

**D E V E L O P I N G**

**A P U R E**

**H E A R T**

To Deceive by false reasoning

Passion

a strong moving of conscious & physical desires.

concupiscence

To maintain an extended interest on a person with a view to possess it:

Refracting

to cheat, take that to which you have no right, by calculated plans and manipulation

fornication

an intimate physical relationship with another not allowed by God.

Reprobation

spiritually & morally abolishing God's accepted standard.

Lasciviousness

To allow sinful desires to expand to their full limit without restraint.

Perversion

Having desires twisted from natural inclinations

# Beguilement

## Definition

To deceive by false reasoning.

II Cor. 11:3

1. Hears a partial fact - builds thoughts on wrong ideas.
2. Imagines the motives toward Him/Her are negative.
3. Draws false conclusions + speculates.
4. emotions control reasoning.

"How to correct"

1. Recognize beguilement is a direct attack of satan.
2. reject the temptation to imagine or speculate
3. when tempted, turn mind + emotions to God thru music
4. meditate on key scriptures.

"isolating God's Order"

## Defrauding

1 Thess. 4: 3-8

arousing the sex drives in another which can't righteously be satisfied!

Physical intimacy before  
spiritual intimacy.

The degree to which defrauding occurs before marriage is directly related to the lack of intimacy after marriage.

# INSIGHTS INTO MORAL PURITY

• The average person does not believe God has answers to his problems with sex and with his thought life. This disbelief is one of the major hindrances to totally committing his life to Jesus Christ.

When I ask teenagers what the scriptural terms defrauding, beguiling, lasciviousness, concupiscence and reprobation mean, the answer is invariably, "I don't know." When I ask how many know the difference between the facts of sex and the values of sex, the answer is the same. This indicates a lack of understanding into the basic insights of Scripture. Unless we visualize what God means by the words He uses, we will never "see things from His point of view" and thus gain insight into our own lives.

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• "God's plan is to make you holy, and that entails first of all a clean cut with sexual immorality. Every one of you should learn to control his body, keeping it pure and treating it with respect, and never regarding it as an instrument for self-gratification, as do pagans with no knowledge of God. You cannot break this rule without in some way cheating your fellow men. And you must remember that God will punish all who do offend in this matter, and we have warned you how we have seen this work out in our experiences of life. The calling of God is not to impurity but to the most thorough purity, and anyone who makes light of the matter is not making light of a man's ruling but of God's command. It is not for nothing that the Spirit God gives us is called the Holy Spirit."

1 Thess. 4:3-8 (Phillips)

The Apostle Paul emphasizes the importance of purity in a person's life. To violate God's principles will result in severe consequences. Many fail to realize that some of the most severe consequences are manifested in a devastating communication breakdown after marriage.

## DEFAUD NOT ONE ANOTHER

Definition: to cheat, to deprive of a right or property to which you have no right.

In the context of the passage: defrauding is AROUSING IN ANOTHER, SEX DRIVES WHICH CANNOT RIGHTEOUSLY BE SATISFIED.

# VIOLATING GOD'S ORDER

- Scripture points out that to develop a physical intimacy first is "cheating" the other person of the love that is rightfully theirs. The consequences are far more devastating than any "temporary pleasures" or justifications which at the time seem all right as long as the feelings are mutual.

## ☐ SATAN HAS A UNIQUE WAY OF REVERSING GOD'S ORDER:



BODY: underlying motive for fulfillment of personal physical desires.

MENTAL: justification and rationalization for physical violations, mistaking common interests and goals for a spiritual oneness.

SPIRIT: absence of a spiritual oneness, figuring this can come at a later time.

