



## Outer Growth - Boyfriend/Girlfriend

**A man [that hath] friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend [that] sticketh closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24**

Faithful - Ecclesiastes 4:12

**Fornication - 1 Corinthians 7:2**

Rebuke - Ecclesiastes 7:5

**romance - Song of Solomon 7:6**

Important - 1 Corinthians 15:33

**Imagine, Images - Ezekiel 8:12**

Encounter - Ecclesiastes 4:9

**Eyes/Ears - Ecclesiastes 1:8**

Name - Proverbs 13:20

**Naked - 2 Corinthians 5:3**

Discipline - Proverbs 22:24-26

**Deception - Matthew 24:4**

**Balance - 1 Cor 13:7**

**Open - Gen 5:23**

**Yield - Phil 2:3**

**Graceful - Col 4:6**

**Image - Pro 27:17**

**Reputation - 1 Cor 13:5**

**Lips - Ephesians 4:29**

What does the Bible say about having a boyfriend or girlfriend? Nothing.

In the Old Testament, there was not much chance of a relationship because men just took a lady, and eventually, they became their wives. The first situation is in Genesis chapter four, verse nineteen when Lamech took him not one but two wives. There was no indication in the Bible of him getting to know them.

*The second incident happens in chapter thirty-eight, where Judah takes a Canaanite*

*woman, the daughter of a man named Shua, and goes with her. There was no mention of marriage here, but eventually, there was one. There was no grace period before marriage where some form of dating or courting was. However, in the Old Testament, there are a couple of situations where it seems to have the potential of a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship, although it does not appear to be that way.*

The first encounter is Jacob meeting Rachel in Haran of Genesis chapter twenty-nine, verse nine. When she came, was he aware that it was her? Jacob had an idea of who Rachel was but had never seen her until now. He then kisses her and raises his voice, and weeps. Jacob seems to have been overcome with joy that he quickly found a relative upon arriving in the region and made contact with a woman who could be a potential wife. The first time we discover someone courting another.

*Jacob, it was love at first sight, which sums up how he felt about Rachel. However, the reality was he left and also fled from his angry brother Esau. Jacob was left alone, away from his family, without much in the way of supplies. In the Old Testament, it was customary for a groom or groom's family to pay a "bride price" to the family of the woman he wished to marry. However, Jacob was without funds and may have thought it necessary to make such an offer of longtime service.*

The situation with Jacob and Rachel is different here. He would have to labor for several years for Laban, Rachel's father, not knowing when he would be able to marry his future wife. However, there is no mention of how the relationship is going between them. The only focus is on Laban and his family and Jacob laboring during this time. No mention of Jacob going steady or dating Rachel.

*The other situation that appears to have a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship is Ruth and Boaz. However, Ruth was a widow, and Boaz was a landowner. The encounter begins in Ruth chapter two, where there is a sense of feelings between them. Eventually, the meeting tapers off at the end of chapter three, and later Boaz and Ruth become Husband and wife. However, this relationship seems the closest to the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship.*

The last two relationship examples, except for Jacob kissing Rachel, did not reveal much of how boyfriend-girlfriend relationships operate in the Old Testament. However, as stated earlier, Lamech and Judah, in separate cases, went and took wives for themselves. No proper process or progress leading up to their growing relationship before marriage. The New Testament does not have any situations like the Old Testament. However, some verses have regarding friends, love, and marriage, but not any stanzas on boyfriend-girlfriend.

*However, the Word of God does have verses in different chapters about having a friend. The reason for not having verses for boyfriend-girlfriend relationships is possibly the potential temptation of involvement in fornication. The Old Testament has warnings in the book of Psalms and Proverbs warning young people to avoid these intimate encounters. The New Testament gets into more detail about fornicators and fornication through various chapters.*

In Proverbs chapter eighteen, verse twenty-four gives an opening impression of a relationship that can be better than just the surface. Friendship ought to be mutual and reciprocal, as between David and Jonathan; a person that receives companionship ought to return it, or otherwise, he is guilty of great ingratitude. However, the situation with Ruth and Boaz could represent a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship in a sense. Yes, they were closely related, and Ruth was a widow. Still, there was a strong fondness between them in chapter two of the book of Ruth.

