

from the author of the bestselling *for women only*

shaunti feldhahn
and lisa a. rice

for young
women only

what you
need to know
about how
guys think



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and lisa a.rice

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women only



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To our precious children

From Lisa:

To Sarah and Hannah—beautiful daughters and delightful friends, and Brandon—a great young man in training.

From Shaunti:

To a wonderful young lady and little laddie, who in a few short years will grow into a strong and godly young woman and man.

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Chapter 1

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THESE GUYS THINKING?

Have you ever wondered what the guys you hang out with are really thinking and feeling? Has your boyfriend ever completely shut down on you, leaving you wondering why a totally minor incident ticked him off so much? Do you ever find yourself wishing that the cute but untalkative guy in class would open up a bit more?

Would it matter if you understood the unique way guys are wired?

Whether you're reading this book for fun, curiosity, or out of desperation to understand guys, we believe you will come away with a brand-new perspective on how guys think that will affect your life in high school, college, and beyond.

SIX INSIGHTS

This chart shows the six insights the book is going to cover. These six “surprises” help us move past our surface understanding (what we assume about guys) and take us inside to what these guys are really feeling at their core.

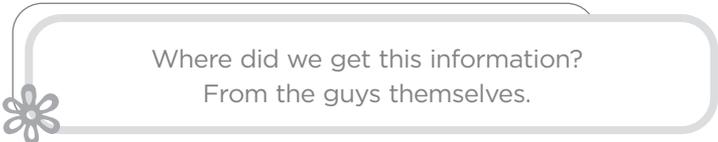
Our Surface Understanding:	What That Means in Practice:
Guys need respect.	Guys would rather feel unloved than inadequate and disrespected.
Guys are insecure.	Although guys look confident—even cocky at times—they are often insecure in themselves. They worry that they will be found out, and therefore are drawn to girls who help them feel like they measure up.
Guys are tough and indestructible.	Guys look indestructible, but on the inside their hearts are tender; easily hurt, and strongly guarded. However, they will let down their defenses when they know their heart will be safe with a girl.
Guys are visual.	Even decent guys in great dating relationships struggle with the desire to visually linger on and fantasize about the female body—and much of that struggle depends on what a girl is wearing.
Guys are all out for one thing.	Teenage guys are conflicted by their powerful physical desires, which also have massive emotional consequences. Guys need your help to protect both of you.
Guys go after the hot girls.	Guys are attracted to girls with a good personality as well as inner and outer beauty, but they can't force a physical attraction.

So where did we get this information?

The short answer: from the guys themselves.

The longer answer: In 2004, Shaunti wrote a book called *For Women Only: What You Need to Know About the Inner Lives of Men*. That little book explained a bunch of things that women just tend not to “get” about men, and it became a bestseller. It’s been talked about on TV and radio, and Shaunti has had speaking engagements about it all across the country.

People started asking Shaunti for a follow-up book that would teach the same concepts, but in a way that would better relate to you as teenagers. They wanted answers to the question: What don’t young women already know about guys that they really need to know?



Where did we get this information?
From the guys themselves.

We figured this need was a no-brainer. What teenage girl wouldn’t *love* to have some previously undiscovered insight into what guys are really thinking and feeling?

So we began our research—and discovered that getting teenage guys to honestly share their deepest needs and fears wasn’t easy. We eventually hit on the right formula, and held lots of confidential meetings (focus groups) with groups

of teen- and college-age males—and conducted informal interviews with guys everywhere. We also did a ton of test surveys, stopping guys in malls, in coffee shops, and on the street. When we promised the guys that their names would never be revealed, many of them overcame their usual fear of baring their souls. And, wow, did we learn some fascinating things!

The survey

We hired several experts to help us test whether everything we'd been learning by just talking to guys was true. They helped us design and conduct a scientific survey of four hundred guys from all over the country who were between the ages of fifteen and twenty to see how they *really* thought and felt about a bunch of different things.*

For Young Women Only is all about the guys' fascinating answers from that survey and all those interviews. Because it's a short book, instead of trying to cover everything, we are focusing on things that girls tend not to “get” about guys. We've divided our findings into the six insights on the chart, all of which are backed up by statistical evidence. Each chapter of the book will cover one of those six insights. We think you'll be amazed by some of the surprises, just like we were.

