

every teenager's
little black book
gift collection

by blaine bartel



Harrison House
Tulsa, Oklahoma

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every teenager's
little black book
on cool



[COOL DOESN'T TRY]

3 REASONS WHY COOL DOESN'T TRY—IT IS

Truly cool people don't have to work at it—they just are. Let's be honest: if you have to try to be cool, you probably won't have a lot of people looking up to you. Let's check out 3 reasons why cool doesn't have to try.

1. **Being cool is an honor that only others can bestow upon you.** Remember, the Bible's counterparts for the modern word *cool* are *avored* and *accepted*. Only God and people can show you favor and acceptance.
2. **Truly cool people focus on others, not on themselves.** Matthew 23:12 says that those who humble themselves will be exalted.
3. **Most cool people don't even realize they are cool.** They're too busy making a difference in their world.

4 THINGS THAT ARE DEFINITELY NOT COOL

Have you ever had someone at school try to impress you in some way? They were thinking, *Wow! Am I ever cool!* And you were thinking, *When is this person going to get a clue?* Once again, cool people don't have to work to impress you. Here are 4 things that are definitely not cool.

1. You are not cool when you talk about yourself most of the time. The Bible says, "Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth" (Prov. 27:2 NKJV).
2. You are not cool because of how you walk or what you wear. You are accepted and favored because of the good person you are, not the perception you try to create.
3. It is definitely not cool to live a life of sin and personal pleasure. The Word of God warns us, "The way of transgressors is hard" (Prov. 13:15).
4. It is not cool to make others feel small by putting them down with your words. Remember the law of

sowing and reaping—if you sow encouragement, you'll
reap it back.

5 WAYS TO KNOW YOU AREN'T COOL

Maybe you're reading this little book right now and you're still not sure: *Am I cool?* So I want to help you with some important identification marks of people who will not gain favor with others. Here are 5 ways to know you aren't cool.

1. If you constantly live in self-pity, looking to get attention, you are not cool.
2. If you try to impress people with your money, possessions, or accomplishments, you are not cool.
3. If you are sharp-tongued, gossipy, and critical of others, you are not cool.
4. If you only treat people you like and know with love and respect, you are not cool.
5. If you spend the majority of the time thinking about yourself, having little regard for Christ and others, you are not cool.

4 REASONS YOU SHOULD BE COOL

God wants you to be cool, accepted, and favored. The Scripture says, “Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man” (Prov. 3:3,4 NKJV). You can enjoy favor, acceptance, and popularity with both God and people. Here are 4 reasons why you should be cool.

1. Cool, accepted people have the ability to influence others for good. That includes a witness of your Christian faith.
2. Cool, favored people have confidence to do things others believe to be impossible or improbable.
3. Accepted people find it easy and natural to show others God's love and acceptance.
4. Cool people stand up for truth and don't need everyone to agree with them or even like them.

6 WAYS ANY PERSON CAN BECOME COOL

Let's get right to the point: you want to be accepted and popular with people. Who doesn't? Now, you know you can't try to gain popularity and "coolness" the way the world tries to manufacture it. So how does a person become "Christ-like cool"?

1. You become cool when you stand up for what is right and don't care who stands with you.
2. You become cool when you reach out to the poor, the hurting, the lost—those who are "uncool."
3. You become cool when you take time for those whom many overlook—children. God loves kids, and so should we.
4. You become cool when you freely admit your shortcomings, pick up where you've failed, and move forward with godly confidence.
5. You become cool when you put God first in your words, your actions, and your plans.

6. You become cool when you could care less about being cool.



[COOL CONFIDENCE]

4 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CONFIDENCE AND ARROGANCE

Some people think that confidence is pride. You can be confident and very humble. Pride is confidence in the wrong things. True confidence comes from a solid foundation of knowing who you are in Christ. Look at these 4 differences between confidence and arrogance and check up on yourself.

1. Confidence is security in who we are in Christ. Arrogance is self-reliance because of what we have, who we know, or what we have done.

2. Confidence is knowing that “we can do all things through Christ Jesus” versus trusting what we can do ourselves. (Phil. 4:13.)

