

# GACCS

TEEN EDITION | FALL ISSUE

November 2016

## WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE TELL ME?

3 Articles about common issues young Christians struggle with.

## WORSHIP IS THE ANSWER!

When you're hurting and find yourself in a bad situation.

Can leaders be humble? Check out pg 3, to see how you measure up.

## ADVICE COLUMN

More answers to  
FAQ for Christian  
Teens



# Editor's Note

*Thank you to all who read and share GACCS Teen. We have been receiving your feedback and hear nothing but great things. This magazine would not be possible if you didn't read and take something away from it, so give yourselves a pat on the back and keep reading.*



With so much happening on this country and the examples before us, its hard to look up to leaders we see on television and know that they truly are a strong role model. There is violence, bullying (even amongst adults), insulting and all kinds of behavior modeled, but if we want to know if what you see is the proper way for you behave its important to first pray and read the Bible.

Seeking wisdom from the Word of God first allows you to increase in wisdom and therefore make wiser choices as an individual. I challenge you to to see if you can find stories that relate to what you see and what God says about it. Also, we have to remember that when Jesus died on the cross, he gave us the Holy Spirit to live on the inside of us to discern good from evil.

The articles in this edition of GACCS Teen Magazine all has some elements about choices, whether it's to humble, what to do when hurting, developing a new habit, and the power we have when me make choices.

I hope you enjoy these articles, put together with you in mind. If it's placed on your heart to support this publication and help spread how God is working in the life of teens, then feel free to send a donation to GACCS, 47448 Pontiac Trail, Ste 337, Wixom, MI 48393.

MELVA ALLEN  
**Editor**  
GACCS



We are aware of the limitations of traditional treatment modalities and we view the Word of God as a necessary component for the resolution of personal problems.

Part of our counseling process here at GACCS is using prayer as a channel to effect much needed change. We are committed to healing the "whole person" and helping you work towards lifestyle changes that will lead to continued recovery. Our services are based on the belief that regular Christian fellowship is vital for spiritual growth that will result in lasting outward change.

We heal emotional wounds with Biblical Counseling from GACCS in Farmington, Michigan. We are a 501C3 organization providing low-to-no-cost spiritual, psychological, and emotional Christian services to the Detroit Metro Area.



# *Humble Like Jesus*

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By David M. Hasz

A leader who assumes he is more important than he is will inevitably suffer humiliation. A leader who walks in humility will be powerful because he will no longer be worried about what others are thinking about him. Perfect humility frees a person from constantly wondering how others will react to their leadership decisions and their personalities.

Many times we get overly concerned about what other people will think of what we say and do, and it's because of pride in our lives. Proverbs tells us that fear of man will prove to be a snare to us. Fear of man comes directly out of pride.

When prideful, we are afraid of others. Jesus was not afraid of what others thought about him, whether they liked him or not. He knew the mission that God sent him on, and he knew clearly who he was. He was not concerned with convincing others of his greatness or his ability to lead. He just led.

When we start to question our ability to lead or try to convince others we are qualified to lead, pride usually is involved. The only way you are qualified to lead at all is because of the spirit of God working in you. Remembering this keeps us humble.

# Humility is not thinking less of yourself, It is thinking of yourself less.

C.S. LEWIS

Without God's help, none of us would be very effective or good leaders like Jesus. Jesus was also not worried about pleasing his followers. Many times he did things his followers did not like but when they realized his love for them and his humility they followed him even more. Humility frees one to serve, as well as to lead effectively.

Are you afraid of what others think about you? Do you think you are better than most other leaders around you?



Mark 10:45 (MEV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many

*John 13:4-17 (MSG)*

*...So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do. I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn't give orders to the employer.*

*Matthew 11:29 NLV*

*Follow My teachings and learn from Me. I am gentle and do not have pride.*



THE MELTING POT SERIES

**HURTING AND IN A BAD SITUATION?**

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WORSHIP IS THE

**ANSWER!**

**WARNING WARNING WARNING WARNING WARNING**

# Worship is vital to the healing process.

Worship is simply an attitude of the believer's heart. The attitude of the believer's heart must be that of believing that God is who He says He is and that He can do what He says He can do. It is also making a conscious decision in acknowledging and allowing Him to be the absolute and final authority within their heart. The worshipper recognizes who God is and the love that God has given to them. Therefore, we gladly express ourselves to Him through the actions and lifestyle of worship.

Our first priority as a people of God is to worship Him. It is an expression of our love for Him. It is why we exist. Our commitment to a lifestyle of relationship with God flows from out of our worship. Our worship, therefore, must be open and honest. It must be our most truthful place with God. The important lesson to be learned by us is that we need to be honest and real before our God. That is part of the healing process. Your situation may be looking real bad, however, we can acknowledge the situation for what it is - it is okay.