* The survey polled 404 guys ages fifteen through twenty, with roughly even numbers in each age bracket. The survey was completed only by guys who were living within the United States, and (because this is a book about relationships with girls) who were heterosexual.

Two for the price of one

Occasionally we also include some survey results or quotes from *For Women Only (FWO)*. That survey included men all over the country from ages twenty-one to seventy-five and was followed up with informal interviews of many more. We've included a little of that information because sometimes it helps to see what guys will be like a few years down the road. So really, you're getting the benefit of two surveys and two books for the price of one!



When we promised guys their names would never be revealed, we learned some fascinating things!

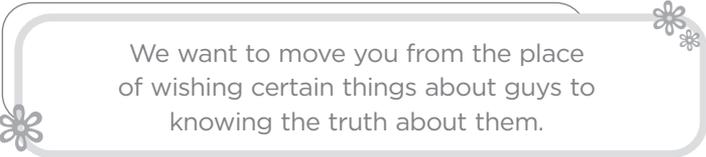
Hearing it from the horse's mouth

The best and most important part of hearing the truth about guys *from* guys is that it helps us really know and believe it's true.

In this book we want to move you from the place of *wishing* certain things about guys to *knowing the truth* about them—right from their own mouths. And when you know the truth, you will have the opportunity to make better, smarter decisions about how you interact with the guys you know. Hopefully, those new choices will help you as you relate to your guy friends, boyfriend, and even family members.

Your guides to the male brain

So who are we? There are actually two people writing this book. There's Shaunti, who wrote *For Women Only*. For that book, Shaunti did tons of research and data gathering about men that no one had done before. Turns out, her Harvard graduate degree and years as a Wall Street analyst helped pave the way for these well-researched books!



We want to move you from the place of wishing certain things about guys to knowing the truth about them.

Then there's Lisa, a screenwriter, author, and editor for several magazines and books. Along with her writing expertise, Lisa brings her practical experience of raising teenagers. Her daughters, Sarah and Hannah, have helped her tremendously, including rolling their eyes and editing out any hopelessly "uncool" things they read in the first draft.

Neither of us is a counselor, so we have drawn on the expertise of counselors, youth workers, pastors, and others who work with and understand teens. The best experts in this book, however, are the hundreds of guys your age. We hope they will make you laugh while teaching you a lot about what it means to be a guy.

BEFORE WE START: GROUND RULES

Before you turn the page and get a look at the inner lives of guys, here are some ground rules:

- 1 First, you may have noticed that the media often makes fun of guys and stereotypes them. We won't be doing that here. We honor the guys who shared their hearts with us, and believe that you will really appreciate their insight.
- 2 Second, this is not an equal treatment of male-female differences. We don't deal at all with how guys can or should relate to *you*. Yes, girls obviously also have needs, and many of the truths discussed in these pages apply to you too. But since the theme is the inner lives of *guys* and our space is limited, we're focusing entirely on how girls relate to guys, not the other way around.
- 3 Third, remember that there are always exceptions to every rule. When we say that "most guys" appear to think a certain way, realize that "most" means exactly that—most, not all. Since we have limited space in these pages, go to www.foryoungwomenonly.com to explore more resources, read the entire survey, or join the discussion on these issues.

4 Fourth, we're talking about what is *normal* inside guys, not necessarily what is *right or wrong* about their outward behavior. We want you to understand their thoughts and feelings, even when we may not agree with their actions.

5 Fifth, we need to warn you that some of the enclosed insight may be hard to hear. In all honesty, we were tempted to exclude certain points. But we realized that we were hearing important things that the guys themselves often can't say directly to the girls they know. So we decided to trust you with this information. If anything is distressing to hear, please don't wrestle with it alone. Please pray about it and talk about it with an older woman you can trust.

 We're talking about what is normal inside guys, not necessarily what is right or wrong about their outward behavior.

