

ESCAPING BABEL

ADVICE FOR YOUNG MEN

- 1) Look for the right sort of woman:
 - a) Look for a woman who is realistic about relationships, who is not naturally given to relational unhappiness, complaining, gossip, one-sided expectations, or a lack of self-criticism.
 - b) Look for a woman who has a realistic understanding of what a man is and what a woman is, and who is unlikely to expect you to behave as a woman.
 - c) Look for a woman who likes being a woman.
 - d) Look for a woman who believes that her fertility is a gift of God and the greatest dignity and uniqueness of her gender, not a horrific and unfair inconvenience to her life as a human being.
 - e) Look for a woman who does not believe that women are mostly always right, and men are mostly always wrong. Look for one that understands that men and women tend to look at the world in profoundly different ways, and that you need to understand both of their perspectives to relate to the world successfully and righteously.
- 2) Get a job and work a job. Work towards useful education and a helpful experience; be willing to work difficult jobs in bad places at annoying hours to set yourself up for more advanced positions for when you have a family.
- 3) Don't waste your money. Live in a Spartan way, save your money for a down payment, pay your debts. Use your money like you believe you are going to find a good woman and marry her.
- 4) Ask out at least one woman a month, unless you are already dating one.
- 5) If you keep getting rejected, try to figure out why and do something about it. There's probably something wrong with you. It is not that you are ugly – women's natural sense of attraction is mostly interested in status, not fertility. If you are getting rejected because of an issue with you, it's probably a fixable one.
 - a) Have her mentor discreetly asked her what her reason was, or find a way to get it from the grapevine. Even kind women will most likely admit in confidence why they turned you down if they did, especially if it is a discrete opportunity.
- 6) Do not have sex with women you are not married to. Intimacy in dating is talking. Anyone who adores you and desires you is plenty fun to make love to. You don't have to try anybody out to know if you have a good sex life. If you have mental, spiritual and moral chemistry, things are going to be fine in bed.
 - a) The minute you start having sex, that becomes too big of a deal, and it undermines the process of growing intimacy.
 - b) Not having sex with a woman you're dating is a gift to her for the future. In the future, especially if you are able to have children, there will be times when she will be worried about your faithfulness and may be jealous of others. If you have already proved her that you can keep your hands off of the woman you adore unless you're married to her, she can believe you can keep your hands off other women if you are having some kind of trouble in your relationship.
- 7) Learn how to be masculine in good ways without being disgusting, boorish, callous or condescending.
 - a) Examples of where to start:
 - i) Grow in your faith like you are going to be the pastor of a family with grandchildren.
 - ii) Lead something (small), church is a great place to start.
 - iii) Never tell a lie, and speak your mind with careful speech when appropriate.
 - iv) Behave with some dignity – learn to take yourself seriously while growing in humility.
 - v) Treat everyone weaker than you with dignity.

- vi) Behave in gentle protectiveness toward women and children.
 - vii) Be appropriately disagreeable – don't be bullied or pushed into things you don't agree with. Don't go along with the crowd or obey rules that are wrong. Always stand up to a bully, even if they're partially right.
 - viii) Be highly competent and conscientious in your work.
 - ix) Do things that will secure and maximize your future income. You do not know how many dependents you will have.
 - x) Be decisive. Know what criteria you would use to make a decision, and then make decisions without delay.
 - xi) Be highly appreciative of expressions of appropriate femininity in women and girls, and do not attack boys or more effeminate men who seem insufficiently masculine to you. If you take any action, choose gentle guidance, and only if you can explain why.
 - xii) Get control of your diet, physiology and weight.
 - xiii) Take opportunities to learn how to fix and build things.
 - xiv) Turn off or severely limit the amount of time you play video games, watch TV and videos, and are on social media. Use that time to build interests, have experiences, grow in your faith, and relate with real people in community.
 - xv) Form covenantal, deep friendships with other men. How many people can count on you to be there for them when they need you? How many people can you count on to be there if you need them?
 - xvi) Get a mentor who is sufficiently masculine.
- 8) Lead other men to Christ so that every Christian woman can marry a believing man if she wants to.

