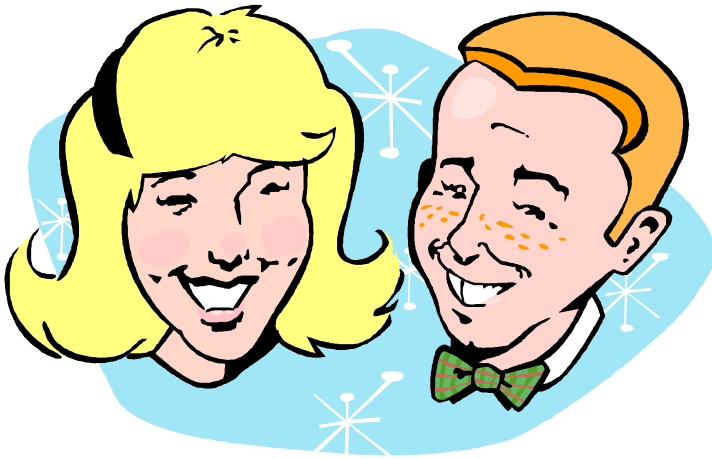


Booklet 17

Helps for Young People



***Your Sister Is Hot
A Chance To Care
Don't Marry A Goofy Girl***

Compiled by Hervey Bay Gospel Chapel for its young people

"Your Sister Is Hot!"

By Allison Asimakoupoulos

Tan teens with sun-bleached hair nearly filled the school cafeteria—all carrying on about their summer adventures. As I listened to the voices echoing off concrete walls, I scanned the lunchroom for friends I hadn't seen since last year. Soon I spotted a group of guys I knew and headed over to their table. Even though they weren't the people I was looking for, I was glad I wasn't stuck at a table eating by my self. After a round of "glad to see ya" hugs, the guys began talking about my older sister.

"Hey, I saw your sister this summer. She looked fine!"

"How come you don't take after her?"

"Wanna give her my number?"

I suddenly felt my face getting hot from both anger and embarrassment. Although I knew they were kidding, I didn't think they were at all funny. So I let them have it.

"You know how much you hurt me last year with those remarks! Why would you even think about bringing them up again?"

"We're just telling you the facts," one of them said with a smile. "Your sister *is* hot!"

I couldn't take it anymore. I ran into the hallway and sank onto the cold tile floor. As I leaned against a locker and buried my face in my hands, I thought to myself, *I'm so sick of always living in my sister's shadow! Everyone sees her as the tall, skinny "beauty queen." I'm just her short and boring little sister!*

While I sat there sulking over what had just happened, a verse from the Bible came to mind: "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). It was like God was suddenly talking directly to me, encouraging me to remember that it's what's inside that really counts.

I've had a lot of time to think about what happened that day in the cafeteria, and I've since realized something very important: If so-called friends don't accept me because I don't look a certain way, then they're not true friends. I've decided I need to do my best to keep my distance from people who can't get past my looks ... or my sister's. I don't want their opinions to take my focus off what's really important: my heart.

While my sister may be seen by some as prettier than I am, she knows the heart is more important, too. And even though we are far from perfect, each of us wants to have a heart that reflects God's character.

So maybe I don't measure up to what some guys think is attractive. That's OK. After all, physical beauty is so temporary. I'd rather concentrate on something that will last—like living a life that's "beautiful" to God.

Allison is a high school sophomore who admits that she once started a major peanut butter fight while on a missions trip.

Copyright © 2001 by the author or Christianity Today International/Campus Life magazine



A Chance to Care

It was almost midnight, and the paper in front of me was a mass of ink-smudged doodles. The next day I was supposed to present my theme for my Expository Writing persuasive essay. My mind wandered from topics like gun control to the death penalty to movie censorship. But I didn't feel like I had much to say about any of those issues.

As I stared and read through my class notes one more time, I suddenly got an idea: *sexual abstinence*. It was a topic I certainly felt strongly about. Even so, I'd heard too many jokes about virgins to think I could persuade anybody. The thought of being laughed at nearly drove me to safer topics that would protect me from sarcasm and ridicule. But no other topic had captured my attention.

So in class the following day, I told my teacher what topic I'd chosen. That was the easy part. The next step, which would take place a few days later, was going to be tougher. After writing rough drafts, we had to break into small groups for feedback from other students.

My small group turned out to be just one person, a girl named Marie (not her real name). The other member in our group of three was absent. After listening to instructions from the teacher, I read my paper to Marie. When I finished, I looked up and saw tears streaming down her face.

After a moment of awkward silence, I asked, "Are you OK?"

"Yeah," she said weakly. "Every thing you said is so true. ... My boyfriend and I just started having sex, and the emotional consequences of premarital sex you talked about are real. I want to stop, but I don't want to hurt his feelings. ... "

After collecting my thoughts, I said, "Marie, I hope you can find the strength to tell your boyfriend you want to stop having sex. You need to be truthful about your feelings."

We then talked about how her sexual relationship would affect her relationships with other guys—including her future husband.

"You have the chance for a fresh start," I said gently, then added. "I will pray for you, Marie."

Marie smiled and thanked me.

