

## Y-WoW Nation

### **Boyfriend**

*Scripture: “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Gen. 2:18 KJV).*

Teen heartthrob Justin Bieber recently released a new single titled, “Boyfriend”. In it, he implores a special young lady to give him a chance to be her boyfriend. Throughout the song, he pleads his case promising her the moon, figuratively speaking. In true bubblegum pop prose, the teen king promises to do everything for his lady love from feed her fondue by the fire to whisk her across the globe Buzz Lightyear-style. As sugary sweet as his lyrics are and for all of the young lad’s swagger, his plea presents a teachable moment. Just what should a wise young woman of God look for in a boyfriend?

Perhaps the most important thing to do before considering a mate is to take stock of yourself. It’s important to understand *who* you are, *whose* you are and *what* you are before determining who might be a suitable companion for you. With that in mind, let’s consider the answers to those questions before deciding what makes someone boyfriend material.

**Who You Are** – Just as Eve was a gift from God to Adam, you are a gift to be treasured by someone special (Gen. 2:18). You’re neither a game or toy to be played with, nor are you someone to be disrespected or abused. That being the case, know what type of behavior you will and won’t accept from a guy before you start dating.

**Whose You Are** – If you’ve accepted Christ, you are a Christian—a child of God. Make sure the leading man in your life loves and cherishes you the way that God loves and cherishes you (selflessly).

**What You Are** – You are a pearl of great price. You’re so valuable that Jesus gave His life for you. As such, any guy would be blessed to have you in his life. Make sure the guy you date recognizes your worth and treats you like the rare and precious gem that you are.

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Now that that's settled, let's get back to the original question posed by Mr. Bieber's new song. What makes a guy boyfriend material? Some of the most important attributes that your McDreamy should have include the following:

**Christian Faith** – According to 2 Cor. 6:14, God desires that Christians form relationships with other Christians. So, at a minimum, be sure your special friend meets this requirement.

**Good Character** – In addition to sharing the same faith and values, choose a mate whose character reflects that of Jesus Christ. Galatians 5:22-23 provide a great point of reference for what constitutes good character or behavior—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (self-discipline). That's a great place to start in terms of determining whether or not someone has good character. Beyond that you may want to consider the following: 1) How does he treat his mother, sister and other women in his life? If he doesn't treat them well, chances are he won't treat you well. If he doesn't love and respect them, chances are he won't love and respect you. If he's not protective of them, chances are he won't be protective of you; 2) Is he honest? If he's dishonest in his dealings with others, chances are he'll be dishonest with you as well; 3) Is he hardworking? If he doesn't work hard in school and/or on his job, chances are he's not going to go very far in life. So proceed with caution.

**Good Sense** – Unfortunately, good money and good sense don't necessarily go hand in hand as evidenced by many family-centered reality TV shows. While most of the people featured have access to wealth and resources, their behavior, real or contrived, tends to leave a bit to be desired. Not to be outdone, a good number of professional athletes also seem to suffer from a lack of good judgment despite their wealth and success. For example, in the first few months of this year alone, at least one basketball Hall of Famer and two future football Hall of Famers have all been in court due to financial woes. According to reports, former basketball star Dennis Rodman owes his ex-wife more than \$800,000 in child support and alimony. Equally disturbing, former football star Warren Sapp, who earned an estimated \$60 million during his career, has declared bankruptcy claiming \$6.7 million in debts and \$6.4 million in assets. And perhaps most disturbing of all, Terrell Owens, who earned an estimated \$80 million during his career, is currently involved in a nasty legal battle with all four of his babies' mamas because he's having trouble meeting his *monthly* child support obligations which total nearly \$50,000. Even former football super agent Leigh Steinberg, the man who inspired the title character in Tom Cruise's hit film *Jerry Maguire*, recently filed for bankruptcy protection from his creditors. He cited alcoholism as the primary reason for his downfall. As mind-boggling or maddening as those situations are, the point is that good money and good sense don't necessarily go hand in hand. So be careful about the company you keep. Make sure you exercise good judgment. And make sure that you remain a good steward of your resources in case you have to help your leading man do the same someday.

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So that's it. In a nutshell, a shared faith, good character and good sense are the *basic* qualities that a guy should possess if he wants to win your heart. Sure, other things like appearance and common interests are also to be considered. But the heart of the matter is character. When you're choosing a boyfriend, always remember *character counts*.

Be blessed.

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