Look at Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo. In their time of trouble, they were real about it. They trusted God no matter how it may have seemed and no matter how it would eventually turn out. Daniel 3:16-18 they in essence told Nebuchadnezzar - "If our God delivers us or if we go into the fiery furnace, we will not bow down to any other god but our God."

You see, it is all about worship and who you are "bowing down" to and who you are turning towards and acknowledging. True worship is the loving and worshipping of God for who He is. Not for what you want or for what you get out of it. It is a time of literally, being real and genuine with the Lord. It is a time of being "you" before God; coming to Him just the way you are.

Worship leads us into a time of self-examination. Worship will bring us to times of repentance and the acceptance of forgiveness. It brings forth a realization of the love that God has for us. It is through this intimate relationship with God that we find ourselves able to receive healing and deliverance in a greater way.



## WAYS OF WORSHIPPING GOD

- To show great respect with extended hands - Psalm 63:4; 1 Timothy 2:8
- To lie face down before the Lord - Psalm 95:6; Revelations 22:8, 9
- The giving of thanks to the Lord - 1 Chronicles 16:8; Psalm 100:4
- To tell others or make known what God has done - Psalm 89:1; Acts 4:20
- Clapping hands unto the Lord - Psalm 47:1; Isaiah 55:
- To sing to the Lord - Psalm 47:6, 7; 1 Chronicles 16:9, 23; James 5:13
- Singing and praising the Lord "in the Spirit" - Psalm 104:33 - The word "praise" used here is *tehillah*; 1 Corinthians 14:15 - Paul exhorts the believer to sing with or in the spirit.
- To "Bless" or say good things to the Lord - Psalm 103:1, 2; Psalm 135:19, 20
- To Kneel before God - Psalm 95:6; Ephesians 3:14
- To "Celebrate" , do something special before the Lord - Psalm 22:22; Psalm 150 -
- To make a "joyful noise" unto the Lord - Psalm 98:4, 6; Psalm 100:1
- To shout praises unto God - Joshua 6:16; Psalm 132:9, 16
- To "dance" before the Lord - Psalm 149:3; Psalm 150:4
- Praising the Lord with instruments - Psalm 150; Joshua 6:5, 20



## MEN ON A MISSION

# DEVELOPING THE HABIT OF FOCUSING YOUR MIND

By Wallace Harris, Program Director

To be successful, you must take the time to focus your mind and think about what you are doing. That means that you must stop and think about what you are doing! Not thinking about what you are doing can lead to serious problems in your life. God has given you a great mind! It is important to learn how to use it towards having a happy life.

### What Is A Habit

A Habit is something you repeat; like saying 'hello' to the people you meet. Some habits are good and lead you down the path of taking care of yourself and others can be bad that will leave you miserable, frustrated and angry with yourself. Habits are kind of like a garden that grows many things. Some of our habits grow flowers, fruits and vegetables like exercising and some habits grow weeds, like smoking and drinking that are bad for you.

Once you have a habit it is very hard to lose, so it is extremely important to be careful of the ones you choose. Men On A Mission would like to speak to you as a good friend and suggest the most important habits that we recommends: They are habits for your mind! This habit helps you solve problems and know what to do.

Make sure that your mind is trained to understand to 'trust in the Lord and don't depend on your own knowledge. With every step you take, think what He wants, and He will Help you go the right way.





# Why Didn't Someone Tell Me?

EXCERPTS: ULTIMATE ISSUE  
SECTION (NARRATIVE ONLY OF  
NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)

## ♦ ULTIMATE ISSUES ♦

1

THE  
ENEMY

2

IF GOD IS A GOD OF LOVE,  
WHY DOES HE ALLOW EVIL  
AND DEATH IN THE WORLD?

3

THE 411 ON  
THE HOLY  
SPIRIT

Ultimate Issues:  
Number One

# THE ENEMY

*"Although the enemy is not to be taken lightly, believers don't have to fear him. If you're a believer, you've got the power of God behind you."*



