



The Gentleman's Club

1 Corinthians 13:11; John 13:34-35; Ephesians 5:25; 1 Peter 3:7

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

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Bottom Line: Many women today don't think gentlemen still exist, but that's what they're looking for. Get this right, guys, and you'll be one of the few.

Introduction:

Last week, I left you with two questions:

1. Are you who the person you are looking for is looking for?
2. Are you **becoming** the person that the person you are looking for is looking for?

We explored the **Right Person Myth**. Instead of looking for the right person, we should be becoming the right person, and I provided you with a "to do" list to help with that.

We ended with this verse: 1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV84), "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me."

Today, I want to talk specifically to single Christian men about growing up when it comes to your view of, attitude toward, and treatment of women. This will sound like strange advice in light of the world we live in, but it's not.

The Challenge: Women are viewed, presented, talked about, and sung about like a commodity: an article of trade or commerce.

The message men are presented with over and over in our society is this: Take me, do with me as you please, then discard me and move to the next one. I'm at your disposal.

Daily doses of that message can't help but impact the way you think about and ultimately treat women ... unless you make up your mind to do otherwise.

Christian Men: You've been called to a different standard.

If you don't think it's important now, wait until you have a daughter someday, and you'll begin to wonder: Are there any gentlemen left?

The culture in the first century was even worse than today.

What is the responsibility of men toward women?

Jesus: John 13:34-35 (NIV84), "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you **must** love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Paul: Ephesians 5:25 (NIV84), "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and **gave** himself up for her."

Peter: 1 Peter 3:7 (NIV84), "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with **respect** as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

You've been told, "Might makes right." You've been told the strong rule and love it over the weak.

NEW RULE: Use your strength selflessly for the weak not selfishly for your own gain -- just as Christ did!

She is a daughter of the Most High God. You are going out with His daughter. God loves her VERY much!

If you think you can view and treat women as commodities and then find that special one and suddenly change ... News Flash: You can't!
Bottom line ...

You must renew your mind to think differently.
You must **make** up your mind to behave differently.

Here are some starting points.

Renew your mind to think differently.

Treat every woman like someone made in the image of your Heavenly Father.

Secret: There are a bunch of great women out there who don't think the kind of guy I just described exists anymore. But, that's what they're looking for. So, get this right, and you'll be one of the very few!

NEXT WEEK:
The New Rules for Love, Sex & Dating: Designer Sex

Sex. It's a bigger deal than you think. It's a soul thing.

Culture convinces us--and sometimes we convince ourselves--
that sex is only physical. But if that is true, why is the pain of
sexual sin so deep? Because sex is not just physical. It was
designed by God to be so much more. In this message, Pastor
addresses common myths about sex outside of marriage and
has two specific challenges going forward.

Memorize: John 13:34-35

Reset your mind to think differently

End your relationship with erotic imagery/porn.

Make up your mind to behave differently.

Take a year off from dating.

Return for Part 3—*New Rules for Love, Sex, & Dating: Designer Sex.*

*Please note, this message is not appropriate for all ages. Parental guidance is suggested.

Today, eliminate media that reinforces the idea that women are commodities—movies, TV, and music. Delete all media that refers to any woman as HO's or the "B" word.

End your relationship with erotic imagery/porn.

Porn teaches:

- Real bodies aren't good enough.
- One body isn't good enough.
- Your wife's body won't be good enough.

Lie: Porn doesn't hurt anybody.

Truth: It's a pathway, not a pastime. It's an addictive behavior that causes relational problems.

Make up your mind to behave differently.

- Be a gentleman to every woman.
- Look her in the eyes.
- "Ladies first."
- Leverage your strength for her benefit.
- Do nothing to make her feel uncomfortable.
- Hold the door.
- Pull out her chair.
- Give up your seat.

Some of you need to take a year off from dating.

Conclusion:

First-century Christian men decided to quit taking their cues from the pagan men around them, and it changed the world.

So, let's grow up. Let's become the person who the person you are looking for is looking for. Let's be gentlemen.