"There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12; 16:25

"A man can always 'prove' he is right, but is the Lord convinced." Proverbs 16:2

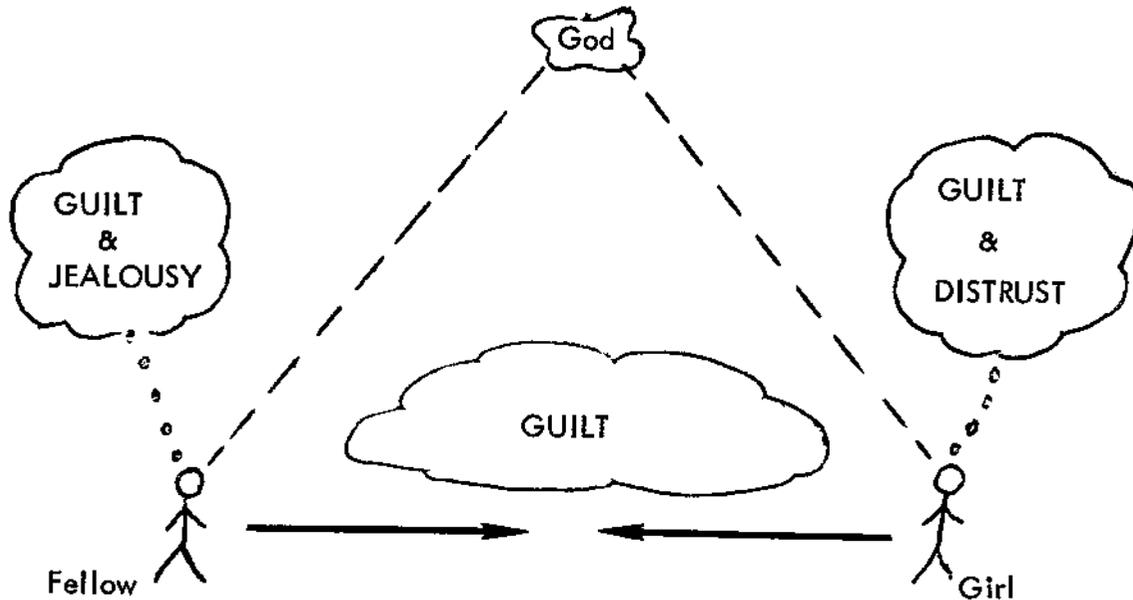
- ☐ The degree to which two people have defrauded one another before marriage is directly related to their inability to share their common faith and innermost feelings after marriage.

The very potential of a deepening love relationship is destroyed before marriage. This is usually not realized until after the marriage when they discover they're really like strangers to each other.

DEVELOPING

# PHYSICAL INTIMACY

BEFORE SPIRITUAL INTIMACY



The tendency in dating is to develop a relationship on a physical plane. The more the two people become involved toward pre-marital sex, the greater will be the guilt, jealousy and seeds of distrust which are bred toward one another.

They each become keenly aware that their desires are not the same as the Lord's desires for them.

THE following illustration and diagram point out the effects that violated dating principles have before and after a marriage : 

# PLANTING SEEDS OF DISTRUST

Here is an actual experience of how seeds of distrust were sown in a marriage through faulty dating standards:

- I WAS SURE I HAD MARRIED THE WRONG GIRL

After four years of marriage, I had come to the very strong conclusion that I had missed the Lord's will for my life partner. The crisis internally was getting so bad that I wanted to be out of the situation before it exploded externally.

Just the night before, my wife and I had had another big argument. The final blow in the argument came as she said in disgust, "Well, I've never won an argument yet. You're the one that's always right."

When she said that, my inward response was, "Look, you've seen a lot of improvement in my life since we've been married. There might be a little pride left, but I've come a long way."

- I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD LOVE HER

If someone had told me at that time that I would ever love my wife again, I would have told him he was crazy.

Soon after this, however, we visited my mother's home. She really surprised me one day by saying, "I can sure see why the Lord gave you the wife He did."

I distinctly remember saying to myself, "I'm glad you can because I sure can't!"

In those four years of marriage, there were many petty arguments. I soon learned that trying to solve them wasn't getting to the bottom because later on, we'd have another blow up, often over the same problem which I thought we had solved in an earlier argument. I couldn't figure out why this was happening to me. I was really frustrated.

- I SOON LEARNED WHAT THE REAL PROBLEM WAS

Soon I learned that the cause of our arguments lay in a problem way beneath the surface. In fact, the problem began even before we were married. It went back to my pattern of dating as a teen-ager.

In high school I had dated several girls. As a senior, I was engaged. But then I went to college. There I totally dedicated my life to Jesus Christ. When I came home from college, I tried to share this with my fiancée. I thought she would be overjoyed, but she said, "Does this mean you might be a minister?" "Yes." "A missionary?" "Yes."

It wasn't long before she was telling me she wouldn't like a family and cooking and housework, etc. - all the things we had discussed during our dating. I could see then that we didn't really even know one another. Soon the engagement was over.

With that experience, my dating life ended for awhile. During that time, the Lord was able to change my value system as far as what I was looking for in a wife. By the time I met my present wife, my value structure was toward the Lord and the things which would please Him. Hers was too. Soon we became engaged.

