AN OPEN LETTER TO GIRLS
By Mrs. Paul E. King

The light burns softly-warm as I sit here writing to you-all of you wonderful and lovely young women out there. Some of you I know, others I don't. Little matter, this; you are important to me. It is your importance and your priceless value to God, to your parents, and to me, that is the compelling factor behind this letter.
Outside my window I hear the distant rumble of thunder and the now-light drizzle of rain, all the aftermath, reminder, and remainder of the storm just past.

I wish it were possible for us to be together -- every one of you, and myself -- sequestered somewhere in a quiet, forested woods away from the noise and clutter and hubbub of the world; away from distracting interruptions and the call and lure of things less important than those which I feel constrained to "talk" to you about.

First, let me tell you that I value your youth. It is one of the most wonderful and exciting times ever in your growing up years. But it can also be one of the most frustrating and devastating times, or periods, of your life. It all depends upon you and how you "treat" these beautiful days of youth. I know; I was there. I came through that wonderfully-happy, carefree, "dreamy" time and period of life. Oh, it was wonderful. I was saved and sanctified wholly: I "handled" those years prayerfully, enjoying them to their fullest and drawing from them strengths and lessons of wisdom and understanding. You can do the same. But you will recall that I said I "handled" them prayerfully!

In this lovely, God-ordained period of your life, you are like a beautiful flower just unfolding, or like a breathtaking song just beginning. God made you pure and spotlessly clean, endowing you with a gift of such value that the writer of Proverbs 131:10) declares the value of this gift -- a virtuous woman -- to be far above rubies. Think of it; far above rubies! Now, a ruby is "a highly valued precious stone, varying in color from carmine red to deep crimson" (Dictionary). So this being the case, and since you know now what a ruby is, isn't it a truly wonderful thing to know that this very priceless gift which God has given you exceeds, and is "far above," the highly valued and precious stone! Think of it! And it's yours!

As with any precious stone or jewel, the owner guards and protects his priceless gem, knowing that there are those who would, if possible, steal or take what is rightfully his. He is cautious therefore, and careful, yea, even watchful, with whom he associates and keeps company, aware of the fact that many would feign friendship with only one desire in mind -- that they might gain access to and take away that very valuable and priceless gem.

Guard that God-given "gem" which is yours. Don't trifle. Trifling can be serious where this is concerned.
You will be dating boys. This is natural. God created you so there is an attraction to the opposite sex; dating is both normal and exciting. Guard your words, your "body language" and your actions.

Words are such wonderful things when and if used rightly and properly -- I'm talking about morality now, are you following me? Don't talk or speak suggestively. (See what I mean?) You have tremendous power over the young man you are dating. Don't say anything -- not anything! -- that might give him wrong ideas. If you will pray sincerely, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14), you will receive the strength and the power for which you are praying and asking. So be careful with your words.

Now, your "body language" Much is being said about this today so I feel I should "speak" to you about it. How do you carry yourself? I mean, do you walk or stand or sit or dress in such a way that your date just can't help but get ideas? I suppose you think that for sure I'm meddling now. And maybe it is considered as such. But honestly, if you could see the inside of my heart, and if you could feel my great concern over you and how the rest of your life will be after reading this, I know you'd realize that everything in this little missive to you is coming, not from a meddlesome heart but from a heart that cares about you and your happiness. Out there in the future especially.

Today's carelessness and today's trifling can mar and ruin forever tomorrow's happiness. I don't want that for you. So be careful about this thing called "body language" and never dress, walk, sit or stand in a suggestive, seductive manner. Always, there is One who "sees all we do!" (Remember that little song you used to sing when you were small?)

Then your actions. How do you act? Especially when you and your date are alone, where you think no one sees you. Actions betray one's desires. Did you know that? How do you behave around that special somebody? Do your hands "wander"? And is it hard for that special fellow to drive safely because you are all but sitting on his lap? Actions! Remember what I wrote a couple -- or few -- lines up, how, that, actions betray one's desires? Think about this, will you, please? I was taught by a wonderfully caring mother that we, the female gender and sex, pretty much determine what happens or doesn't happen when we are alone with our date. And she didn't just stop
with that statement, laced with a subtle warning regarding our behavior, but she said, too, that if we caused the boy to sin in either thought or deed we would be held accountable to God for his sin. That's heavy stuff, you say. But it's all true. Actions. Be careful of yours!

You have within you to either lead a boy into temptation and sin or to keep him on the right track. And if, after you have behaved yourself properly in every respect, your date, either by word or action, suggests going beyond God's moral code of "Keep thyself pure," drop that boy. Don't date him; not ever again. His actions have betrayed his desires. And his desires are unholy. He will rob you of your "far above rubies" value and, as in almost all cases, if not all, he will despise and hate you afterward.

Don't allow any boy (or man) to "cheapen" your value -- your worth. Remember, the scriptural injunction is for you to "keep thyself pure." You must do this. And, with God's help and by your carefulness in your deportment and with the boundary lines clearly defined and drawn by you for your date, you can fulfill and accomplish this injunction. And, on your wedding day, you can present to your husband God's priceless gift, still "far above rubies," a beautiful and lovely bride, chaste, pure and clean.

Statistics prove that those who go beyond God's moral code of ethics before marriage have a far greater divorce rate than the men and women who have kept themselves clean and pure and have entered into the marriage contract in a state of sexual cleanness and purity. Again I admonish you, "Keep thyself pure."

Please, dear, dear girls, don't follow a multitude to do evil! In today's world -- today's environment -- you are being bombarded and told from almost every side that there are no absolutes; that you can do anything you want to do. In fact, the news media, the television, and many so-called good people are urging you to get out and "do your own thing" Beware of this philosophy! It has its origin from Satan. It is exceedingly wicked and extremely dangerous. If you obey and heed that admonition you will make your eternal abode in a devil's hell and a Christless eternity, unless you repent, confess and forsake this evil way. This is why it is so important that you be a student of God's changeless and unchanging eternal Word, the Bible. Read your Bible. Study your Bible. Search the scripture; in it you will find the answers to all your questions and the solutions to all your problems. You will learn how to live and how to conduct yourself and it will prepare you
for death and for life after death. Read your Bible. Don't heed the call of the day's modern siren to "do your own thing" Please, I warn you, don't!

In summarization, or "capsule form." I would say simply, Live for Christ. "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). Pray always. About everything -- your date; what you should wear; for Him to keep your words, your "body language" and your actions all pleasing and glorifying to Him. If you will do this, I promise you that He who endowed you with that priceless "far above rubies" gift will be there to help you keep yourself pure.

It will be easy for you to draw that beautiful and safety boundary line that tells your date with unspoken words, "Thus far shalt thou approach but no farther." And if he is a truly saved and sanctified Christian young man he will admire you and respect you. And who knows, he may someday become your husband. It has happened to others. Ah, yes, it has. How well I know. And it can happen for you. Then -- then -- you will thank God, and this letter will have accomplished the purpose for which it was intended.

God bless you all! You can make it to Heaven if you desire to. I'm counting on you!

Prayerfully yours --
Your Editor