

## IF . . .

If you can stay a virgin, while all about you,  
Others toy with sex, and play that game without you;  
If tempted just as friends are on the campus scene,  
You don't give in, but keep your heart and body clean;  
If you can listen through the cry for lustful love  
And heed the voice of Him who fashioned sex above;  
If you can see past shapely form or face or fame  
And learn to treat the other gender each the same;  
If you can "just be friends" on every single date,  
Remaining pure and loyal for your future mate;  
If you can find "that one," but wait to go to bed,  
Until your vows are made and you are truly wed;  
If, in that sweet embrace of married love, you find  
A bitter taste, but keep your words and actions kind;  
If, when the new wears off and other eyes attract,  
You're wise enough to stay within your wedding pact;  
Of if you fall in love with someone else so deep,  
But won't betray that partner-friend with whom you sleep;  
If romance seems to cool, and health and beauties fade,  
Yet you stay faithful in the promises you've made;  
If you keep channels open, always talk and share,  
And dig for treasures in the heart for whom you care;  
If, through your years together, you can learn to pray  
And face your storms and trials side by side each day;  
And if by self-denying love you guard that spouse  
And change your dwelling to a home, not just a house;  
Then yours, my friend, is victory in the sexual quest,  
And what is more, you will have marriage at its best!

— *David L. Hatton, 2/25/1987*