- I HAD PLANTED SEEDS OF DISTRUST DURING MY DATING

During this engagement, our relationship began developing on the physical level - beyond what I knew was appropriate at that time. I felt some guilt about this but justified myself by comparing what we were doing with what others were doing.

After marriage and more schooling, I entered the ministry. Soon I found myself doing quite a bit of counseling. Somehow, my wife didn't respect my counseling. In our discussions, I would try to teach her spiritual insights, and up would come her defense mechanisms. I couldn't understand why she was so resentful.

One day she revealed the cause of her resentment by saying, "You know, you went with a lot of girls before you met me, and we didn't go together long, but I know how you behaved in our dating. I'm just wondering what your behavior was with all those other girls."

- I WONDERED HOW SHE HAD LEARNED ABOUT MY PAST

This was two months after we were married. I wondered how she knew about these other girls since I had been careful not to mention them. I discovered that the very day I asked her to marry me, my little sister had told her all about the girls I had dated. Now, after two months of marriage, she was throwing this up to me. I could see that this was eating away at her confidence in me and in the things I had been saying.

I became angry and defensive. "Why are you bringing this up?" I snapped. "It happened before I dedicated my life to Christ!"

The argument continued, and everything she brought up, I lied about. That night I couldn't sleep. The problem wasn't solved then. It was only identified.

- I SAW HOW MY PRESENT WAS AFFECTED BY MY PAST

I began seeing how my present relationship with my wife was affected by my past dating. I saw that my lack of a clear conscience in this area forced me to compensate and pretend by maintaining a facade of religion and intellect. This facade only built up walls in our marriage.

I began to see that my inappropriate actions toward my wife before marriage broke down our ability to communicate with each other after marriage. I thought I was proving my love by my actions in dating, but I was only breeding seeds of distrust for our marriage.

- I TRIED TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM WITHOUT CORRECTING MY PAST

In my first attempts to solve this problem, I "turned over a new leaf in my own mind" and attempted to prove by my actions that I had changed. I felt I was making real progress in my Christian life but it seemed that every time I tried to bring this progress home, I blew it because we would get into another argument.

After these arguments, I would say to her, "If you read the Bible more, you could help me counsel more."

When this approach failed, I tried to solve the problem by buying her things. In spite of this, her whole attitude was, "He doesn't love me for anything but what I can do for him." She had this attitude because she had never seen any change in that one basic aspect of my life.

The effects that my problems had on her were overwhelming. She began to lose all her self-confidence and didn't feel that her opinion was worth anything. My reaction to her only made things worse. If she would give her opinion, I would tell her how she could have said it in a better way. She often said, "I just can never please you!"

- THE REAL SOLUTION BEGAN WHEN I HONESTLY FACED MY PAST

The solution began when the question was put to me, "Is it possible that there are things in your past that you wish had never happened?"

Immediately several things flashed across my mind. The first was, "I wish I had never married my wife!" The second was money I had stolen as a teen-ager. The third was my behavior with several girls whom I had dated. The fourth was a big argument with a deacon in the church where I had previously served.

When I heard the verse in 1 Timothy 1:19, I saw that it was a perfect picture of me:

"I...sent you out to battle for the right armed only with your faith and a clear conscience. Some, alas, have laid these simple weapons contemptuously aside and, as far as their faith is concerned, have run their ships on the rocks." (Phillips)

This is exactly what happened to my faith and my marriage. One of the indications that my faith was heading for the rocks was the fact that I had lost personal conviction over things which I once knew were wrong. As far as my marriage went, I was always able to blame my wife for the conflicts which arose.

As I reviewed my past and began to concentrate on the things that I had done wrong, with the prospect of making them right whatever the cost, I began to see for the first time how I was to blame for the problems we were having in our marriage.

I drove to a deserted picnic grove and made a list of the ones I knew I had to contact. Until now, I thought that there were hundreds I had wronged and that it would be impossible to ever make things right. But as I actually wrote out the list, there were primarily seven whom I knew were standing between me and a clear conscience.

• SHE NEVER SAW ME CRY BEFORE \*

I thought over exactly how I had wronged each one, especially how I had deeply wronged my wife. By the time I reached home, I was in tears. (I don't believe my wife had ever seen me cry. In fact, I don't remember ever crying.) I began telling her how I had clearly seen that I was the cause of the problems in our marriage, and I proceeded to explain what I meant.

First, I told her that I had been deceptive and dishonest with her. When she saw my sincerity, it wasn't long before tears came to her eyes too. Then I suggested that she sit down because I had some other things to share with her that should also be taken care of.