6 Finally, as we discuss these findings, from time to time we'll be looking at the results from a faith perspective, especially when there are noticeable differences between the answers of guys who say they don't have any particular religious beliefs, and

those who do. The nationally representative survey included all types of guys, regardless of their personal beliefs, and we think this information will be helpful even if you look at life and faith differently than we do. But we believe that adding the faith perspective is also valuable as we consider what to do with all this new information.

By letting you in on the guys' secrets, we hope you will take it as an opportunity not just to learn fascinating new things, but also to practice new ways of relating. Not only can you become a much better girlfriend (or a much more attractive prospect!), but it's a lot easier to learn good habits now in your teen relationships, so you don't have to break bad habits later when you are married!

In other words, the point of learning this new information is not to change the guys in our lives, but to change and improve *ourselves*.

So, sit back and relax—and maybe fasten your seat belt!—as we take you on a journey into the inner lives of guys.



Chapter 2



YOUR LOVE IS NOT ENOUGH

You Mean He Wants
My Respect More Than My Love?



*Guys would rather feel alone and unloved
than inadequate and disrespected.*

In the middle of writing this book, I (Lisa) was babysitting Shaunti's young children, who were spellbound by the movie *The Incredibles*. The villain—Syndrome—becomes a cruel bad guy just because he wants respect and hasn't gotten it. His whole life is about getting revenge, simply because, as a boy, he was brushed off and not respected.

Not long after watching that movie, I went to a semi-final state football game between rival high schools in our area. Among the wild, noisy fans, I noticed one guy's team T-shirt. It said, "Loved by few...hated by many...respected by all...The Brookwood Broncos."

There was that word again...*respect*. Clearly, for this football fan, it wasn't about being loved, and it was even okay to be hated...but boy, he wanted that respect! What is it about respect that's so important to a guy?



It wasn't about being loved, and it was even okay to be hated...but boy, he wanted that respect!

More important, could it be true in the real world (beyond movies and sports) that respect carries so much weight? We discovered that the answer is *yes*—and that this one fact creates a bunch of ideas for you to think about, as a girl...and down the road, as a woman.

RESPECT VERSUS LOVE

Just after college, I (Shaunti) watched something amazing unfold at a singles' retreat. For the very first session, the retreat speaker divided the room in half and placed the guys on one side, and the girls on the other. "I'm going to ask you to choose between two bad things," he said. "If you had to choose, would you rather feel alone and unloved in the world or would you rather feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone?"

I remember thinking, *What kind of choice is that? Who would ever choose to feel unloved?*

The speaker then turned to the guys' side of the room. "Okay, men. Who here would rather feel alone and unloved?"

A sea of hands went up, and a giant gasp rippled across the girls' side of the room.



What is it about respect that's so important to a guy?

He asked which guys would rather feel disrespected, and the girls watched in bewilderment as only a few guys lifted their hands.

Then it was our turn to answer and the guys' turn to be shocked when most of the girls indicated that if they had to, they'd rather feel inadequate than unloved.

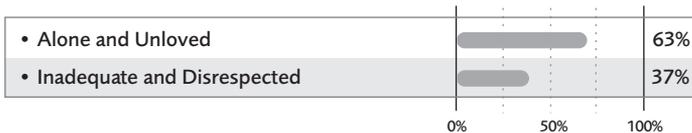
WHAT IT MEANS

While it may seem odd to most of us, the male need for respect and affirmation—especially from the main girl in his life—is even more important than love. The survey indicated that *two out of three guys* agreed that they'd prefer to be unloved—just don't make them feel inadequate! And the importance of respect only increases as the guys grow into men.

Take a look at the survey results.

SURVEY SAYS:

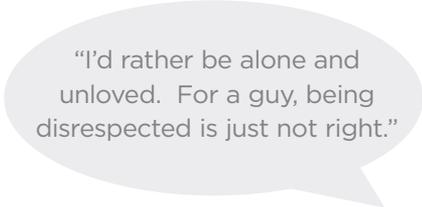
Think about what these two negative experiences would be like: to feel alone and unloved in the world OR to feel inadequate and disrespected by everyone. If you were forced to choose one, which would you prefer? Would you rather feel...?



