



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:28-31

Follow your heart to Jesus

"Will you go to the dance with me?"

If I was interested in someone, I just used those eight words face to face. Sometimes I liked the answer I received; most of the time I did not. Now I see many of you (from your mom's Facebook post!) putting hours of effort into the perfect date invitation or "prom-posal." Yikes...that's a lot of construction paper, glue, candy, and flowers just to see if someone will return your interest in them!

What leads you to ask someone on a date? I would imagine looks, sense of humor, smart, lab partner, honest, sporty, fashionable, and great hair (check some out from your parent's teenage years!) are all a part of the mix. Does being a "Jesus lover" ever enter into the equation? If not, now may be the time to get past the simple crush phase of life and take a look at who guides your heart and the heart of those who attract your eye. Jesus has made you his own, so do not take for granted how much he loves you!

As great as your boyfriend or girlfriend may be, your God is greater. And he does not want only a part of our affection and our love. When we love him the most, he will bless us with rational and reasonable feelings about others and help us identify people who share love for Jesus. The truth is, not all people who date in school are going to live "happily ever after."

Jesus loves us and wants us to be his own. When we love him and follow him, we will find true happiness. That is truly "a match made in heaven"!

Prayer: Dearest Jesus, help me to always make you number one in my life. As I become interested in others, may they never take your place. Guide my heart to see your love for me. Help me to always remain faithful to you so that I can live happily ever after in your presence. Thank you for loving me first! Amen.