"I hate to involve you in this, but since we're married, I guess you're involved anyway. I stole some money from my boss when I was in high school and you know we don't have the money to pay it back. In addition to this, there are several girls in my past that I need to ask forgiveness of. As you know, I wasn't the example of a Christian to them that I should have been."

When I said that, I could sense by her silent response an attitude of great release.

In spite of our tears, my joy was overwhelming, especially after clearing up the guilt with my former employer. My wife guided me with insight as to what was and what was not important to say to the girls I had wronged.

A new freedom and peace and confidence began to be present when we were together. As I continued to demonstrate consistency and honesty to my wife, I was surprised at the insight she had as we discussed other areas in our marriage relationship. A genuine love between us began to develop. Today I can truthfully say that I am more in love with her than I ever thought possible.

A ROOT CAUSE TO

# COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN

IN A MARRIAGE \*

	HIS INNER CONFLICTS	VISIBLE SYMPTOMS	HER INNER CONFLICTS
D A T I N G	Lasciviousness: He becomes interested in her through physical attraction.	They come together on a <u>physical level and disregard</u> the need for spiritual oneness.	<u>Defrauding</u> : She seeks to attract him through dress and actions.
	Faulty moral system: He feels the need to <u>prove his love and fears</u> losing her affection.	Each <u>rationalizes his behavior</u> . They withdraw from the group, desiring to be alone more.	She is more <u>concerned with his evaluation</u> of her than with her own moral standards; guilt is suppressed.
	He equates only sex with love. Expresses his <u>love only when physically or emotionally</u> involved.	Each is unable to discover the real self of the other. This results in <u>arguments, frequent breaking up, and re-defining</u> moral standards.	She breeds seeds of <u>distrust</u> in her response toward him.
M A R R I A G E	Views <u>marriage as an acceptable way to meet his physical drives</u> . Each tries to change the other.	Tells of his love for her only when they are physically involved or when he desires to be.	Develops frigidity. Communication break-down. Hurt when he forgets "important dates."
	Becomes angry as her coolness threatens the fulfillment of his physical drives.	Becomes more argumentative and demanding.	Withdraws. Worries. Loses self-confidence. Or becomes dominant, contentious.
	Becomes concerned about the need to regain her affection.	Buys material things. Attempts to appear happy. Financial problems result and increase conflicts.	Begins to substitute love of children, friends, possessions for husband's love.
	Entertains thoughts that he <u>married the wrong one</u> . Begins to breed seeds of <u>unfaithfulness</u> .	Goes his own way. Attempts to find fulfillment in his work or in others.	Becomes insensitive to others. Condemning, critical, suspicious of others, gossipy.
			Begins to internally question her husband's love, "The only reason he loves me is for what he can get out of me." Each feels like a stranger to the other.
			Senses inner guilt which comes from her inward concern that she has been unable to fulfill her role as a wife.
			Accepts the situation as it is. Feels God is punishing her because she isn't submissive, etc.
			<u>"Doesn't care!" Gives up.</u>

\* CAUSED BY MORAL IMPURITY

THE FOUNDATION FOR

# **INTIMACY AND SECURITY**

IN MARRIAGE

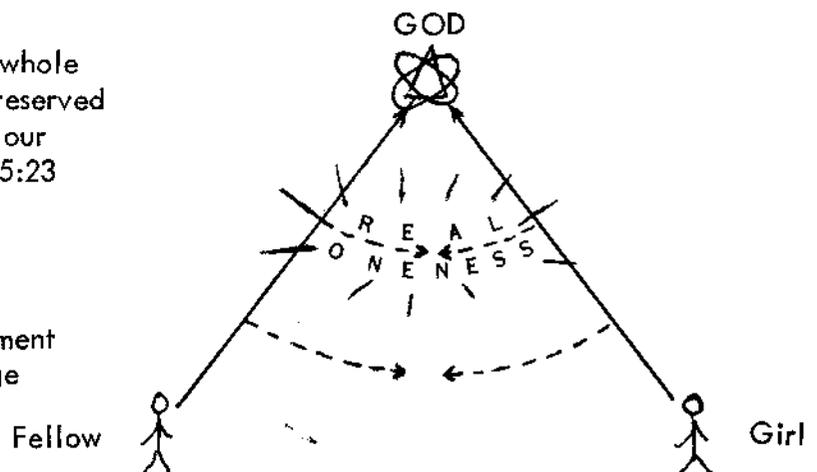
IS DEVELOPED DURING THE DATING AND ENGAGEMENT PERIODS.

