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lesson 5 protecting what's precious

I. Important Reminders

- A. FRIENDSHIP First
- B. Always remember to SAVE as much as possible for my FUTURE SPOUSE
- C. An easy way to always know if something is “right” or not:
 - 1. Will this honor God, my family, and myself?
 - 2. Will this draw me closer to or further from God?
 - 3. What effect will this have on my future?
 - 4. Will godly people in my life support this?
 - 5. What is the main reason why I am wanting this?

*Testimony- Jason rationalizing “How far is too far?”.

Question: What does it mean to rationalize?

-making things ok in your mind even though they are wrong

Question: What is wrong with the idea that if it isn't in the Bible, it must be ok?

-the Bible actually deals with the big picture...it deals with the heart
-it didn't say anything about “making out”, but it does about lusting

II. Set Up BOUNDARIES

*must be done BEFORE you get into a relationship...write them down

A. God gives us a CONSCIENCE (Holy Spirit) to know what is sin- I John 3:20-21

- 1. If our conscience is against what we are doing, so is GOD
- 2. Those who have a good conscience are usually BLESSED by God because they:
 - *“keep His commandments”
 - *“are pleasing in His sight”

B. Set up a ROADBLOCK to obey your “conscience” (Holy Spirit)

- 1. Whatever causes you to sin, stay FAR from it (Matthew 5:29)
- 2. Whatever causes you to sin, set your convictions BEFORE it
 - *Fact- you will get as close to your convictions as possible
 - *Job chose to not even look at young women (Job 31:1)
- 3. Make your convictions/boundaries CLEAR to anyone you might date

III. Other Random Tips

1. Be careful about spending time alone with the opposite gender
 - *involve other friends or your parents in your “dates”
2. Find “fun” things to do on dates...keep the “friendship” part a priority
3. Be transparent with your friends and family and listen to their advice
 - *if you feel like you can't share it...it probably isn't right
 - *imagine a wedding with only the bride, groom, and pastor
4. Wait to say “I love you”
5. Don't talk about “private” or “perverse” things (this includes talking about your body)
6. Avoid late night talks or dates
5. Keep physical touch to a minimum
 - things almost always lead to another (this could include cuddling & massages)
 - save the kiss; the longer you wait, the more special it is

IV. Areas to Set Up Boundaries in Your Relationships

A. The People

*What people draw me closer/further from God?

*What type of person will I commit to not enter into a relationship with?

B. The Things

*What are things that I am willing to commit to saving until marriage?

*What I am not going to do to keep myself from tempting my boundary?

C. The Places

*What are places/situations that I won't put myself in that will be a temptation?

D. The Words

*How can I speak with a more pure mouth to keep my mind and the mind of those around me pure?

*How can I better protect special words such as “I love you”, or talking about marriage?

E. The Heart

*What steps do I need to take to guard myself from giving my heart away too soon or to the wrong person?

*How can I do a better job of keeping Christ at the center of my heart?

Take it Home

Write down and commit to certain boundaries you will make in your dating relationships