*The definition of a Boyfriend-Girlfriend relationship is as an acquaintance or romantic companion according to the dictionary in short terms. Nevertheless, this does not define how the relationship should be because it could range from mild to severe, which could influence a marriage presence that would eventually include fornication. However, in the Bible, it is different. The Word of God has verses about love, friendship, and marriage. Still, there are no Bible verses about a boyfriend, girlfriend, or relationship in that regard.*

The discrepancy between both meanings of boyfriend-girlfriend is one from the world's

perspective and the other from God's Word. However, the friend is in the Bible while society embraces friendship. Since this is about the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship, defining the friend first is the focus. For the believer, faithfulness in a person will exude confidence in connection with the other gender. However, the threat to the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship is fornication.

*Fornication is a danger to the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship. The world's perspective deems it as a part of the relationship. However, fornication from the Biblical view is not supposed to be involved. Before First Corinthians chapter seven, verse two, the stanza of the second part of the first verse states, "it is not good for a man to touch a woman." Still, it is interesting that it does not say the opposite, where it is not pleasant for a woman to touch a man.*

The Old Testament has situations where men help themselves to wives. Lamech, in Genesis four nineteen, took two wives. Judah, from chapter thirty-eight, verse two, saw a daughter of a certain Canaanite, and he took her. The men in those days took daughters to become wives. There was no boyfriend-girlfriend relationship or "going steady."

*There are no boundaries in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship in society. The people involved would have to determine that together on their own. The margins of what is okay and not are unclear. It all depends on how the relationship turns out over time. The problem with this is the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship could become intimate, like a marriage.*

Another danger in the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship is the love affair. Through the development of what the world believes is okay, feelings and emotions get involved that could be devastating if a separation were to occur. There is an old saying, "some never get over their first love." A boyfriend-girlfriend that flourishes that deep could have an everlasting impact on either partner if they move on and marry someone else in the future. When the relationship moves from external to internal, that is where the heart can be broken and will take time to mend.

*The other problem with a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship is the imagination. Jeremiah*

seventeen nine states, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Either the boyfriend-girlfriend fantasies have the potential to run wild. The risk of temptation and persuasion endangers both. Being alone in seclusion, dwelling in unlit areas, wearing revealing outfits, watching provocative scenes together, or following inappropriate content will pressure the relationship. The boyfriend is usually the one who struggles with the imaginative thoughts of the girlfriend.

The eyes and ears in a boyfriend-girlfriend are the most important and the challenge within the relationship. Why? Control. Eyes and ears are gates to the heart, the windows of the soul, and will either make the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship work or not. Remember, it is not what goes in through the eyes and ears: but what comes out that would potentially defile it. *The eyes and ears in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship are significant. Due to both may require new objects continually, the pleasure of these senses is blunted by the same objects constantly presented. The eyes and ears always seek new things. When they have got them, they want others. Whatever thing is to disclose, the eye craves it. After it has dwelt on it a while, it grows tired of it and wants something else to divert it.*

So the ear is delighted with beautiful sounds of words and music but, in time, loses the taste and seeks others. Discourse and conversation are never simple unless one hears some new things, which quickly grow stale, and then wants fresh ones. Indeed the eye and ear in the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship will never be satisfied until the soul comes into the perfect state of blessedness, beholds the face of God, and sees him as he is; and sees and hears what eye hath not seen, nor ear heard below.

*An ultimate threat to changing the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship to a marriage-type union? Nudity. In Second Corinthians, chapter five, verse three, concerns the saints who shall be alive at Christ's second coming. However, this verse suits the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship because it signifies the warning of uncovering the nakedness of each other. Leviticus chapter eighteen goes into detail about bareness*

*concerning the family and members. However, in Leviticus eighteen nineteen, the first part specifies not to uncover the nakedness of a woman even though it pertains to a man separated from his wife.*

Viewing the nakedness in the boyfriend-girlfriend union brings it into a marriage-type relationship. The privacy of a person's body is for that special someone they intend to spend the rest of their lives together. However, some boyfriend-girlfriend begin exposing each other's nakedness and change the relationship from platonic to intimate, never looking back.

*The last threat in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship is deception, where the Son of God said, "let no man deceive you." Matthew twenty-four, verse four, is a caution for any relationship because the first couple together is Adam and Eve. No couple that plans to be together should not let anyone get between them. However, similar to what Adam and Eve experience deception, so will the boyfriend-girlfriend relationship.*

The enemy did come to Eve to disrupt the relationship between her and Adam. He will attempt to do the same thing in any union, specifically if both are bound to be together. Sowing discord among relationships is the devil's way of the attempt to destroy lives. If he could attempt to create havoc as he tried with Adam and Eve, he'll do it to any couple.