3. Confidence is knowing our past is forgiven by God and we are in good standing with Him by faith. Arrogance is confidence in our works and our righteousness. (Eph. 2:8.)

4. Confidence is knowing that God is on our side and, therefore, it doesn't matter who is against us.

Arrogance is security from circumstances and our own resources. (Rom. 8:31.)

Be confident because of who you are in Christ Jesus. With Him on your side, you can't fail.

5 MARKS OF A CONFIDENT PERSON

Use this as a check to see if you are confident in who you are in Christ.

1. You aren't afraid to meet new people.
2. You like to try new things and see new places.
3. You aren't afraid to take calculated risks in order to achieve something you want.
4. You don't get discouraged and depressed when you fail. Instead, you pick yourself back up.
5. It doesn't bother you much when people criticize you.

If all of the statements above describe you, you are very confident. If 4 of the statements are true about you, your confidence is solid and improving. Three true statements means you could use some improvement. It's not looking good if only 2 statements are true; you are limiting yourself from great experiences. If you only found 1 statement to be true,

reread this book every day until all the statements are true.
Remember, in Christ you are a new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17.)

3 MUSTS FOR BUILDING REAL CONFIDENCE

If you need more confidence in your life, here is a simple game plan that will help you grow.

1. **Find your identity in Christ Jesus.** If we look to ourselves for confidence, we have many reasons to be insecure and disappointed. But in Christ, we are amazing. Look up these Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 4:13; Colossians 1:22; Jude 24; Romans 8:15.
2. **Surround yourself with people who believe in you.** Small people criticize big dreams. Don't allow your faith and self-esteem to be robbed by critical and negative people. Surround yourself with people who believe in you.
3. **Take small steps to build big victories.** We all have things in our lives we are secretly afraid of. Maybe it's heights, meeting new people, trying new foods, or sharing our faith. Don't take a leap of faith; take little steps toward overcoming your fears. The

Bible says, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord” (Ps. 37:23).

Build these 3 steps to confidence into your daily routine, and watch your confidence soar.

6 ENEMIES THAT WILL TRY TO STEAL YOUR CONFIDENCE

In battle, one of the best advantages you can have is to understand your enemy. The more you know your enemy, the better you can avoid his traps and attacks. Here are 6 enemies that will try to steal your confidence.

1. **Negative people who criticize you.** You get to choose who your friends are. If your friends pull you down, get new friends.
2. **Unconfessed sin.** This will rob your confidence before God. Don't be like Adam and Eve who hid from God. Go to Him, confess it, and be forgiven. (1 John 1:9.)
3. **Listening to your feelings rather than God's Word.** Feelings will betray you because they are subject to your circumstances. Fix your eyes on God's unchanging Word.
4. **Looking at your past to determine your future.** You may have a past littered with failure, but that

doesn't mean you can't succeed. A righteous person falls 7 times but keeps getting back up. (Prov. 24:16.)

5. **Looking at the problem rather than God's promise for the solution.** God's Word has a promise for any problem you face.

6. **Comparing yourself to other people.** You are a great you but a lousy anyone else. Be you. You are great. (Jer. 1:5, 29:11; Ps. 138:8, 139.)

Don't let the enemy steal your confidence. You have every reason to be secure. You're on God's team, and we win.

7 SCRIPTURES THAT PROVE GOD IS CONFIDENT IN YOU

Here are 7 encouraging Scriptures to look up and commit to memory.

1. **Psalm 138:8:** God will fulfill His purpose for your life.
2. **John 3:16:** God believed in you enough to allow His Son, Jesus, to die for you.
3. **Mark 16:15:** After Jesus rose from the dead, He gave His ministry to His disciples and us to finish.
4. **Jude 24:** He said He will keep you from falling and present you in His presence with great joy.
5. **Acts 1:8:** He gave us His power and Holy Spirit to witness.
6. **John 15:16:** He handpicked you. You're His first-round draft pick.

7. **Ephesians 2:5:** Even while we were lost, He made us alive with Him.

If God is confident in you, that should be enough for you. He is the Creator of the universe, and He is on your side. You can't lose.

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