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# TRAINING FOR GUYS



## How far can I go with my girlfriend?

Surely that depends on how long you've got? If you've both got to be in work the next morning I would suggest no more than an hour's drive.

But, just in case I've misunderstood the question, let's consider a different interpretation. You might be meaning how far can you go sexually. If your non-Christian mates (and possibly the Christian ones too) are sleeping with their girlfriend, is it really so wrong if you do too? 1 Corinthians 6:18 says: *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.*

So I would suggest, in the light of that verse, that the question "How far can I go?" is the wrong question. If you read the verse carefully it says *flee from*, not "try to get as close to as possible". The Greek word translated in our bibles as 'sexual immorality' is *porneo* and that simply means 'sex outside marriage'. So we are to *flee from sex outside marriage*.

That should make a difference to how we approach the subject. Instead of 'how much can we do without actually sinning?' we should be asking 'how little can we do to keep the pressure down'.

It's the other way round to what the world is asking!! So, if you have your relationship and only hold hands, that's great. If

you don't have any problems with that, don't let what others think influence you.

There are no biblical guidelines which say 'this far and no further' (apart from not going 'all the way'), but our aim should be not to get close to the slippery slope beyond which we're out of control.

If you saw a sign that says "*Cliff edge crumbling, keep away*" what would you do?

⚠ See if you can get close enough to make the cliff crumble beneath you

⚠ Walk a safe distance from the edge

⚠ Head inland and visit Birmingham



Most of us, I suspect, would take the middle of those three. We wouldn't put ourselves in great danger, but neither would we run away from the sea shore altogether. I think our attitude to relationships should be something like that. We don't do the thing that God says we should steer clear of, but neither do we put ourselves somewhere where relationships are never going to develop.

But you are in a relationship, so my question would be: Are you planning to get married? If you are, then you are on a road which will *eventually* lead to sexual intercourse. Moving slowly towards it as the relationship continues (eg after

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getting engaged) will be part of the way your relationship naturally develops. The goal should be that you are able to hold off until the wedding, but in a way which enables your love and relationship to grow and develop and not be just one of coping with the pressure of abstinence.

If you do decide to get close to the cliff edge, one day you will edge even nearer and the cliff will give way. Enjoy the view from a safe place which isn't tempting you to go over the edge. What that means for you and your partner, however, is something you need to discover. If you do something that increases the pressure (for either of you) then learn to step back and find other ways of enjoying each others company.


On the other hand, if you are in a relationship and there are *no* plans for marriage yet; and especially if you expect the relationship to be shortlived; then you are *not* on a road which is leading towards sexual intercourse, so you

shouldn't be aiming for it. I would suggest in this case that 'flee from sexual immorality' should cause you to be ruthless about avoiding things that make either of you 'hot'.


More generally, the Bible teaches that we have a loving and faithful God who has been committed to us since before we were born (Jesus came to die for us) and He wants us to reflect His love and faithfulness. One way we do this is through marriage, being faithful to our wives not only once we meet them and when we are married to them but also *before* we meet them, holding ourselves back for them.

Finally, there is forgiveness for when we get stuff wrong, of course. We can start again. We can say, 'from now on I will be faithful to my future wife...'. Let's try to support each other in this, and especially if you have mates who are in relationships look out for them and help them to be faithful.


## The Big Question

 I can't believe you haven't given anything up for Lent! I thought you were a Christian!!


I am a Christian, I love Jesus. But that doesn't mean I have to punish myself for 6 weeks.

 It's not punishment, it's discipline. It's a way of lining yourself up with the way God wants you to live


God wants me to live without chocolate...?!!!

 NO, but by giving up something you like you get prompted each day to remember Him and to try to make yourself more like Him


But the New Testament says that Jesus abolished all the rules. The 'meat sacrificed to idols' thing in Corinthians says we can eat anything and we shouldn't judge those who break some of the Jewish rules even if we don't.

 What's that got to do with Lent?


You're judging me cos I don't give things up

 Not really, I'm just telling you that you are missing out because Lent's a great time to spend each day reflecting on your walk with God.

I try to do that every day, As I munch my C.D.M. chocolate

 C.D.M?

Christ Died for Me!! LOL

 I'm giving up chat rooms for Lent.....

*A bartender notices that every evening, without fail, one of his patrons orders three beers. He asks the man why he always orders three beers. The man says, "I have two brothers who have moved away to different countries. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond." Several weeks later, noticing that the man only ordered two beers, the bartender said, "Please accept my condolences on the death of one of your brothers. You know, the two beers and all..." The man replied, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well... It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."*

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