

## I TOLD MY SPONSOR

*(Then my Sponsor Told Me!)*

Well regarding marriages, girlfriends, and such, I heard a speaker at the Rogue Roundup in Grants Pass, OR one year that gave me a whole new perspective on it. As he was speaking he started talking about his marriage in the program of AA and his sponsor. Here's the gist of what he said:

"I told my sponsor that I was going to move in with this girl." He responded with "What? You are not!"

And I said "we love each other and we're going to move in together."

His sponsor replied, "why you hardly know that woman"

I said to him "I know her well enough and we wish to live together."

His sponsor ordered "No you don't know her well enough. Listen you are a long time member of Alcoholics Anonymous. You're seventeen years sober and many people look up to you.

What I want you to do is to start dating other women. Date several of them for three months.

Take

them to dinner, the movies, etc. as well as this girl. After three months we'll talk about this."

So the fellow said that he did that and then he went to speak with his sponsor about his girlfriend. He said, "well, I dated other women and I still wish to live with this girl."

His sponsor then told him, "Well, go ahead and date her exclusively for three months. Date no one else, then come see me again."

The fellow did date his girl for the next three months exclusively and then returned to his sponsor to talk about it. He said to his sponsor "I've dated my girlfriend now exclusively for three months and we've decided to get married!"

His sponsor said, "What! No you are not going to get married! What ever are you talking about? Listen for the first time in your life you are going to do something the right way. Now, you say you love this girl and that you both wish to get married and live together. Here's what you have to do. First you go to the girls father and ask for her hand in marriage. That's the right way to do things. If he says it's alright then you'll get engaged for at least six months. If after the six months is over and you still wish to be married then you'll have my blessing."

So that is what the fellow did and the father approved of this fellow who was 17 years sober in AA and he and the girl were engaged. Later they were married in the traditional manner in a church and both the parents and his sponsor was there.

When this guy spoke I think he'd been married about ten years and very happily. Many of us alcoholics have never did things in a correct manner. When we get sober in AA we become an example for others trying to get sober and learn how to live sober. So then we must be an example that is attractive to other alcoholics. How else can we really carry the message?

Thank God that the fellow followed his sponsor's directions so that he could give those directions to such as I, and that I could pass them on to such as you.

*-Written from memory from an AA speaker meeting Sober Cat*