This need for respect actually becomes stronger as the guys get older—74 percent of the adult men in the *For Women Only* survey valued respect more than love. Look at these comments teen guys made about that survey question:

- “I’d rather be alone and unloved. For a guy, being disrespected is just not right. *I’d rather be by myself than have someone disrespect me.*”
- “Most guys—teens through young twenties—would rather feel respected than loved. Respect makes us feel adequate in every part of our lives, whereas with love...well, we have our whole lives to find that special person to love.”

We girls, on the other hand, tend to be more motivated by and tuned in to love over respect—and we’re often better at showing love than showing respect. Have you ever done something to make a guy feel loved and been disappointed by his response? Maybe without knowing it you were also making the guy feel disrespected. (And that, by the way, automatically makes guys feel unloved, too.) If you want to love your guy in the way *he* needs to be loved, you need to make sure that he feels your respect most of all.



“I’d rather be alone and unloved. For a guy, being disrespected is just not right.”

HIS BRAIN IS ON YOU!

During our focus groups, we heard over and over that guys spend most of their time trying to get *your* attention and respect! The people around him—most especially you, as a girl—are almost like a mirror. He’s looking to you in the hope of seeing something respectable about himself, something that will make him feel strong and trustworthy.

During one focus group, the guys were asked, “What percentage of your waking hours is spent trying to impress girls?”

It took a half-second for one guy to respond: “About a hundred.” Another admitted that everything he did—from the way he dressed to the car he purchased to the job he took—involved a consideration of what a girl would think about it. Would she approve and think it was a good choice? Would she respect him because of it, or would it cause her to think less of him?

As he talked, all the other guys around the circle were nodding in forceful agreement. I (Lisa) was sitting in this group and had to work to keep the surprise out of my face. If you’re anything like me, you may not have realized just *how* important it is to guys to have the respect of the girls they care about—or how painful it is when they don’t feel they have it. In fact, if they sense they are not respected, they’ll be looking for the door. One college guy told us:

When a girl respects you, it makes you wake up and say, “I can do better than this other girl I’m dating, who doesn’t seem to feel the same way.” If girls around you are treating you with respect but you’re not getting it from your own girlfriend, a lightbulb goes on.

If respect really is their highest need, it makes perfect sense that they will gravitate toward girls who make them feel that way—and run from those who don’t.

A disrespect-o-meter

Here's the problem: In our focus groups, guys clearly believed that girls *know* when they're disrespecting them. But even long-married women—much less teenage girls—often really *don't* realize that that is what they are communicating!

In fact, most of us probably *do* respect the guys closest to us, but we don't realize when our words or actions are saying the opposite. However we sure do get blindsided by the results! For example, have you ever been totally confused at why a guy got upset during a conversation?

 If they sense they are not respected, they'll be looking for the door.

Many guys have a tough time expressing their feelings, and so they can't always explain *why* they are upset. But thankfully, there is a way to know when we've crossed the disrespect line: Watch for *anger*.

Consider this: If you are in an emotional fight or conflict with the most important guy in your life, do you think it is okay for you to cry? Most of us would probably answer yes. Now consider this: In that same conflict, do you think it's okay for the guy to get really angry? Most of us have a problem with that—we think he's out of line.

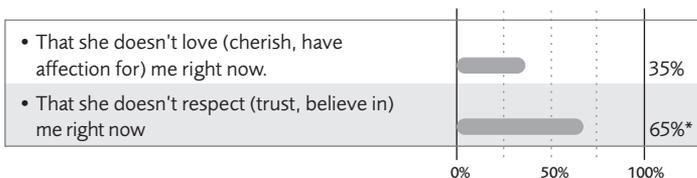
But Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, founder of Love and Respect Ministries, has a different view: “In a relationship conflict, crying is often a woman’s response to feeling unloved, and anger is often a man’s response to feeling disrespected.”

Most guys won’t blurt out something like “You’re disrespecting me!” in the heat of the moment. But rest assured, if he’s angry at something you’ve said or done and you don’t know why, there is a good chance that he is feeling the pain or humiliation of your disrespect.