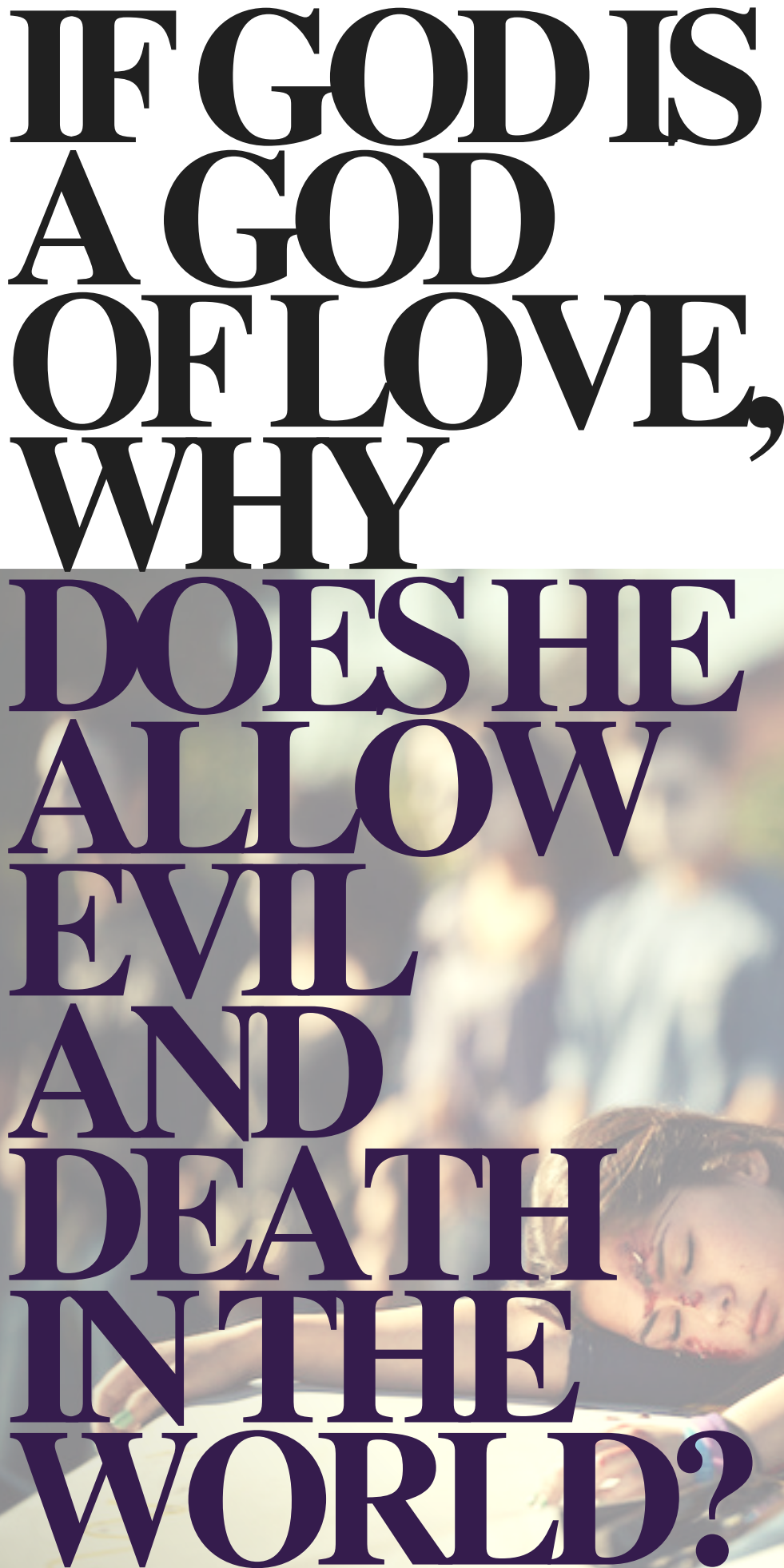
**Forget about what you've heard about in horror movies or in novels. Satan—the enemy of Christians—is real. The Bible has many names for him; devil, Satan, the deceiver, the evil one, and the tempter. And today, interest in Satan and occult activities are on the rise. What does the Bible teach about this being and those under his command?**

Old Testament passages such as I Chronicles 31:1, Job 1-2. And Zechariah 3 portrays Satan as an accuser of God's people. It is historically believed that Satan was behind the serpent that deceived Eve in Genesis 3. Many interpret Isaiah 14:12 (the beginning of prophecy about the "King of Babylon") as a reference to Satan: "How are you fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world."

Turning to the New Testament, Matthew 4:1-11 and Mark 1:12-13 describe Jesus' temptation by Satan. In Matthew 12, Jesus describes Satan as a powerful ruler over a demonic kingdom. John quotes Jesus as referring to Satan as "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11). Passages such as Matthew 13:19, II Corinthians 4:4 and Ephesians 6:16 show that Satan's goal is to keep people from understanding and believing God's World.

Okay, that's the bad news. Now here's the good news: God has already defeated this enemy. Just turn to the last book of the Bible, Revelation, to see how the battle turns out.

