

QUESTIONS FOR KEN AT ROUND TOP 2008

Below is a list of questions that were asked by the Singles of Green Acres on their 2008 Round Top Retreat. These were answered by Ken in a late night open session.

1. HOW DO YOU KEEP A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP FROM GOING TOO FAR?

I always love this question. The first thought in my mind is the subjective definition of “too far”. What might be “too far” for one person is nothing more than turning the engine on for the other. To me China is “too far”, but to others Biloxi, Miss. is “too far.” (*Believe me, you don't even want to go there.*)

The scriptures are pretty clear about being careful and even gives guidelines that will help you guard your heart and your relationship.

ROM: 13:13.

^{Ro 13:13} Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality

I like what this says because it gives me boundaries. Basically, if you wouldn't physically do it in public, in the open daylight, in the middle of the Mall, . . . you shouldn't be doing it in the dark behind closed doors.

1Co 6:18.

^{1Co 6:18} Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

^{1Co 6:19} Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

^{1Co 6:20} you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Notice it did not say, “back away from or walk away from.” It is letting you know that something should be going off in your brain screaming DANGER, DANGER, DANGER! ! ! ! Turn around and RUN as fast as you can. Do not look back. Do not Cross Go, Do not collect \$200.

This is the only thing in scripture that Paul tells us “Flee from”; everything else we confront in life he tells us to “STAND FIRM”. . . . PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD, GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT.” But not with our sexual desires. I think he knows that when given the chance to “turn on” (*and it doesn't take much for us men*) then it is extremely hard to “turn it off”. Scientist have done

incredible research in the field of sexual energy in a man and have recorded that it takes less than 0.03 seconds for a man to get turned on and get hotter than the surface of the sun. (5,700 C)(Pretty Hot) Cooling down too quickly by hearing the word “NO” can result in immature outburst of crying, begging, throwing fits, anger and/or various other forms of childish behavior.

TO WOMEN: If you don't want to see the meltdown, keep the matches out of reach.

It also says that we should understand that when we become involved sexually in a relationship we begin to emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually degrade or invalidate the extreme worth that God has placed upon what He calls his own. Becoming sexually involved before you marry is NOT AN OPTION when it comes to maintaining a relationship with God. You cannot have both. You will sacrifice one for the other. Psychologist and Counselors across America will tell you that the majority of the time, a relationship is NOT ENHANCED by a sexual encounter. In fact, the relationship begins to level off and then decline at that point.

I always encourage couples to be extremely careful about four things

a. **Where you go.** Beds and Bedrooms are out of the question. I know that I'm old school, but when the RPM's are about to redline (*guys understand this stuff*) it is time to back off the accelerator before you blow the engine. I think that the MAN should be the one who draws the line and by the power of Almighty God get back in your car and flee the scene as quickly as possible.

b. **What you say:** Suggestive and alluring sexual innuendos are another form of FISHING. You throw the bait (sexual innuendo) out there and see if you get a nibble. That is both a conscious and subconscious effort to explore if there is acceptance and interest from the other person. They are fishing for a positive response which gives them the permission to take it a step further. Sexually explicit humor or conversation is like putting your money in the toll booth and there are so few turn arounds on the Toll Way! There are some conversations that you just don't need to be in with someone of the opposite sex early on in the relationship.

c. **What you do.** Some may think because they are adults they are much more in control of their emotions and actions. There is a great Spanish word for that “Toro Ca Ca” Never go shopping for groceries after midnight. Your rational decision making process is completely off the chart. You will “impulse” buy just about anything that looks good. . . .even stuff you wouldn't eat in a million years. Be smart enough to set out of bounds markers early on in the relationship (*uh, . . . not on the first night. I'm hoping there wouldn't be a need.*) Never be afraid to say “I think it time for us to pour water on this before we set the world on fire”. ☺ A great suggestion is that you make it a point to spend time together on participation dates rather than observation dates. You will learn twice as much about the person.

d. **How you dress.** Both men and women who are hunting use their eyes. I am old enough to have gone through the “mini-skirts” AND the leisure suits. (*If you don't know what a leisure suit is then believe me, mix a leisure suit with a white belt and white shoes and the women will not be able to hold themselves back.*) For you girls, I know that low cut, skin tight t-shirts are in today, but they wreck havoc with a man's soul. Tight

jeans for either sex is only inviting trouble. Women cannot dress provocatively and expect a man to just look at the wrapping paper without wondering what's in the box.