In the survey, two-thirds of the teenage guys who described themselves as being in longer-term relationships said that in a conflict they were most likely to be feeling disrespected. We girls are far more likely to be wailing, “He doesn’t love me!”

SURVEY SAYS:

In the middle of a conflict with a girl, I am more likely to be feeling...



(*Among guys who are in committed or longer-term relationships. Even including guys not in a relationship, the overall average of those answering “she doesn’t respect me” was still 57%.)

In the *FWO* survey, the percentage of men saying they'd probably be feeling a lack of respect shot up to 81 percent.



If he is angry, he may be feeling the pain of your disrespect.

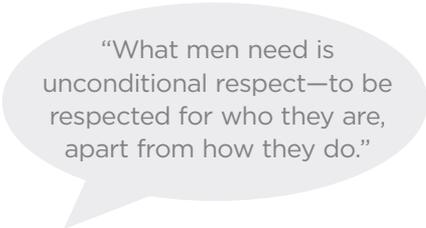
Unconditional respect

Do you think you can't or shouldn't respect a guy until he's earned it? That's a common assumption. But think about this: If you are in a serious relationship with a guy, don't you want him to love you unconditionally, even when you're not being particularly lovable? Well, guys feel the same way about respect. They know that they will make mistakes in life, and they are really hoping and looking for someone who will demonstrate that she respects them, regardless of whether they're meeting her expectations at the moment.

"We've become such a love-dominated culture," Dr. Eggerichs says. "Like the Beatles said, 'All you need is love.' So we've come to think that love should be unconditional, but respect must be earned. Instead, what men need is *unconditional respect*—to be respected for who they are, apart from how they do."

If you, as a young woman, learn how to treat guys with

respect right now, these attitudes and habits will carry over into your marriage one day. In a famous Bible passage on marriage, Ephesians 5 never tells the wife to love her husband, and it never tells the husband to respect his wife. That's probably because we each already tend to give what we want to receive. Instead, over and over, it urges the husband to *love* his wife and urges the wife to *respect* her husband.



“What men need is unconditional respect—to be respected for who they are, apart from how they do.”

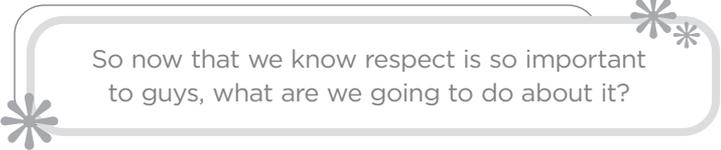
Thinking ahead

Obviously, there is a difference between marriage and dating. There's also a difference between being in a committed boyfriend-girlfriend relationship and being “just friends.” When we talk about learning to unconditionally show respect, it is with an eye toward the context of Ephesians 5, which is not dating, but *marriage*.

The applications of this truth change as a relationship becomes more committed. We are *not*, for example, suggesting that you “demonstrate respect” by brushing aside obvious concerns about a guy's character in order to date someone

you might not be able to trust. We *do* believe that when you read this book—just like most of the adult women who read *For Women Only*—you will discover that you have a lot of room to grow and learn about how to care for and respect the guys in your life.

So now that we know respect is so important to guys, and that they think we already understand exactly what we are doing in the area of respect, what are we going to do about it?



So now that we know respect is so important to guys, what are we going to do about it?

WHAT DOES RESPECT LOOK LIKE TO A GUY?

In the movie *A Walk to Remember*, the aimless, moody, reckless Landon Carter's (Shane West) life changes when he's forced to do a school play and draw on the help of the serious, conservative preacher's daughter, Jamie (Mandy Moore). Although Jamie has a lot of intense and hidden things happening in her own life, she shows that she is unique among all the girls by encouraging Landon to follow his passions. Her encouragement eventually draws him out of his shell and into life.

At the beginning of the story, after Landon has made an immature, costly decision, it just takes one look from Jamie to shame him and challenge him to change. At the end, when Landon makes a selfless decision, the look on Jamie's face says how proud she is of him. She challenges him and makes him feel he can conquer his demons and become the man he was intended to be.

I hope you are getting a sense of what *power* girls have in the lives of guys. God has given each of us the ability to either tear a guy down or build him up. Assuming that we want to use this gift wisely—never for selfish gain—how do we actually *do* it?

