

ACTION's CourtStEP – DRAMMinistry's adopted relationship policy:

Notes:

- ❖ It is a process, a way of thinking, a mindset (not a list of rules)
- ❖ It is your way to communicate to God, yourself, each other, your family, your mentors, your accountability partners and to others what you believe and what they can expect
- ❖ It defines beforehand, what the possible compromises, accidents, sins or temptations are that could happen, and establishes the highest standards to prevent them.
- ❖ It is a tool to help each individual involved to successfully understand, enter into and remain in God's perfect and excellent will for their lives

Any DRAMA students pursuing relationships with the opposite sex must agree to pursue it in accordance to these basic standards (**note:** these standards are engineered to keep authority in the hands of the parents while still informing the ministry enough to effectively honor that authority).

The following standards are expected:

Each individual in the relationship agrees to:

1. Announce their relationship and who they are to be mentored by to God, each other, both families and their accountability partners by signing a covenant agreement to:
2. Be mentored (guided), individually and together, by specified godly adults (agreed on by parents and individuals in courtship relationship).
3. Write and establish, with each other, your family and mentors a CourtStEP Covenant - steps you will covenant to take, and be held accountable for, to ensure your success in this courtship relationship with an outcome that is God's best for both of your lives.

These principles should be considered throughout the process:

- Be Biblically based and not worldly based.
- Be proactive and not reactive.
- Be above reproach in all areas of the relationship (physically, spiritually, emotionally, socially, financially, etc.)
- Recognize you are both human (sinners) and thus need accountability because on your own strength you will not be successful.
- Understand that every decision you make (good or bad) has a consequence and your personal decisions do affect your future and other people.

SAMPLE (optional) QUESTIONS ***FOR APPROACHING A COVENANT***

1. What does "courtship" mean to you?
2. What do you think "courtship" means to the person you wish to court?
3. What does "being accountable" mean to you?
4. Who are you placing yourself accountable to?
5. Who is the person you wish to court placing themselves accountable to?
6. How might this decision to court affect your daily lifestyle?
7. How might this decision to court affect each of your relationships with God?
8. How might this decision to court affect each of your relationships with your family members?
9. How might this decision to court affect the DRAMA Team?
10. How can you involve God, your family and your DRAMA Teammates in this courtship process?
11. What texts of Scripture will guide you in this courtship process? Explain.
12. Why do you feel this is God's will for your life to court this person at this time? Please respond regarding:
 - God -
 - You -
 - The person you wish to court -
 - Your family -
13. Why do you feel this is God's will for this person to court you at this time? Please respond regarding:
 - God -
 - You -
 - The person you wish to court -
 - Your family -
14. What needs do you have in your life right now?
 - Spiritually
 - Emotionally
 - Socially
 - Financially
 - Career
 - Education
 - Health
 - Family
 - Relationships
 - Self esteem
 - Future goals
15. What needs do you feel the person you wish to court has in his/her life right now?
 - Spiritually
 - Emotionally
 - Socially
 - Financially
 - Career
 - Education
 - Health
 - Family
 - Relationships
 - Self esteem
 - Future goals
16. What are your short-term (2 years) and long term (10 years) goals?
17. What do you feel this person's short and long term goals are?
18. What are the "boundaries" you will place and commit to throughout this courting process? (give specific, measurable answers)
19. How will you determine if this courting process is not God's will for your lives or if you are to marry this person? (give specific, measurable answers)
20. Are you prayerfully considering marrying this person for life? Yes? No? Not sure? Explain.

Example Covenant with contrast:

The <u>Covenant Model</u> for Romantic Relationships and the Accompanying Privileges:	The <u>Worldly Model</u> for Romantic Relationships and the Accompanying Privileges:
<p style="text-align: center;">Age to begin:</p> <p>When ready to marry RESULTS: begins at an age where both are ready for the responsibilities of marriage spiritually, physically, emotionally, financially and socially</p> <p>Casual acquaintances Privileges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prayerfully observing the other person in a natural, group environment (flirting and all physical contact is saved for marriage) <p>RESULTS: available to be used by God, not focused on what the opposite sex thinks, protects from heartache and the resulting problems, gains respect from peers and other acquaintances, eliminates pressures to further the relationship</p> <p>Courtship Privileges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • announcing and clearly identifying the relationship • chaperoned time together • mentored marriage preparation • (all physical contact is saved for marriage) <p>RESULTS: keeps the mind clear, prevents habits of separation, preserves purity, keeps conscience clear, builds stronger family relationships, understands the true value of relationships, entire family gets joy of participating in the relationship, (honors each other and their future and prevents marrying the wrong person)</p> <p>Engagement (Betrothal) Privileges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guaranteed spouse • deeper, focused, mentored marriage preparation • thorough 1 on 1 conversations in a chaperoned environment to affirm or deny call to marriage • (all physical contact is saved for marriage) <p>RESULTS: content with only one person, marry earlier, no regrets, creates an environment to continue being available to be used by God, builds trust, preserves purity, (honors each other and their future and prevents marrying the wrong person)</p> <p>Marriage Privileges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exchanging purity rings • cohabitation • 1 on 1 alone-time • sexual rights, i.e.; back rubs, slow dance, full-body hugs, viewing of attractive aspects of body and sexual intercourse • cultivation of emotional intimacy • guaranteed companionship • emotional security • having children <p>RESULTS: marriage is more highly esteemed, prevents divorce, emotional security, builds trust, allows couple to raise children without shame or regrets, family relationships are important and intact, able to resolve and handle conflict effectively together, stands as a testimony to the world of a model Christian relationship and to God's existence</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Age to begin:</p> <p>Any age RESULTS: can't handle responsibilities that co-exist with adult relationships (ie. physical, emotional, financial, spiritual and social)</p> <p>Casual acquaintances Privileges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flirting, back rubs, casual kisses • slow dance, touching <p>RESULTS: invites extreme peer pressure, confuses everyone involved, distracts from relationship with God, family and friends, heartache, low self-esteem and loss of innocence</p> <p>Dating Privileges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderate sexual activity, ie: holding hands, kissing, passionate hugging, caressing, etc. • 1 on 1 alone-time • cultivation of emotional intimacy • view attractive aspects of body • developing exclusive relationship <p>RESULTS: sets the stage for divorce (not content with only one person), develops fear of rejection, unhealthy emotional dependency, insecurity, selfishness/self-centeredness, possible premarital pregnancy, loss of innocence, breakdown in other relationships</p> <p>Going Steady Privileges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greater sexual contact, possible petting and fornication • guaranteed companionship • emotional security • occasional cohabitation (ie: "playing house") <p>RESULTS: causes late marriages because of too many broken relationships, possible premarital pregnancy, co-dependency, loyalties are divided from family, don't get to learn and experience together with your future husband or wife</p> <p>Engagement Privileges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased sexual contact and cohabitation <p>RESULTS: irreparable scars when things don't work out, emotional breakdowns, enters the marriage with lots of "baggage," possible premarital pregnancy, results from previous stages carry over</p> <p>Marriage Privileges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete cohabitation • complete sexual privileges • having children <p>RESULTS: divorce "falling out of love", unsatisfied sexual needs, continuous conflict, family/in-law conflict, results from previous stages carry over, Christian testimony is damaged</p>

* ACTION Ministry adopted this model for relationships as adapted from Reb Bradley's *Family Ministries*, Fairview, CA