2. HOW DOES A PERSON DECIPHER BETWEEN THE TRUE VOICE OF GOD/HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISGUISED AND SWIFT VOICE OF SATAN?

VOICE OF GOD

- A. Always be about OTHERS I John 4:11-12
- B. Will CONVICT you about SIN. What disconnects you from God
- C. Move you to listen Ps 81:13
- D. Focus upon Responsibility
- E. You will Respond with Gratitude II Cor 4:13-15
- F. It will always be beyond your Resources. This of course requires FAITH. Heb 11:6
- G. Focuses upon your Assets. What you have been spiritually gifted to do.
- H. I Cor 12:4-11
- I. Speaks to a passion that you have. To know your passion, understand what grieves you most in this world. This of course, you will understand as LOVE.

VOICE OF THE ENEMY

- A. Encourages you to PROTECT yourself MOTIVATED by FEAR or PRIDE. Psalm 10:4
- B. Will encourage GUILT or SHAME. Remind you of how you have FAILED.
- C. Demands to be heard.
- D. Focuses upon your RIGHTS
- E. Responds with INDIGNATION
- F. Reminds you of your DEFICITS
- G. Usually causes you to respond with ANGER

3. WHEN I AM 59 AND THE MAN I AM DATING IS 67 WHAT WILL "TRUE" LOVE FEEL LIKE? (I know that it will be different than when I was 25-35 or even 40.)

POEM

When I am older and in love
The fear of failing will be replaced
By the contentment of companionship

I will only speak
When my embrace runs out of words.
Misunderstandings will be nurtured by gratitude

The kisses that I share
Will always be as soft and deep as a night bird
Calling for his lover.

The important things of life will become subject to
The things that really matter
And when I make love
A slow and lingering waltz
Will replace the sweaty Tango.

And the passion to satisfy
Will replace the passion to be satisfied

4. HOW DO YOU LET SOMEONE KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GOING OUT WITH THEM? (Hand writing looks like that of a woman.)

If this is a woman who has asked this question, I know that you are fighting against cultural mores' that teach you to wait until asked out. Many times men are oblivious to what is right before their face and their fear of rejection will prompt them to play it safe rather than risk rejection.

- A. I think we men are the ones who have invented the "group" date. That gives them a chance to be with you in a non-confrontational, non-committal environment. A woman knows how to bring attention to a man in public that makes him feel smart and clever.
- B. The greatest needs in a man's life are that of appreciation and approval. That's a great place to start. Find a way to share that with the man that you are attracted to.
- C. If this is a man writing this then the greatest on going need in a woman is for validation. Find a way to bolster her value to you or to the group she is around. Women need to feel needed. They are extremely attracted to men who make them feel safe, secure and stable.
- D. If you are a woman, sometimes the safest bridge is to invite them over for supper. Men rarely pass up an invitation to a home cooked meal. It does not need to be with candle light, better yet, choose to leave the preparation unfinished until they get there and then ask for their help. Men love to use their hands when they are nervous. Give them a weapon such as a knife and ask them to cut up vegetables or slice the meat. Men are natural born rescuers and problem solvers. Given a task or a problem to solve will make them feel much more comfortable when they arrive at your home.

5. WHAT THREE THINGS SHOULD I LOOK FOR MOST IN ANOTHER PERSON?

- A. **FORGIVENESS**: The person who can forgive themselves is one of the greatest attributes of maturity in a person. If a person cannot forgive themselves, what makes you think they will have the ability to forgive you? It is foundational to understanding how a person has or has not embraced God's mercy and grace. Mercy releases us from our past debts or failures and chooses never to bring them up again. Grace gives the person we love access to the future. Giving them the permission to move on from that point of failure. Without these two ingredients in a relationship, it is sure to fail and never become an US adventure. It will always be about ME and MY needs, pain or fears. Col.1:9-14

FORGIVENESS should never be given if the person tells you that they will make it up to you. No one can make up for the pain that is caused from broken trust. That has to be healed.

FORGIVENESS should never be given if that person tries to convince you that they will never do it again. We are all failures. . . sinners by birth and our hearts are deceptive. Allowing a person to promise that they will never fail you again only sets them up for more failure. That failure over time will only result in anger and resentment toward you.