In the *FWO* survey, we were amazed at how important it was to men that the women in their lives respected them in several different ways, including respecting their judgment and abilities. But in relationships between young people, there are three areas that are most important. And they all have to do with communication. Sometimes it's even a matter of what we *don't* say.

1. What we say in front of others

Do you ever tease a guy in front of your friends? Or jokingly put him down in a group setting? Would you believe that can be torture for him? One teenager said:

Girls don't realize how easily they can embarrass us. And when you're embarrassed, you don't want to say anything. Honestly, I get mad; I just don't show it. But as soon as we're in private, I say, "Why did you do that? Couldn't you wait until another time?" And it's worse if it's in front of her friends because they'll all talk about it later. It's terrible. I'm thinking, *Do other girls that don't even know me also think that?*

Good-natured teasing is a light example, but there is actually a pretty serious epidemic of public disrespect for men. It starts with the way they are portrayed in television, movies, and other media, but it doesn't end there. Dozens of guys shared how painful it was to be criticized by girls in public, to have their judgment questioned in front of others.

One guy said, "The male ego is the most fragile thing on the planet. Women have this thought that *He's got such a huge ego that I need to take him down a peg*. No way. The male ego is incredibly fragile."

A twenty-year-old single guy said:

If another guy tries to knock you down a peg, you have fallbacks. You can say, "Well, I'm smarter, I can whip your tail, I've got a better car..." But when

a girl puts you down, you don't really have come-backs. You don't think about how you're better than girls, so when a girl does that, it's devastating. There's no notch to go to unless you get nasty, and you don't want to do that with a girl. You just get angry, instead.

Females often think of this as male pride—but that isn't it. What is at stake isn't his pride as much as his secret feelings of inadequacy as a guy. There's a big difference between feeling prideful and feeling adequate.

* There's a big difference between
feeling prideful and feeling adequate.

2. How we say it

Some things just push a guy's buttons. Often, it's not *that* we say something, but *how* we say it. In our interviews, a lot of guys said something like this: "When a girl says something disrespectful, I often think, *I can't believe she doesn't know how that makes me feel!*" We had to reassure these guys over and over that the girls probably didn't *mean* to disrespect them and were likely just clueless.

So what are the guys hearing?

Hearing disrespect

One of the older guys we interviewed, who had just graduated and started life in the working world, described how women are often viewed in the automotive industry—simply because of how they phrase their requests or “suggestions”:

In the man world if you want to get something done—repaired, printed, built—if you will respect the man and be polite, everything will open up for you. If a woman says to a mechanic, “I have a few questions, but I trust your judgment; you’re the best and that’s why I brought you my car,” her chances of being cheated drop dramatically. But, if she comes in with a “princess-diva-I expect bad things” attitude and makes a bunch of demands, everything will suddenly get very expensive and go in slow motion.

In the above situation, I’m guessing the “diva” was just trying to be assertive about what she wanted so she didn’t get taken. However, because she was dealing with *guys*, she didn’t realize that she needed to intentionally express her confidence in the man while making her requests. The guy took it as a disrespectful demand—and no doubt, he took his sweet time on her car.

Hearing disappointment

Many males read something negative into even a simple female reminder or question.

One high schooler said that when his female class-project partner asked him, “Have you not started the PowerPoint presentation yet?” he found himself getting angry—even though she didn’t ask it in an accusing tone. He said, “After all, I told her I would do it. The deadline was still days away and I felt like she had no trust that I would find a way to get it done. She should know I’m not an idiot. She didn’t need to act all suspicious and disappointed.”

Now remember, girls, all she’d asked was, “Have you not started the presentation yet?” Was she suspicious and disappointed? I doubt it, but that is what he heard in her question! Again, it wasn’t what she was saying—he had no problem with her checking up on a joint project—but *how* she was saying it.

One guy put it this way:

You have to realize: Guys have a built-in desire to save the damsel in distress. They don’t want to be used, but most men will go out of their way for a lady.... We’ll change your flat in a blinding snow-storm, and we’ll carry furniture upstairs in 95 percent humidity if you ask nicely. A woman of any

age can ask a guy age twelve to age ninety-nine, and if they ask nicely, the guy will melt. But if she doesn't act grateful and respectful, we've lost our motivation.