But even a defeated enemy still has claws. From time to time you'll find yourself in a skirmish or two with this enemy. But God doesn't leave you defenseless. That's the message of Ephesians 6:10-18. "Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil" (6:10). The rest of the passage talks about what you can do to defend yourself against an attack.



# IF GOD IS A GOD OF LOVE, WHY DOES HE ALLOW EVIL AND DEATH IN THE WORLD?

## Ultimate Issues: Number Two

When Jesus' friend Lazarus died (John 11), Jesus cried. Even though he was the Son of God and could raise Lazarus to life, Jesus was always aware of the agony humans faced because of death and evil.

So, why are evil and death allowed in the world? Ages ago, after losing a war with the angels of God, a group of fallen angels—led by Satan—left heaven (see Jude 6) and made earth their kingdom. They still exist and have only one purpose—to destroy. But their evil provides a contrast to the love and mercy of God, who allows people the freedom to choose between good and evil.

As a result of believing the lie of Satan, Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden and were separated from him. (You know the story.) This incident also set in motion the life cycle, which ends in death and caused everyone to be born “spiritually dead”.

Jesus' angry words to the Pharisees in John 8:44 show the result of spiritual death: “You are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character: for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

But there's good news: Jesus' death on the cross provides the antidote for spiritual death. Although all of us eventually will die, a second life—eternal life—will begin.

So, although evil and death continue, God can use any situation for good (Romans 8:28). He loves you and wants to workout his purposes in your life.

# THE 411 ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the “Counselor” (John 15:26). Unlike a high school guidance counselor, the Holy Spirit is with you 24/7. He is your unseen adviser—one who will never still you wrong.

You may know someone who seems to have three personalities (the real one, the phony one, and the really phony one). But have you ever seen three people represented one person? Historically Christians have believed that God exists in three persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit how this works, no one knows. This is one of the mysteries that the Bible mentions.

If we were to take a poll, we might find that the Holy Spirit is probably the least understood of the three. So just who is the Holy Spirit? What does He do?



- First of all, the New Testament always refers to the Holy Spirit as “he” not “it.” The Spirit is personal, not merely a “force” or instrument. He has an intellect, feelings will and other personal characteristics.
- Second, the Holy Spirit is not in any way inferior to the Father or the Son. He is equal to them. One of the clearest statements of this reality is found in Matthew 28:19, where Jesus tells the disciples: “Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”
- Third, the Holy Spirit acts in many powerful ways. Here are just a few: he unifies, believers and helps them grow and serve others (I Cor 12:4-11; Eph 4:1-16; 5:22-25); he gives new life (John 3:5-6); he helps us own up to what we’ve done and to change (John 16:8); he reminds us of the truth of Jesus as the Savior (John 14:26 and 16:13-14); he prays for us (Rom 8:26); he is present in all Christians (Rom 8:9-11; I Cor 6:19-20). His arrival in Acts 2 completely changed the lives of all of the believers.

# THE POWER OF CHOICE

**T**he thing that sets all mortals apart is the ability to make choices. Most importantly, we have the power to choose the relationships we develop. Bible readers revere the words of Joshua, "Choose you this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

Recently, I visited my old grammar school. Upon seeing again the playgrounds, bad memories began to emerge for I had been a prankster with a haughty spirit, causing myself many troubles. There was the fight with a former friend, a girl's tears for a torn dress caused by my chasing, and feelings of not "fitting in". But there were also good memories

as I recalled my first "love" for a quiet shy girl. I gladly endured the eyes and the chants of the other children as we walked together. While this choice was not considered "in" by the boys, it remains one of my better memories.

But there was a time a few years later when I made a particularly bad choice. In the school cafeteria, a girl slipped and fell. As she fell, her dress flew up and her plastic plate and bowl went bouncing across the hard tile floor. As a boy, I thought that was the funniest thing I ever saw, laughing, jeering, and pointing a finger for others to see. The poor embarrassed girl had to get up by herself and collect her strewn utensils and feelings. But for me, there followed in later years a lifetime of remorse for what was as opposed to what could have been.

If I could re-enact the scene now, I would immediately go to help her up, grab some napkins for her to clean her dress, offer kind words, gather her dishes, and escort her to where she would go. But it can never be.

**"Choose you this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)**

by Lee Simons

A lifetime later, as I walked into the school building, I remembered a sense of foreboding. I knew only too well where the principal's office was located for I had been a frequent visitor there as a troubled little boy. I walked through the open door of the office half expecting to meet again the stern, piercing eyes of the former principal. She was not there. Instead, I was greeted by a man near my own age. I showed him my "credentials" of old class photographs of myself, my classmates, teachers, and the former principal. He was absolutely delighted to see them and proceeded to give me the "grand tour" of the building, sparing no details of improvements and future plans.