You are commanded by God to OFFER FORGIVENESS, but forgiveness is **CONDITIONAL**. LOVE is not. Forgiveness is a beginning process of healing. Reconciliation of the relationship is dependent upon repentance and change of actions over time.

KEY THOUGHT: Be sure that you do not demand that this person be "remorseful" for his actions according to your definition of remorseful. Everyone grieves over their failures in different ways.

- B. **HUMOR**: There is something powerful about the person who has the ability to laugh at themselves when they fail. Humor is also a sign of intelligence. Scriptures tell us that laughter is good for the soul. It even has physical healing abilities by releasing endorphins into your blood stream. There is something magical about being able to laugh with someone. A person's humor allows insight into what they understand what they are in control of or not in control of. It will also allow you to see how tightly wound a person is about life.
1. Pay close attention to **WHAT** is humorous to them. A person who only laughs at the expense of others is usually insensitive, egotistical and rarely empathetic to what is going on around them.
 2. **SARCASTIC** humor is evident of a poor self image and is used to cover up their own insecurities.
 3. **TIMING** is everything in humor. People who laugh at the wrong time and at the wrong things is usually trying to hard to impress. . . usually covering up a shallow character.

4. It is very important that you both find the same things humorous. This will give you great insight into a common nature and mutual joy.
- C. **EXPLORATION**: Now here is a good one. As a Marriage and Family Counselor, it is easy to see when the “honeymoon” is over. It is clear to see when people stop showing interest. It is when they stop asking questions. People love to be found fascinating and interesting. Nothing kills a relationship faster than assumption. Exploration of another person is easy in the beginning of a relationship because we want to know everything we can about the other person. We find ourselves not truly knowing whether we love that person OR love the way they love us.

BEWARE OF THE PERSON WHO DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO EXPLORE WHO YOU ARE! THEY ARE SELFISH AND NARCISSISTIC. THAT SPELLS SURE DEATH FOR ANY RELATIONSHIP.

Relationships continue to be healthy when two people constantly look for unexplored areas in the life of the one they love. The statement is true: “FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONTEMPT” Meaning that we have a tendency to devalue that which we have become too comfortable with. Usually when I ask a couple what is hardest for you to understand or what fascinates you most about your spouse; they look at me as if I had asked them the million dollar question. If they cannot answer then I know the marriage is in trouble.

I always recommend a book called simply THE BOOK OF QUESTIONS. It’s a great book for exploring your partner. There is a series of them that also might be interesting.

6. DOES PRAYER CHANGE GOD’S MIND?

This is a huge question and cannot be answered in a paragraph or two. Let me simply say this.

- Prayer doesn’t change God’s mind as much as it changes ours. Many times our prayers change as we hear the selfish words come out of our mouths concerning our needs, wants and desires. Matt 6
- Prayer is a conversation where we both listen and talk. Most of us only know how to talk and 90% of those know only how to ask.
- There’s a part of me that believes God listens to our prayers as if it’s the first time he has heard them. The reason is we are his children and he loves for his children to connect with him, talk with him and communicate without ceasing.
- Prayer acknowledges this “God-Awareness” that opens up the heart of God. He longs to give good things to His children. Jer. 11:29-31
- There are places in the scripture where it says that God relented and changed his mind about bringing destruction upon a people or a nation. It is always mentioned in a situation where mercy is implied by the mere fact that the people are given a chance to change. Psalm 32:6
- Prayer is an incredible discipline that needs to be practiced over and over throughout the day. God-consciousness becomes an awesome filter for the trash the world throws our way.

7. WHAT ARE YOUR BEST PICK UP LINES?

Given to me by Buster Hood and Danny Waites right after Round Top.

- Do you have a map? I just keep getting lost in your eyes.
- If you were a tear in my eye, I would never cry in fear of losing you.
- Was your father an alien? Because there is nothing like you on earth.
- Your legs must be tired because you've been running through my mind all night.
- You know what I like about you? My arms.
- Girl, you look so good I could put you on a plate and sop you up with a biscuit.
- You must be from Tennessee because you are the only ten I see.
- I'd marry your car just to get in your family.
- Pardon me Miss, I seemed to have lost my phone number, can I have yours?