I left class knowing God had more in mind for me that day than just writing one more paper for the sake of getting one more grade. And it happened because I decided to take a stand for some thing I believed in.

**Copyright © 2000 by the author of
Christianity Today International/*Campus Life*
magazine**

Rachel, a high school senior in Cincinnati, is a self-professed "roller coaster freak."



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT GCI, INC.



Thanks to Sergio Carlos Grado

09-18-2003



"Don't Marry a Goofy Girl"

And other wise advice from a famous Christian who's lived for Jesus a long time.

by Ben Zoba

The Bible says "pay attention to wisdom" and "listen carefully to wise counsel" (Proverbs 5:1, NLT). That's why, when my mom said J.I. Packer was coming to town, I asked if he'd be willing to come to my small group Bible study and talk to us about being a Christian. Dr. Packer is a good friend of my family, and he's written a lot of books about God. In fact, his book, *Knowing God*, has sold 1.5 million copies. That's more than the

number of albums sold by The Supertones *and* Five Iron Frenzy—combined!

He's old enough to be my grandpa, but when Dr. Packer met with my small group, he seemed like one of the guys. He's British, so he said things that sounded different. But we asked him lots of questions and he told us funny stuff that made us laugh, like, "Don't marry a goofy girl" and "Don't have any scandalous hobbies." But he also told us how we can know, love and serve God in a world that sometimes goes a little crazy.

Obviously, I don't have room to tell you *everything* he said to us. But I would like to give you an idea of some of the great things he had to say about living for God. So let's get into it ...

Q. Dr. Packer, why are you so devoted to studying the Bible and God?

A. When I was 18, the Lord Jesus got hold of me and convinced me that the only way I was ever going to get fulfilment in my life was to follow him as my Saviour and my Lord. When you commit yourself to Christ, you're adopted into the family of his heavenly Father, who now becomes *your* heavenly Father. And when you realize that this means eternal life instead of eternal death, then you find yourself highly motivated to know your heavenly Father and to understand his will, his plans and his goals. For that, you have to work with the Bible, which is his Word.

How can we know the will of God?

Oh, good question. First, be sure that you've got the basic relationship. That is, that you are converted, that you are committed to Jesus, that you are in the family, that God is your Father. It would be pointless to worry about knowing the will of God if you're not related to him.

Then, go to the Bible. If you don't know your Bible very well, snuggle up to somebody who does and ask for help. God never intended that we should all go into our separate corners and invent Christianity for ourselves just by reading the Bible on our own.

What's the best way to read the Bible?

Well, start with the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. They tell about Jesus. Go to the book of Acts, which shows how the followers of Jesus

spread the word. Go on from there to the shorter epistles. "Epistle" is the old-fashioned word for "letter."

But while you're getting all that stuff under your belt, as I say, you need to take full advantage of friends who can tell you what's in the Bible.

Can the Bible tell me which college to go to?

All through the Bible we are told to seek wisdom. Wisdom means that you aim at the best goal, and you know the best way to get to your goal. Never let the good be the enemy of the best. Look then for the college that will give you the *best* education, the *best* start. If you're particularly good at a sport, look for a college where you will get the best coaching.

The Bible way to say it is, choosing your college is a matter of making a wisdom decision. Most specific choices require a wisdom decision. Then you take your decision back to God and say, "Lord, I have tried to make the best decision. If what I've decided is right, please confirm it with peace in my heart. If I haven't decided right, please disturb me and prevent me from going where I'm wrong."

When I talk to non-Christians, they sometimes say that modern translations of the Bible have lost a lot of accuracy—like that game "Telephone," where the first person whispers "Bobby likes Susie," and by the time it gets to the last person it ends up "My cheese is green." Has this happened when it comes to translating the Bible?

The only way that you can respond to that concern is to say that all these translations have been done by persons of heavyweight academic qualification, who go back to the original document, who know their Hebrew and know their Greek, and that they've been checked by other people who know their Hebrew and Greek. How many people have to unite and say this is an accurate translation before you'll believe them?

In other words, when you talk to these non-Christians, call them on their attitude. Your generation is blessed more than any generation in any language group anywhere in the world, because you have got something like a dozen jolly good translations of the Bible. No nation, no language group in history has ever had as many options to choose from as you have.

This atmosphere of suspicion, I think in many cases, is no more than an excuse for not taking the Bible seriously.

What would be your "advice for life" to students our age, that maybe you wish you would have heard at 17?

The only thing that will make sense of your lives is faithfully following the Lord Jesus. For time and eternity, he's the one to hang on to. So whatever else you do, make sure that you know, love, trust and follow the Lord Jesus. Just like that.

It's very elementary to say that, but the rule of wisdom is always to begin at the beginning. That's the beginning. And all through life, walking with Jesus and pleasing Jesus are linked up with what I was talking about earlier—trying in everything to please and honour your heavenly Father. That's the magnetic north for guiding your life, the magnetic north for your compass, if you put it that way.

So that's my answer. I present it very strongly. Thank you for asking these good questions.

More Bloopers in Church Bulletins

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement noon Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Twenty-two members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

GOD IS GOOD! Dr. Hargreaves is better!