How things had changed during the 40 years since I had last walked these halls! As we came to the cafeteria, I expected again to be stabbed by an age-old remorse. But suddenly, the atmosphere seemed to completely change as the sunshine of the principal's cordiality melted away the guilt and conveyed a sense of belonging and acceptance.

After extending my thanks and taking leave, I knew immediately that it was good to have visited the school. I realized that more had changed than just the school building. I came to accept myself as the boy that I was. While I cannot change the past, I can choose to use it for reference to help build better relationships today. Sure, I will probably "blow it" a few more times, but with each mistake comes the opportunity of choice on how to deal with the mistake.

I have related this true life's story to offer a point:

You have the power today to choose the course for your relationships with others. You can choose to try to be "in" with the critics, you

can jeer and point a finger at others, you can scoff at someone's mistake, you can even choose to just stick your head in the sand and let others do what needs to be done by themselves.

or, you can choose to offer help, to involve yourself, and to comfort the down-fallen.

You have the awesome power to develop relationships and memories to last forever - you have the power of Choice!

**Once written you have to stand by it. You may have said it to see whether you believed it or not.**

Hi!

I.D.K SO A.S.K.

I DON'T KNOW SO ALWAYS SEEK KNOWLEDGE

TEXT

hello!

Hey!

Here is an opportunity to ask a question and receive spiritual guided answers to them. Send us an email or write us to have your questions submitted.

**There is so much temptation in the music on the radio with the songs that my peers typically like and listen to. How can I be different without people feeling like I'm "too good"?**

Your not to good, your just making better choices about what you put into yourself. Would you go drink the water up at Flint right now and say; Well I don't want the people of Flint to be offended, so I'm going to drink their water.....COARSE NOT!!!! LOL! They're not even drinking their water! Your not going to feely poison yourself right? But yet we do with the garbage we put in out ears and eye gate. The bible is clear about this. Ephesians 4:29, 5:4 and about 25 other bible verses. One of the things I think of is, As a man thinks so is he. So how do you want to be and as I mentioned in point number two, what's more important pleasing God or pleasing man. Hopefully pleasing God if your a follower of Christ.

**What's an appropriate age to date?**

Dating is not a biblical principle in general context. We are called to discover the opposite sex, (Proverbs 18:22) when you look at the word "discover" it means to find, investigate, research right, to become aware of and I think that most teens are not at the age to become aware of anyone except themselves. If you look at your own life when did you really start to find yourself? Not in your teens years. So I am a firm believer that teens should yes go out with the opposite sex in groups and socialize in a group setting, they should even be allowed to come to a prospects house and meet the parents and I do mean both parents (divorced or married) After all this is your child that is being discovered and you want to know who the person is, trying to discover your child and you should be discovering them, what is their background, culturally, economically, and whatever else you deem important. Dating is a serious thing and we must take it as such.

Not beating our kids up for wanting to hangout and get to know the opposite sex, that's healthy and in todays society you should be glad your child is looking at the opposite sex, but put parameters in place, guide and direct the dance your child is wanting to participate in. This is what I've done with my children. By the way I encourage them to not even consider trying to date till they finish high school. so 17-18 preferable later is my honest thoughts on dating and should have a plan moving in a direction toward something bigger.

**If I take my girlfriend out, what things can we do as young dating Christians?**

We'll let's look at point number 1, I would hope you would go out in a group setting. I love the definition of "GIRLFRIEND" yes I know what we mean by that but let's evaluate that your a teen boy, she's a teen girl, her body is going through some changes and so is yours. Things are turning on that have never been on before and you are experiencing puberty and so is she. She looks a lot different then when you guys use to go play in the water sprinkler as a 5,6 or even 10 year old. You look a lot different. She likes what she sees and you do too. Now tell me why you would need to go anywhere with her by yourself..... You don't go out in a group setting and be accountable to your Christian friends so you don't fall. I love what Song of Solomon says in 8:4 Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, not to awaken love until the time is right. She is making it clear; Hey sisters! I don't need to be doing anything that is going to cause me to slip up and end up somewhere I don't need to be before the proper time. Well what is the proper time? When you get married. Sex is an amazing form of communication in the proper context and the only context it should be expressed is between a husband and a wife. So where should you take her? Nowhere on your own, But in a group setting anywhere that is pleasing to God. Church, dinner, a clean movie, bowling, game night over some friends house, Cedar Point, etc. When it's time for her to go home, have her friends drop her off unless she drove herself..

# GACCS

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