*The boyfriend-girlfriend relationship, from the world's perspective, has no boundaries. Couples make significant decisions such as commitment, honesty, and trust. In a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship, there are no guarantees because anything could happen. There are no bills to pay. The potential relationship is a freewill offering of making time to get to know the person your attention is on. However, from God's perspective, there is no such thing as boyfriend-girlfriend, or else it would be in the Word of God. However, a friend is in the Bible, and that special friend you have feelings for, over time, will determine how far the relationship will carry, which hopefully, by the grace of God, will lead to marriage.*

*The boyfriend-girlfriend relationship establishes, from the world's perspective, a partnership. However, there is no definition*

*from the Word of God concerning boyfriend-girlfriend, the verses term it friendship. What qualities does a girl look for in that boy as a friend or boyfriend? Balance. A guy with composure in different circumstances and is not easily flustered. The harmony includes an interest in the things the girlfriend likes, not just their stuff.*

In a boyfriend, the girlfriend would need him to bear all things. Love doesn't say, "this far and no further." Love is not limited by what is reasonable or by what other people would be willing to put up with nonsense. That does not mean that someone should allow themselves to continually be wounded, physically or otherwise, by other believers or family members. Sometimes love bears pain from a safe and legal distance, but godly love doesn't quit when others become annoying or difficult. *Love believes in all things. Does this make love gullible? No, the choice of those who may be deceiving us removes the burden of catching others in the act of lying and projects onto them the respect they may or may not deserve. The one who loves may carry the load to be truthful or held accountable to God rather than to us.*

Love hopes all things. Love roots for victory in others, for good to win, and for the truth to come out. In the Bible, hope is more than just a wish: it is a confidence that God will do as He says. Love endures all things.

Non-believers and believers will face hard times. Those who choose to love as Jesus does do not stop loving when life becomes difficult. Love for God and others endures through tough days and long nights. *A boyfriend should be open. Meaning approachable at all levels, that includes family, friends, the public, neighbors, and strangers. The friendly ability will eventually create positive opportunities for receiving help in all endeavors. To be the opposite will most likely lessen the chances of gaining favor with others. This negative will affect the relationship.*

A boyfriend should be a yielding person. An individual that produces good ideas to help the relationship and is willing to listen to the girlfriend with any plans she may have in mind. Feedback builds a boyfriend-girlfriend bond and not just a one-way street because

relationships like that eventually get sour. No one likes to have a dictator dictate what they should do all the time. A boyfriend should avoid acting in greediness or dishonesty: the goal is to remove focus from self to the other. *On the other side is the girlfriend. She is to be graceful with the idea of gracious or kind speech. Salt is served primarily as a preservative, keeping meat from spoiling. The role of the girlfriend is to aid and add value to the conversation; our words should be uplifting or helpful. Another aspect of gracious speech is the ability to answer questions.*

The girlfriend should represent herself respectfully, which will complement the boyfriend. So a girlfriend will sharpen the countenance of her boyfriend. Conversing with each other will only make the relationship better. On the other hand, arguing can make things worst instead of good. The importance of the conversation between boyfriend-girlfriend will determine how far the relationship will go and sharpen each other's minds.

*The girlfriend should have good character. She is not rude. To be rude is to act "indecently." Rudeness insists on self-expression and self-gratification at the expense of the feelings and experiences of others. The girlfriend should not insist on her way, not be self-seeking but yielding.*

The greatest challenge for the girlfriend is her lips. To be able to overcome the temptation of corrupting speech versus encouraging talk. A healthy relationship that could lead to marriage is measured when conversing with others and each other. "I couldn't help saying it" is the common excuse. The girlfriend can expect to use whatever control she has as much as possible in conversation with all social platforms.

*Many problems in a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship would be minimal if both were looking for ways to meet each other's needs before satisfying their own. The Bible does not say anything about boyfriend-girlfriend, while the world does not limit anything. However, the common ground is the friend, which means something. In summary, the secret to a successful relationship is to meet each other halfway if we intend for it to go all the way to the altar of marriage.*