Wow! Guys are in agreement on this one. They say that even if a girl has a knowledge of what's wrong, or needs to make a suggestion, if she's careful and polite in the way she presents it, she'll get a lot farther with her goals. For example, "How's the PowerPoint project coming along?" assumes that he's doing it and makes it easier for him to say honestly where he is.

3. Respecting his opinion

A guy deeply needs the girls in his life—especially a potential or actual girlfriend—to respect his opinions and decisions. No one wants a girl to pretend to be clueless, but many guys wish their girlfriends wouldn't question their knowledge or argue with their decisions all the time. Look at these comments from teen guys:

- "I dated a girl who nagged me and questioned me constantly... 'You never do this,' 'You never take me out,' 'Why did you buy this old Honda?' She just ragged on me all the time. But she didn't realize that finances were already a huge burden for me.

When she slammed me with questions and expectations like that, I felt so inadequate. And that is just a terrible feeling for any guy.”

- “To a certain point, I don’t mind being questioned—because if a girl questions the way I do things, as long as she sees why I did it, she can trust me next time. But then when the next time comes and if she still can’t trust me, and it’s a pattern, it’s not worth my time to be questioned over and over again. It all plays back into taking my word for it...respecting that my decisions will be for the ultimate good.”

Several guys confessed that they felt like their opinions and decisions were actively valued in every area of their lives *except* with the girl they most wanted that from! Some guys felt that their buddies at school or work trusted their judgment more than their girlfriends did. Some felt that their girlfriend was even ordering them around—something that didn’t even happen with their parents, or their boss!

Because we females are created differently, we often don’t understand that something that seems minor to us can actually be a big deal to a guy. A guy might think of it like this: “If she doesn’t trust me in this small thing, she sure wouldn’t trust me in anything big—so she probably doesn’t really trust me at all.”

SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Girls, you hold incredible power—and responsibility—on this issue. You can either strengthen guys or tear them down in ways that go far beyond your relationship with them. Every area of a guy's life is affected by whether or not he gets respect from the people he cares about. A guy's inner feelings of personal adequacy are the foundation for how he approaches the world. That's why guys are so drawn to girls who they can tell honestly respect and admire them. Those are the girls, the guys told us, that they are far more likely to be interested in.



God has given each of us the ability to either tear a guy down or build him up.

So what should we do? As one guy put it, “Always assume the best and you will find it easier to show respect.” Simple as it sounds, choose to demonstrate respect and choose *not* to demonstrate disrespect.

We can choose to demonstrate—by words and actions—how proud we are of our guys and how much we trust them. Just as we love to hear “I love you,” a guy's heart is powerfully touched by a few simple words: “I'm so proud of you” and “I trust you.” And when we realize that we've blown it, we can acknowledge our fault and ask for

forgiveness. The guys recommended saying something like, “I’m sorry I did that—that sounded disrespectful. I know I can trust you.”



“Always assume the best and you will find it easier to show respect.”

It’s only going to get more important...

Girls, we hope you will keep in mind that over the next few years, the guys you know will increasingly value respect over love. Most of all, they will want to feel respected by the woman who will be their wife. One of the men from the *FWO* survey said:

You know that saying “Behind every good man is a great woman?” Well, that is *so true*. If his wife is supportive and believes in him, he can conquer the world—or at least his little corner of it. He will do better at work, at home, everywhere. By contrast, very few men can do well at work *or* at home if their wives make them feel inadequate.

As you learn, think

As you learn, remember that earlier word of caution. Yes, learn respectful patterns of relating to guys, but don't put your own brain into neutral while you do it.

The guys around you have a growing need to feel that you trust them, but they are also *growing* in trustworthiness—and the Bible only discusses that full and unconditional respect in the context of marriage. So in any casual or dating relationship, you need to be discerning. Be thoughtful...and careful! As you now have glimpsed, inside their confident exterior many guys are very vulnerable and even insecure. That is the subject of the next chapter.