ADVICE FOR YOUNG WOMEN:

- 1) Don't become emotionally attached to someone you would *not* want to be married to (or *cannot* be married to because either you or they are already married to someone else, for example).
 - a) A primary reason why women become physically attracted to someone is because of an emotional attachment that has formed to some degree, which comes from a desire to be loved and adored by someone.
 - b) You may be in love even if you think you just have a man as a "best friend." I don't think it is possible to have your best friend be a guy without being in love with that person.
 - i) Some women think they just get along better with men. While female friendships can be very difficult, you need female friendships.
- 2) Don't make yourself available to someone who isn't into you, but who you like, in hopes that something will work out.
 - a) Becoming his best friend will not make him commit to you in a dating relationship.
 - b) When you take all the shots for him in the risk of relationship and give him everything he wants – companionship or sex there is no reason for him to commit to loving you in the covenant of marriage. You're just delaying things for yourself.
- 3) Don't have sex with your boyfriend. It can feel like you need to do that in order for a guy to love you and want to marry you. But you shouldn't have to do that for someone to commit to you out of real, self-sacrificial love.
 - a) It shows that he may not be able to have the self-control to not cheat on you in marriage later, especially if you're having a hard time in your marriage.
- 4) Pursue God more than a relationship with a man and learn to be content in whatever phase you are in. If you get the order mixed up you'll be striving your entire life for an emotional, relational high (the "hunger" of romance without the satiation). Seek God every day through prayer and devotional time. Seek to deeply understand that you are fully loved and fully seen by your Father before you're loved and seen by a man. This leads to contentment whether you are single or married.
 - a) It can feel if we were just in a different life phase, we would finally be content. But if you can't learn to be content in Christ when you are single, you will not be content when you are married. And you will not be content when you have kids. Etc. Contentment doesn't come from your circumstances but from Christ working in you.
- 5) Don't search for the "right" man, or "the one" – search for a suitable man.
 - a) You will (probably) not find a man who is able to emote with you on every level, is tall, dark and handsome, loves Jesus, buys you all the shoes you want, and surprises you with flowers and chocolates in all the right moments. You will never find someone who can read your mind. The sort of thing that is emphasized in the media.
 - b) Instead, look for someone who loves Jesus, who is serious and mature but who you can also have fun with, who you can talk to and he listens to you and doesn't betray your trust, who has substantive character, who works hard, and who has a similar vision as you of what kind of home you want to have together – I bet you will find that these lead to physical attraction when you develop a friendship with this kind of man.
 - c) Don't expect someone to change or think that you can change them. It has to be a work the Lord is already doing in their life, of their own volition in pursuing the Lord. You should be able to observe his faith and his admirable qualities BEFORE you decide to date.
 - d) Put pressure on guys to lead more guys to Christ. Missionary dating doesn't work very well – in other words, it isn't efficient or effective for women to meet men outside of church and bring them into church and evangelize them through their romantic relationship.