- The basic purpose for a fellow and girl in dating is to develop a real intimacy of spirit (to discover the real self of the other).

When a fellow and girl date, his primary objective is to discover the girl who has as deep a commitment to Jesus Christ as he does; she seeks a fellow who has as great, if not a greater, love and commitment to Jesus Christ as she does. This must first be established before a more serious relationship, such as engagement, is entered.

" . . . and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:23

- Oneness of Spirit - Dating
- Oneness of Mind - Engagement
- Oneness of Body - Marriage



THE CLOSER EACH INDIVIDUAL GETS TO THE LORD, the more each assumes his personal responsibilities in becoming the individual God wants him or her to be, the greater the freedom to develop a deepening friendship and fellowship between them.

**NOTE:** The word "friend" comes from the Germanic word which means "to love." A genuine relationship is based on what one has to give to the other rather than on what one "gets." Love can wait to give but lust can never wait to get.

# STEPS TO CORRECT:

- 1.** ACKNOWLEDGE TO GOD YOUR SIN OF DEFRAUDING ANOTHER OR YOURSELF (we defraud ourselves when we feed the thought life with impure thoughts).
  
- 2.** ASK GOD'S FORGIVENESS. 1 John 1:9  
(Note: If the problem has only been one of thoughts and secret sins, you don't go to any one. This is a problem between yourself and the Lord.)
  
- 3.** PURPOSE TO GO BACK TO THE ONE WHOM YOU DEFRAUDED.
  
- 4.** ASK FOR FORGIVENESS for failing to be the example of a Christian fellow or girl you should have been. (Note: If you weren't a Christian at the time when your standards were "below" God's standards, then it is important that you contact the individual and say something like the following: "Since you knew me last, I've given my life to Jesus Christ and I've come to realize how wrong I was in my behavior toward you. I have come to ask, 'Will you please forgive me?')"

(Also, if this problem is between husband and wife, too often confession and asking forgiveness has never been made because the two have felt that "since they married each other, let bygones be bygones." Here there is a need to face one another and to acknowledge that they were wrong in their behavior toward each other and to get on their knees together and follow steps #1 and #2 together.)

# A PERSONAL EVALUATION

## FOR MOTIVES TOWARD THE OPPOSITE SEX:

● Paul summarizes the responsibilities and qualities that are to adorn a young man and woman by saying, "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." Titus 2:12

### **FELLOW:**

"Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. (well balanced and self controlled, "behave carefully," Living Bible) Titus 2:6

Do my motives, words, actions and attitudes project respect and self control or a desire to fulfill my self directed drives?

#### ☐ INWARD MOTIVATION:

1. Have I given the Lord my affections so that I have a deeper love for Him than for any girl?
2. Do I have intentions to cause a girl to lower her high standards?
3. Whenever my motives turn to lust, do I stop what I'm doing or terminate that relationship?

### **GIRL:**

#### MODESTY

"That they may teach the young women to be sober..." ("live quietly," Living Bible) Titus 2:4a

Do my words, attitudes and actions draw attention to me as a person or do I defraud others by my behavior?

#### ☐ OUTWARD ACTIONS:

1. Do I project suggestiveness through conversation: jokes or words with double meanings, or talking about what others have done in secret?  
Eph. 5:12
2. Appearance: Does my makeup make me look "natural"?
3. Dress: Does the way I dress cause me to feel self-conscious?

FELLOW:

4. Have I destroyed all records, magazines, paperback books, and stopped listening to music that feeds my thought life with lustful thoughts?
5. Do I turn my mind to Scripture and spiritual songs and conversation with the Lord when I am tempted?  
Ephesians 5:19,20
6. Do I concentrate on appreciating a girl as a person rather than as an object of lust? Do my eyes meet with hers or do they look at her body?
7. Am I willing to be sensitive not to defraud a girl and ask forgiveness for past offenses?
8. Do I avoid conversation with others that is suggestive concerning the subject of sex?
9. Do I avoid touching and putting my hands on girls? 1 Cor. 7:1 advises that "It is good for a man not to touch a woman."

GIRL:

4. Do I have to keep pulling my dress down when sitting? Does the way I wear my clothes draw attention to some part of my body rather than to the inner beauty of my personality?
5. Am I ready to ask forgiveness of the fellow when I knowingly defraud or discover later that I defrauded him?
6. Do I have a specific set of dating standards worked out from Scripture?
7. Am I willing to turn down any date that would cause me to lower God's standards?

