

YOUR GUIDE TO BEING A GOOD GIRLFRIEND

7 Things Every Good Girlfriend Should Do

If you read my blog post, *7 Mistakes I Made in Dating*, you're probably aware that like everyone else on the planet, I happen to make mistakes - maybe even more so than the average person. My stubbornness, combined with my drive and the mood swings I experience while fighting Lyme Disease can sometimes negatively contribute to my relationship with my boyfriend. So, what's a girl to do when she wants to put her best foot forward but she just keeps taking steps back? Here's a short guide that includes some insight on keeping the right perspective in a dating relationship. I'm so excited to share it with you!

1 Pray for Your Boyfriend

This might seem like common sense if you truly care about your boyfriend, but how often do busy schedules and frazzled minds get in the way of active prayer for the guy you love? And, I'm not talking about just praying that your relationship will improve or that he'll want to get married soon. I'm talking about praying for his character, for him to love God more, and for him to be the man of God he was created to be. Pray for his spiritual health more than anything because if that's in order, everything else will fall into place.

2 Find Out What He Needs

Start to observe your man and notice the things in his life that he enjoys. Notice what makes him most happy and what drains him. Notice what he needs to do or experience to become most alive. You can also ask him about his needs, but keep in mind that some guys aren't as interested in talking about feelings and he may not even consciously know what he needs.

3 Give Him What He Needs

Does your boyfriend feel most alive when he is in a big group of people? Or, does he need more one-on-one time with you to feel his best? Does he like having time to play sports with his friends? Does spending more time investing in work projects make him feel accomplished? Once you have him figured out, seek to help give him what he needs so that he can be his best. If this means he needs a night with the guys, then be understanding of that. If he needs a little bit more space than you do, try to consider the fact that he may have different needs than you do.

You can avoid potential arguments if you start to notice and understand the differences in needs that you and your boyfriend have. This is especially true when you think about tendencies for socialization: big group/small group/one-on-one time needs. If you are different in this area, it's important to talk about it and then seek to support each other in getting your needs met.

4 Maintain Your Own Sense of Self

This one is important in any stage of the relationship. In dating, it can be easy to be so excited about the relationship that we consider the other person in everything we do (this is especially true for girls). We want to do life together and make plans for our future together. But, please, please, remember who you are aside from the person you are dating. If you have your own interests, keep embracing them. Remember who you are and that you have value apart from your boyfriend. It's also important to keep up relationships with friends. Even if you have a boyfriend, you still need friends to lean on. You'll probably have a healthier relationship with your boyfriend if you maintain some of the girl time you had before your guy entered the picture.

5 Speak Well of His Family and Friends

This should go without saying it, but we all need the reminder from time to time. Your boyfriend's family and friends are important to him. Do everything you can to stay at peace with the closest people in his life. When talking with your boyfriend, please try to avoid putting down the people he cares about.

6 Speak Well of Him to Others

Just like it's not a good idea to speak poorly of the people your boyfriend cares about, it's also not a good idea to put your boyfriend down when speaking with others. Most girls would agree that a little venting can seem helpful, but venting to the wrong person can be dangerous. If you need to talk with someone about a particular situation, it's important to choose someone who will guide you with the truth of God's Word to handle the situation. Just talking badly about your boyfriend to anyone who will listen will start to harbor bitterness in your heart. If you have an issue that needs to be addressed with your boyfriend, first pray about it, and then seek Godly counsel if you need it. Then speak with your boyfriend to resolve the conflict. Complaining about him will not accomplish anything good.

7 Choose to Enjoy Him

This one can actually be a lot of fun because it takes the pressure off of the relationship! Both people will benefit from shifting your mindset from being anxious about where the relationship is going to truly enjoying this season you are in. I can get so caught up in wanting marriage to happen that I don't spend nearly enough time just enjoying the good times I have with my boyfriend. If your boyfriend is truly seeking God about your relationship, then you don't have to worry. Just relax and enjoy the time you have together. (Read more about this below in the post **Some Advice for the Dating Girl**)

Other Resources on Relationships:

[7 Mistakes I Made in Dating](#)

[Why I Won't Claim That My Boyfriend is the "Best Boyfriend in the World"](#)

[Why Hasn't He Proposed Yet?](#)

[Some Advice for the Dating Girl](#)