- 6) Don't just look for the right person. Focus on becoming the kind of woman and person that a quality man would love to commit to spend their life with. You can't have crazy expectations for this ideal man and then expect them to accept all of your sin, idolatry, worldliness, and manipulative emotions. We all need to work on this to some degree. Seek to handle your emotions in a healthy way and manage your expectations.
- 7) When in doubt, be more feminine. Even men who say they don't want feminine women do. It's hardwired into their biology. When they say they don't want women to be "girly," it means they don't want someone who doesn't have control over their emotions and who is psychologically and physically weak.
 - a) Become comfortable with being a woman until you feel like being a woman is better than being a man.
- 8) Learn to understand masculinity – if you are repulsed by it, it's not because you know it, it's because you don't understand it. God created masculinity. It is an unqualified good.
- 9) Don't succumb to promiscuity, and work together to rehabilitate the cartel of sexual control.
 - a) Having sex with multiple men over the course of multiple relationships is emotionally painful and harmful because you are becoming "one flesh" with multiple people when it is designed to be with one person.
 - b) Having sex premaritally and then getting married to that same person is still detrimental because it can lead to mistrust in marriage.
 - c) Women need to explain and be upfront in relationships about their vision for sexual purity: The goal is to obey Jesus in sexuality, which means seeking to be self-controlled *before* marriage and then fully engaged in sexuality *in* marriage. It's not about not being interested in sex or being rigid.
 - d) When the woman gives in, that's when a couple will have sex. But it should be men leading this – and he should just marry the you if he wants to have sex.
 - e) If you have sinned sexually in the past, remember Jesus' righteousness is yours through trusting the gospel.
- 10) Pursue close female friends who you can truly share life with, confess to, and be encouraged by. It's easy for women to become so focused on a relationship with a man that we think all of our emotional needs will be met in him. But even a wonderful, godly guy cannot meet all of your emotional needs – because he is not also God and he is not also a woman.
 - a) Find friends who you can share your burdens with and who you can open your life up to without fear of losing love or feeling like you need to compete with them. And this is the tone that YOU can set in a friendship. Every woman I have talked to wants a friendship like this – don't expect it to fall in your lap. Pick someone you can trust and go first in making this the culture of your friendship.
- 11) Seek humility in your career and hold it with an open hand.
 - a) There are amazing women in the Bible who stepped up and got the job done when the men around them weren't. But there are many examples of women who were ordinarily faithful – they were ultimately great because they held their own position loosely and were faithful to God by self-sacrificially loving others; Ruth and Mary (Jesus' mother) are some examples.
 - b) Climb the career ladder if that's where you feel God is going to use you next, but don't do it to prove your worth or if you are selfishly idolizing your dreams when there is someone you are in a godly relationship with who wants to commit to you. Be willing to be faithful to God if he calls you into giving up your career.
 - c) Work and family is a tough balance. You can do both as long as your priorities are straight, which means you are putting God first, your marriage second, your children third, and your work after those things. And remember you need friends.

- d) Consider getting out of the workforce early and back into it early, rather than out late and back in late.
 - e) Don't delay serious relationships or marriage for extending education. You can do both. You don't want to wait for the marriage pool to narrow. Short dating relationships, short engagements, and getting married in college are all good options that are often disregarded for the sake of saving up for a picture-perfect wedding or waiting until done with school.
- 12) Seek to teach and mentor others in the ways of God – with humility. Practice talking with younger women and friends about God, and exhorting them in their faith through spiritual conversations in the context of friendship. No one but God may see this work, which is why it requires humility. But it will be satisfying in and of itself and will prepare you for the more hidden season when you may not be in your career and you are able to use your time to do the important work of discipling your own children and other younger women.
- 13) Be taught and mentored. Talk to someone significantly older than you (two life stages).
- a) Find an older Christian whose faith you admire and who is in a stable relationship if you are seeking relationship advice.
- 14) Don't assume two children is the right amount.
- 15) Spend time learning about all the stages of a woman's life and how they relate to each other. Otherwise, in maximizing one stage you may be stealing from several others.
- a) Think about your 50-year-old self when you are your 20-year-old self. What you do now affects your future life stage.
 - b) Stealing from a future life stage means that if you prioritize your career now, later you may not have deep female friendships, children, etc. later in life.
- 16) Focus on deeply understanding the gospel and growing in godliness (the "Ruth effect"). Looks can garner attention, but they can't close the deal with men of character.
- a) Relate this to Gary LaFontaine's theory of fish attraction to flies; there is a primary and secondary attractor characteristic, and to get a bite, the fly needs both. If it has only the primary characteristic, the fish will rise to get a closer look, but will turn away without striking. If the fly doesn't have the primary characteristic, but doesn't have the secondary characteristic, the fish won't pay any attention in the first place. Therefore, any good fly has to have both characteristics, and not much else.
 - i) Primary feminine characteristics include: beauty, vivaciousness, charm, interest, emotional support, faithful presence, affirmation, respect, common interest, competence and so forth.
 - ii) Secondary characteristics include: intelligence, godliness, the fruits of the spirit, thrift, administrative and organizational skills, and so on.