

Biblical Friendship

Et tu, Brute?

*Six Ways that Bad
Company Corrupts*



1 - By derailing your relationship w/ God

- ◆ **1 Corinthians 15:33, 12-14, 19, 33-34**
- ◆ **Galatians 1:6-10**



2 - By modeling a life that dishonors God

Proverbs 3:35 - The wise will inherit honor, But fools display dishonor.

Proverbs 13:16 - Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool displays folly.

3 John 1:11 - Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

◆ **Can you think of any examples?**

- Disobedience to Parents
- Phone obsessions
- Social Media (Tide Pod Challenge!)
- Immodest Clothing



3 - By advising you with their folly instead of God's Word

Proverbs 15:2 - The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.

Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

*** Esther 5:9-14**



4 - By pressuring you to violate God's commands

Proverbs 14:9 - Fools mock at sin, But among the upright there is good will.

Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1:22 - "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge?"

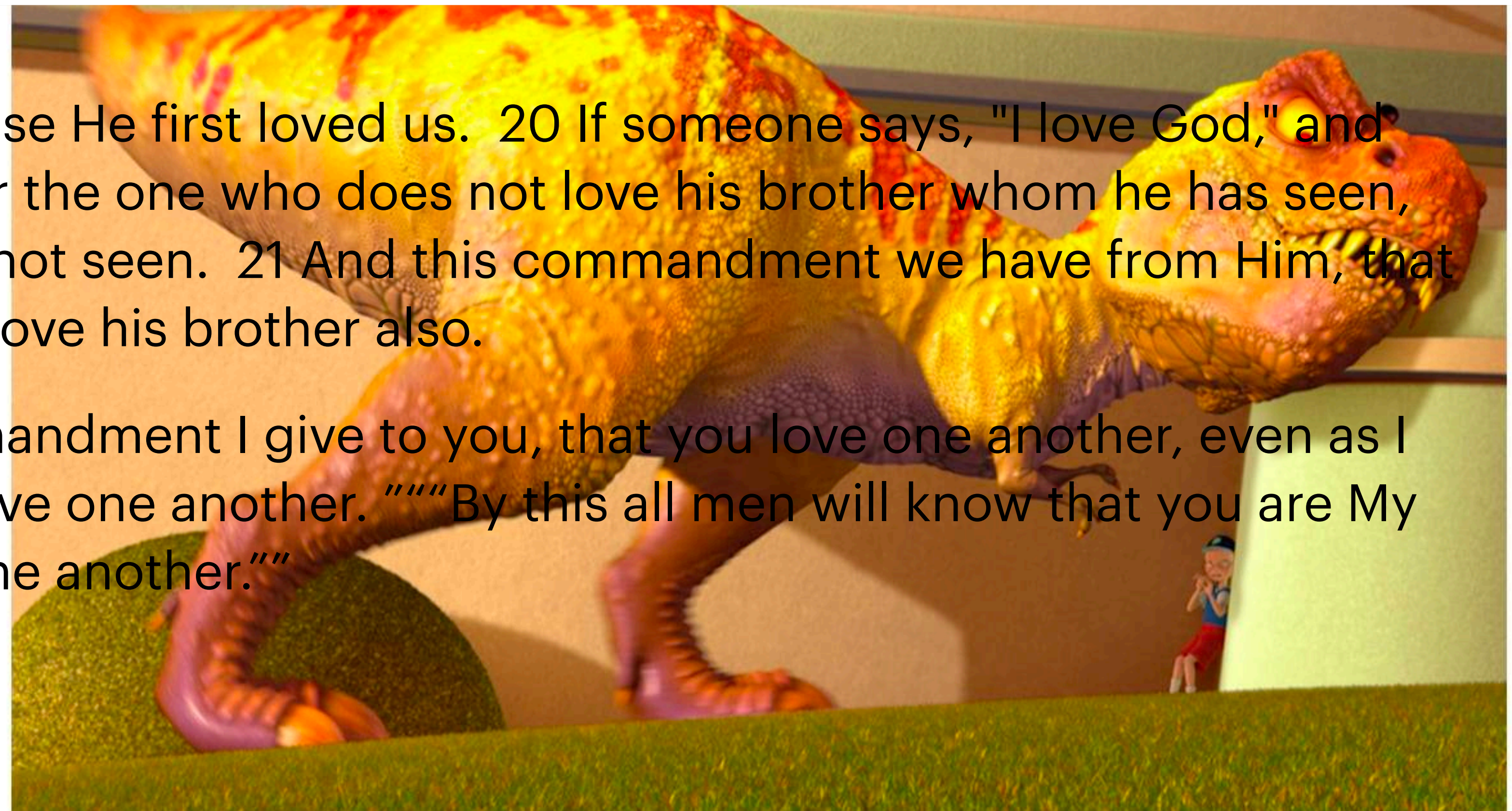
*** Deuteronomy 13:6-11**

5 - By limiting your reach of love

Psalm 119:63 - I am a companion of all those who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.

