others

❖ **Girls avoid the patterns of the ‘Loose woman’ - 1Tim 2:9,10, 1 Pet 3:3,4**

❖ Smooth, sweet, flattering speech... being out to catch a man, scheming, maneuvering.. Flirting with eyes.. Freedom in touching men... wearing clothes that stimulate lustful looks/thoughts

2. Relate properly to others

❖ **Boys Avoid “macho” behavior**

- ❖ Hugging, kissing, casually touching..
- ❖ “Treat ..older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity” 1 Tim 5:1

2. Relate properly to others

❖ Understand differences

- ❖ Boys can be merely aroused by a look
- ❖ Girls, arousal comes by touch

❖ Being insensitive to this can cause others to stumble

❖ Do not avoid the worldly way

- ❖ Be courteous, learn to relate as friends

3. In dating and courtship

- ❖ **Objective is to get to 'know' the other person**
- ❖ **Set limits with the Lord's guidance and counsel**
- ❖ **Adhere to standards even if it means losing friends/dates**

3. In dating and courtship

“Many have gone a mile with Satan, who never intended to go more than a couple of steps, but once in his company, they were unable to depart”

3. In dating and courtship

❖ **Attitude should not be**

❖ “How much can I do and get away with”
or “How far can I go and not actually do
wrong”

❖ **But should be,**

❖ “Does this glorify God? What activities
and patterns will be uplifting for me and
the other person?”

3. In dating and courtship

“Turn your back on the turbulent desires of youth and give your positive attention to goodness, faith, love and peace in company with all those who approach God with sincerity.”

2 Timothy 2:22 Phillips

4. In character development

❖ **Develop an attitude of honoring others**

- ❖ Family, friends, colleagues, church members

❖ **Develop Christ-like qualities**

- ❖ Self giving love,
- ❖ consideration for others
- ❖ Faithfulness in responsibility
- ❖ Stick-to-it attitude in good and bad

4. In character development

- ❖ View pre marriage years as years of preparation for a fulfilled life

Instead of waiting for
“the right one” focus
on *being* the right
one

Guidelines for Boy-Girl relationships



Step E

Enjoy the Lord as your
basic security and your “
first love”

HE is my everything!

❖ “You cannot say that our physical body was made for sexual promiscuity; it was made for God, and God is the answer to our deepest longings.” –
1Cor 6:13 Phillips

❖ “Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.”

❖ – Psalm 37:4

“God is so vastly wonderful, so utterly and completely delightful, that He can without anything other than Himself meet and overflow the deepest demands of our total nature,

“

It is better to spend a few years less with the right person than to spend the whole of eternity with the wrong partner.

”

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**Gravity cannot be
responsible for people
'falling' in love**

Infatuation

**Idealistic, based on
romantic ideas.**

Automatic- “fall into”

**Emotional, based on
feelings and physical
attraction**

**Fascination without real
knowledge of the
person**

Love

**Realistic, aware of other
persons imperfections**

**Holistic, acceptance of
the total person**

**Intelligent commitment
and willingness to grow
together**

Infatuation

Rejects advice and follows feelings

Purely selfish, just to satisfy personal desires. Motivated by hunger for affection, need for social acceptance of plain pride

Love

Stands the test of prayer, godly counsel, time and separation

Deep concern for the other person's welfare. Emphasis is on what each can give to the other. Brings mutual fulfillment and satisfaction.

**Just a convenience
relationship without
any commitment to
each other**

**Moments of happiness
but no real
satisfaction**

**There is security in the
relationship. Both
people can be
themselves and act
naturally cause they
will be accepted and
trusted.**

**There is comfort as
each expresses
themselves and share
their thoughts and
feelings**

Always a feeling of insecurity Infatuated persons tend to hide their real selves for fear of being rejected. There is a desire to impress the other person in order to be admired.

Love is prepared to discuss and work out difference. Conflicts can be resolved together and lead to a deeper understanding and respect

Because of the lack of any real communication, there is often a feeling of separation despite an emotional tie. Therefore s constant need for reassurance and pressure to run off and get married.

Love is strengthened through crisis's. Separation often strengthens the relationship and there is greater respect. There is perfect understanding and patience in waiting for His time.

Infatuated people will try to avoid confrontation for fear of destroying the relationship. They are not able to discuss areas of disagreement and therefore often underlying feelings of resentment. Quarrels are often sparked off by the constant demand for greater attention.

Love leads to an exclusive and lasting commitment to one person in marriage. There is perfect freedom in discussing differences and this usually strengthens the relationship

The relationship easily 'wears thin'. Attraction may suddenly turn to rejection if selfish desires are not met or satisfied. Infatuation may also involve more than one person at a time.

There is mutual submission to the Lordship of Christ. The intending marriage partners concentrate on developing their relationship with Christ and better equipped to serve together.

Such a relationship exposes young people to great temptation and often leads to immorality and spoiled lives. Love for Christ grows cold and they become unavailable and unreceptive to spiritual help.

The physical relationship in marriage becomes an expression of genuine love and mutual self giving. Both strive to grow together in Christ and serve Him in a Christ centered home. Each for the other and both for the Lord.

Steps to change

- **Own it. Admit you have a problem.**
 - It's eroding your relationship with God.
 - It's time to admit you're no longer controlling this habit; it's controlling you.
- **Confess it.**
 - James 5:16 says that healing begins with confession.



Steps to change

- **Get help.**
 - The longer you put off getting help, the more damaging the consequences for you.
- **Reject the quick fix.**
 - Commit yourself to a long, thorough process of recovery.
- **Sanitize your environment.**





Considerations in choosing a partner

Considerations in choosing a partner

- **Committed to Christ**
 - 2 Cor 6:14-7:1
- **Continued growth**
 - Surrendered and growing in God's will
- **Compatible**
 - Spiritually, Socially, Emotionally
 - “Package deal”
- **Counsel and clear leading**
- **Correct timing**



Considerations in choosing a partner

- 1 Committed to Christ 2Cor 6:14-7:1
- 2 Continued, surrendered growth Col 2:6,7
- 3 Compatible, S.E.E, “Package deal”
- 4 Counsel and clear leading
- 5 Correct timing – ECC 3:1

References

- **Taken from Navigators' Bible Study Material**