# PERSONAL GOALS IN DATING

The following decisions are suggested as a personal set of goals in dating. These can be expressed to the Lord by a sincere commitment.

## LORD, I PURPOSE:

1. TO DATE ONLY A CHRISTIAN. II Cor. 6:14 The potential of two people achieving a oneness of spirit is destroyed if both individuals have not received God's Spirit into their spirit. Rom.8:16
2. THAT GOD'S GOALS FOR MY LIFE WILL BE COMPATIBLE WITH GOD'S GOALS FOR HIS/HER LIFE, and I will help the other develop in his/her maturity in Christ. Col. 1:28,29
3. THAT MY BEHAVIOR WITH THE OTHER WILL BE ON A PAR WITH GOD'S ACCEPTED STANDARDS. 1 Thess. 4:3-8
4. THAT OUR ACTIVITIES WILL BE CENTERED UPON THOSE THINGS WHICH WILL HONOR AND GLORIFY THE LORD.  
Col. 3:17 and 1 Cor. 10:31
5. TO REALIZE THAT MY DATE IS GOD'S PROPERTY and that He has the right to do with His property what He wants. Therefore, if this relationship doesn't progress, I'll thank God for His purposes in this "temporary" relationship. Luke 9:23,24
6. TO CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPING THE QUALITIES GOD WANTS TO BE A NATURAL PART OF MY LIFE so I can assume the responsibilities of a husband/wife and father/mother, when God feels I can no longer afford not to be married. (When these qualities are evident there is no difficulty in God introducing His choice to you.) Psalm 37:4
7. TO BE WILLING TO REMAIN UNMARRIED AS LONG AS THE LORD DESIRES. Luke 22: 42

WHEN OUR CONVERSATION BECOMES SERIOUS ABOUT ENGAGEMENT AND MARRIAGE, TO DISCUSS OUR INTENDED PLANS WITH EACH OTHER'S PARENTS.

8. NOT TO MARRY MY LIFE PARTNER WITHOUT THE FULL CONSENT OF BOTH OF OUR PARENTS. Eph. 6:1-3

If the parents have not given their full approval of the partner or permission for marriage, it does not necessarily mean I should not marry this person. Many times certain attitudes of immaturity have been sensed by the parents and when these areas have been cared for or developed, their approval will be given. Proverbs 21:1

Note: Marriage is more than the uniting of two individuals. In a real sense it is the uniting of two families. The importance of establishing respect for the parents' opinions and advice cannot be overstated. Its effects have a direct bearing on your children and even your grandchildren!

9. TO BE SENSITIVE TO GOD'S TIMING FOR OUR MARRIAGE; FINANCIAL STABILITY.

There should be a basic degree of financial stability so that the husband is able to assume the responsibility for supporting the wife (Eph. 5:28,29, Phillips) and the wife has confidence in God's ability to provide through her husband (Phil. 4:19).

# **THE BENEFITS OF FOLLOWING GOD'S ORDER:**

- ❑ **SPIRITUAL INTIMACY.** It becomes possible for both to share with one another what God is doing in their lives. Their motivation will be stimulated to further develop their walk with the Lord.
  
- ❑ **A FREEDOM FROM GUILT AND SELF CONDEMNATION THAT COMMUNICATES A TRANSPARENCY TO THE OTHER.** A real sensitivity toward each other develops in which each wants to assume personal responsibility for words, actions and attitudes.
  
- ❑ **A FREEDOM TO BECOME INVOLVED IN CHRISTIAN WORK AND THE NEEDS OF OTHERS WITHOUT THE FEAR OF LOSING THE PARTNER.** When the motives for a relationship are pure and the partner is "God's property," each can concentrate on meeting the needs of others rather than a jealousy or worry about the other's attitude toward other people.
  
- ❑ **FREEDOM TO DISCUSS AND DEVELOP COMMON GOALS IN ANTICIPATION OF A MORE PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP.** An intimacy of mind, emotions and will is achieved as each is free to share likes and dislikes and respond to the other in the emotional ups and downs of everyday living.
  
- ❑ **A DEEPENING TRUST BETWEEN THE TWO.** When the physical behavior in private is as Christ-honoring as when the two are with others, confidence in the real character of the other is deepened. One does not suspect or doubt the other's integrity when they are apart from each other.