

Safeguards for Our Marriage

By John & Sharon Charles

Safeguard #1 We will not drive or dine alone with a member of the opposite sex, other than our spouse, our children, or family members. Obviously, an exception would be made for an emergency situation, but this is our general rule.

Safeguard #2 We will not engage in teasing conversation or personal subject matter when alone with a member of the opposite sex. Any conversations when alone will be brief, business-like and to-the-point. No extended chit-chat, and certainly no “soul-talk!”

Safeguard #3 We will limit same-gender outings “with the guys” or “with the girls,” putting emphasis on building friendship between the two of us, as husband and wife.

Safeguard #4 We will not allow a thought of attraction to someone else (either physical or emotional) to remain in our mind. We will call it what it is... temptation to sin... and replace it with grateful affirmation of our commitment to our spouse and to God.

Safeguard #5 We will not make flirtatious remarks or double-meaning comments to members of the opposite sex. We will do nothing that could be misconstrued as flirting or “coming on” to another person.

Safeguard #6 We will not dress in a way that would cause other individuals to focus on our body, rather than our character. To quote a college professor of mine, “Our appearance should always be attractive, but never an attraction!”

Safeguard #7 We will make the time to nurture our friendship (going out on “dates” together, sharing fun times together, being pleasant companions), so that no other relationship holds any significant appeal.

Safeguard #8 We will not watch sexually explicit TV, videos, or Internet material. We will not read any type of literature, or listen to any type of music, that exalts immoral behavior. We will avoid even “the appearance of evil.” (I Thessalonians 5:22)

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