

#4

...you keep yourself involved with a Christian fellowship on and off campus.

“See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. **But encourage one another daily**, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” (Hebrews 3: 12,13)

“And let us **consider how we may spur one another on** toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24,25)



In addition to being part of a local fellowship of mature believers, a church in the college community, and campus Christian group (e.g. Campus Crusade, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Reformed University Fellowship, etc.), identify at least one brother or sister in Christ who will meet with you and help you remain accountable to the Lord in your choices and spiritual walk.

#5

...you plan to read at least one book a year on contemporary Christian issues or contemporary apologetics.

Paul urged believers to share the gospel and to maintain biblical ethics in their contemporary culture. He challenged them to be proactive “You are the salt of the earth...let your light shine that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

“Always **be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” (1 Peter 3:15,16)

Each year, commit yourself to learning one new way to share your faith and defend it credibly. “The Christian is above all a thinking person.” (Attributed to Christian apologist

Other brochures in the **College Readiness Series** include,

#1 *You’re ready to make a final college choice when...*

#2 *You’re ready for the scholarship search when...*

#3 *You’re ready for the college visit when...*

#4 *You’re ready for the spiritual challenges of college when...*

#5 *You’re ready to make a decision in harmony with the will of God when...*

You’re ready to guard against being spiritually seduced in college when...

Five ways to insure that you are not among the 50+% of professing Christian students in college who turn away from their faith or among those who are lulled into spiritual complacency



DC Guidance

College Readiness Series, #6

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

Proverbs 4:23

You “guard your heart” when...

#1

...you admit to yourself that others can influence you.

The Bible speaks of this vulnerability when it asserts that even believers are able to be

- Trapped and taken captive by the devil (2 Timothy 2:26)
- Ensnared and “led astray” by their own folly.” (Proverbs 5:22,23)

- “Blinded” by the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

- Deceived and taken captive by “hollow and deceptive philosophy...” (Colossians 2:4,8)

- Led astray from the path of understanding (Proverbs 21:16)



#2

...you keep yourself in the Word with a teachable spirit.

Solomon, the wisest man in the world, next to Christ, was, nevertheless, seduced into a life that he later wrote about as despairingly “meaningless.” (Ecclesiastes 1:2 and 30 other places in the book.)

He gives us a look into his personal life of futility and brokenness and the cause of his defection from a wise, godly life when he writes:



“Stop listening to instruction... and you will stray from the words of knowledge.” (Proverbs 19:27)

One does not have to become attached to cyber porn, be an active party goer, drug or alcohol abuser, or engage in sexual immorality for this seduction to occur. Those things will be destructive, to be sure.

But Solomon’s counsel in Proverbs 19:27 is that all one has to do is *nothing!* Just “stop” exposing yourself to the wise counsel of God in his Word and you place yourself at spiritual risk.

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard from the Word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17) Thin out or shut off your interaction with the Word and your faith will shrivel. Continue to feed on the word and you will grow. “...crave pure spiri-

tual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation...” (1 Peter 2:2)

#3

...you declare your spiritual values openly with grace and clarity.

Peter notes that believers who live for the will of God, not for evil human desires, “...doing what pagans choose to do...”, attract their unbelieving friends’ attention.

“They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation (excess), and they heap abuse on you.” (1 Peter 4:2,4)

“For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.” (1 Peter 2:15)

In addition to getting their attention, being “upfront” about your relationship to Christ puts *you* on your guard against living as a hypocrite.

The world can spot hypocrisy quickly and is often willing to confront it aggressively. Just knowing this can be a great safeguard for the Christian who wants his testimony to be strong among the lost.