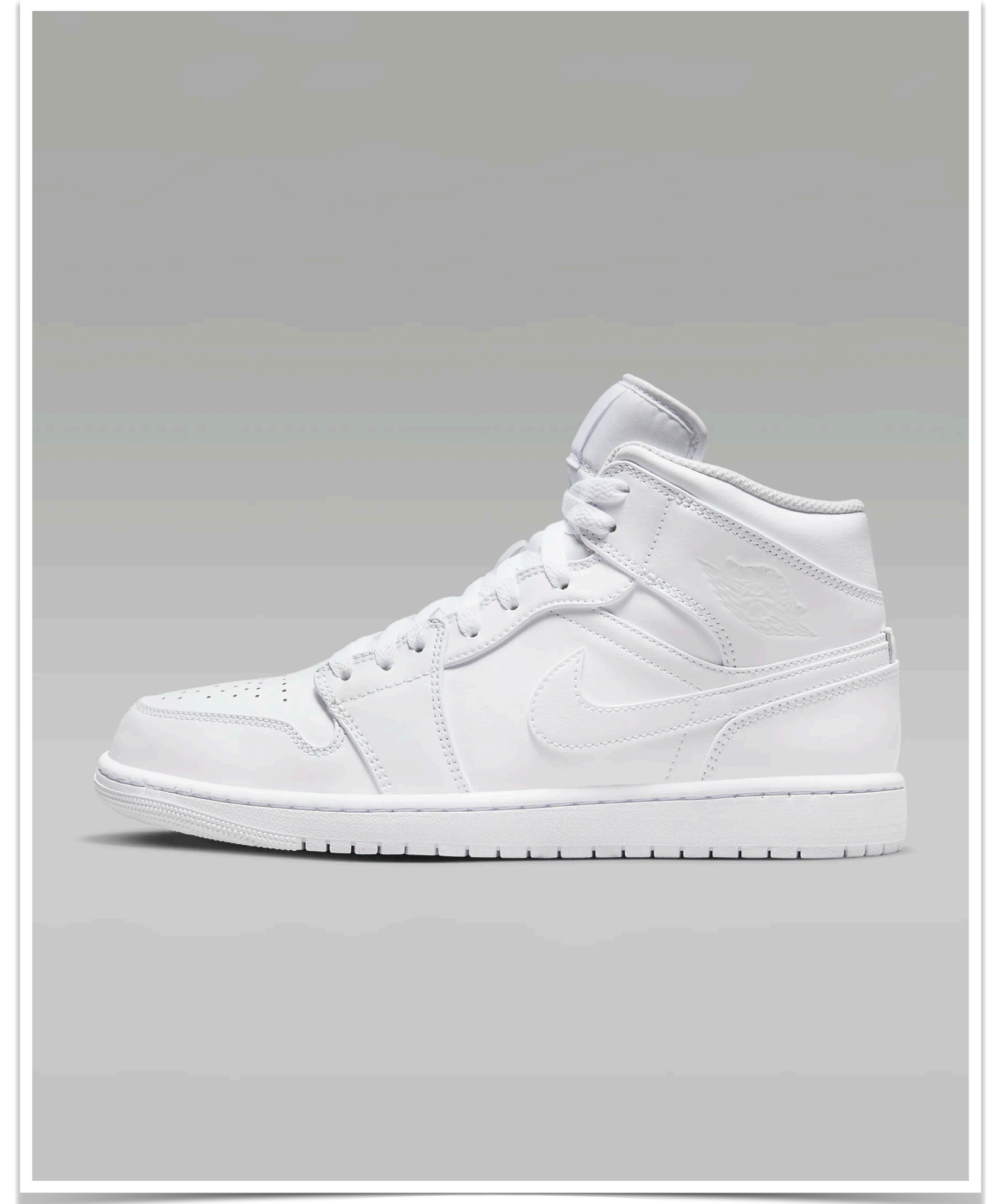
1 John 4:19-21 - We love, because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

John 13:34-35 - ""A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ""By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.""



6 - By tarnishing your testimony

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 - Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.



How can I practically apply what we have learned?

Proverbs 13:20- He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.

- **Desire Godly Friends**
 - Enjoy them!*
 - Grow with them!*
 - Serve with them and further the kingdom!*
- **Avoid unhealthy Friendships**
 - Can I not have any 'friends' that are unbelievers?*

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- **Don't Forget these tips/warnings in Dating/Courtship**

Some Questions to Consider

1. What do your parents say?

—> What do his/her parents say?

2. Are you walking with the Lord?

—> Is he/she walking with the Lord?

—> How do I know?

*min app, commitment to church, service, parents

3. Are you consistently cultivating the Essentials in your life?

—> Is he/she consistently cultivating the Essentials in her life?

4. Are you mature enough to create & keep safeguards in your relationship?

—> Is he/she mature enough to create & keep safeguards in your relationship?

5. Are you mature enough to have this relationship and NOT abandon your friends/family/ministry?

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Remember the Ways Bad Company Corrupts?

“Limiting your Reach of Love”

“Pressuring you to Violate God’s Commands”

Tips & Thoughts on Dating/Courtship

Parents & their Preferences

- > Why do parents say different things?
- > Which is the best approach?

Group Interaction is Great

- > When ready, talk to parents about the next step!
- > Be honest w/ yourself, call it what it is!

*Guarding Hearts

***this includes your own!**

1 Timothy 5:1-2 - "Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, **and the younger women as sisters**, in all purity."

Trust in the Lord

Psalm 37:4 - "Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart."

Understand that you are still growing & so is the one you are interested in

—> Serve the Lord, Grow in Him, Further His Kingdom and you'll be ready when HIS time has come