

JUST THE TEN OF US

"Interfaith Relations"

written by

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CAST

GRAHAM LUBBOCK.....BILL KIRCHENBAUER  
ELIZABETH LUBBOCK.....DEBORAH HARMON  
MARIE LUBBOCK.....HEATHER LANGENKAMP  
CINDY LUBBOCK.....JAMIE LUNER  
WENDY LUBBOCK.....BROOKE THEISS  
CONNIE LUBBOCK.....JO ANN WILLETTE  
J.R. LUBBOCK.....MATT SHAKMAN  
SHERRY LUBBOCK.....HEIDI ZEIGLER

GUEST CAST

OWEN MILLS.....CUBA GOODING JR.  
REV. ROBERT MILLS.....TIM REID  
GERTRUDE MILLS.....HELEN MARTIN

COLD OPEN

INT. FOOD COURT

THE FOUR OLDER LUBBOCK SISTERS ARE SITTING AT A TABLE IN THE FOOD COURT. WENDY IS PASSING THE TIME BY FILING HER NAILS. CONNIE SOON STARTS DRUMMING HER FINGERS ON THE TABLE IN BOREDOM. AFTER A FEW SECONDS, MARIE SHAKES THE ICE IN HER EMPTY CUP, SOMETHING SHE DOES AGAIN EVERY TWO SECONDS OR SO. A RHYTHM STARTS BUILDING BETWEEN WENDY'S FILING, CONNIE'S DRUMMING AND MARIE'S ICE SHAKING. CINDY SOON JOINS IN WITH A EXTEMPORANEOUS, SOULFUL ACAPELLA. THIS GOES ON FOR SEVERAL SECONDS. SUDDENLY, A SMALL CRACK IS HEARD AND WENDY EXCLAIMS.

WENDY

Oh no! I chipped a nail.

MARIE

Aww. And I was just starting to have a good time.

AFTER A BRIEF PAUSE, CINDY GRABS THE NAIL FILE AND STARTS FILING HER NAILS.

WENDY

Hey!

CONNIE RESTARTS DRUMMING HER FINGERS, AND MARIE STARTS SHAKING THE ICE IN HER CUP AGAIN. WENDY BEGRUDGINGLY TAKES OVER THE VOCALS.

ROLL OPEN

ACT I

INT. FOOD COURT

THE GIRLS ARE STILL AT THE TABLE IN THE FOOD COURT, BUT ARE GETTING READY TO LEAVE

WENDY

I don't think I've ever been this bored at a mall before. No sales. Everything's here is stale and unremarkable. It's like somebody turned CBS primetime into a mall.

CINDY

They did?! Oh, I bet Dad would love to go to the Jake and the Fatman store!

MARIE

Dad doesn't watch Jake and the Fatman.

CINDY

I just thought they might actually have some clothes that would fit him.

WENDY

Cindy, it's just a joke, there's no CBS mall.

CINDY

Oh...So it's a Fox mall! Do you think we might see Bart Simpson there?!

CONNIE PUTS HER HAND ON CINDY'S FOREHEAD

CINDY (CONT'D)

What are you doing, Connie?

CONNIE

No fever. Yet displaying all of the symptoms of acute delirium.

WENDY

Whatever. I'm getting out of here, I'll meet you all at home.

WENDY LEAVES HER SISTERS AND WALKS TOWARDS THE EXIT

WENDY (CONT'D)  
(under her breath)

A Fox mall. What is Cindy thinking?

OUT OF NOWHERE, WENDY BUMPS INTO SOMEONE ABOUT HER AGE: AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOY WEARING A BLUE LETTERMAN JACKET CARRYING A TRAY OF REFUSE. WENDY LOOKS DOWN TO SEE THE MESS SHE MADE.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Oh geez! I'm so sorry!

OWEN

Oh, it's okay. I was just about to throw that away anyway.

THEY BOTH STOOP DOWN TO PICK UP THE STREWN-ABOUT TRASH. ONCE THEY BEGIN TO RISE FROM THE FLOOR THEY FINALLY MAKE EYE CONTACT.

WENDY  
(amorous)

Hell-o.

OWEN

Hi. I'm Owen.

WENDY

I'm Wendy, the pleasure is all mine.  
How come I've never seen you before?

OWEN

I'm not sure. I've lived here for years. What school do you go to?

WENDY

St. Augustine's.

OWEN

The all-boys school?! Geez, you must have guys coming at you from all directions.

WENDY

Do they ever?! Where do you go to school?

OWEN

Eureka East. I play quarterback there. I hope you didn't take offense when I scored five touchdowns on St. Augie's last season.

WENDY

Oh, none taken.

OWEN

Well, I better go throw this trash away, now.

OWEN ATTEMPTS TO WALK AWAY, BUT WENDY STOPS HIM.

WENDY

Hey, wait a second. I know this sounds completely out of nowhere, but what do think about maybe...going out this Friday?

OWEN

Oh, well, my dad always said a man should make the first move.

WENDY

(nervous)

Oh, geez. I'm not coming on too strong, am I?

OWEN

Maybe a little. Hey, can I ask you something?

WENDY

Sure.

OWEN

What would you think about going out with me on Friday?

WENDY

Wow. That was just what I was thinking.

OWEN

Great. Meet you around seven?

WENDY

Sounds great!

OWEN

It's a date then. See you there.

OWEN WALKS AWAY, WENDY DOES A PIROUETTE OF EXCITEMENT

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

GRAHAM IS PACING THROUGH THE ROOM WHILE J.R. AND SHERRY ARE WATCHING TV

GRAHAM

Hey, would you turn that off already?!

GRAHAM GRABS THE REMOTE AND TURNS THE TV OFF

SHERRY

Dad!

J.R.

Come on, we were watching Perfect Strangers! Balki and Larry were just about to do the Dance of Joy!

GRAHAM

Hey, what have I told you kids about watching ABC!

SHERRY

Geez, Dad. What's eating you?

GRAHAM

Oh, Wendy's on a date with a boy; he doesn't go to St. Augie's so I have no idea who he is. And knowing Wendy, I doubt it's anybody good.

SHERRY

Is it ever anybody good?



THE SOUND OF A CAR DRIVING UP IS HEARD

GRAHAM

Oh, they're here. You two go in the kitchen, I have a feeling things are about to get R-rated real quick.

J.R. AND SHERRY GET UP FROM THE COUCH

J.R.

Geez, how come whenever something good happens, we have to go to the kitchen.

SHERRY

This must be how Alf feels.

AS THEY ENTER THE KITCHEN, GRAHAM MAKES HIS WAY TO THE WINDOW ABOVE THE PIANO LOOKING OUT ON THE DRIVEWAY

GRAHAM

Time to catch this bozo in the act. The second he touches her lips, I'm going to pounce like a panther. A panther that's in the FBI, and he just caught a guy tearing a tag off a mattress.

GRAHAM OPENS THE CURTAINS AND PEERS OUT THE WINDOW

CUT TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

WENDY AND OWEN WALK UP THE DRIVEWAY, STOPPING SHORT OF THE FRONT PORCH, UNAWARE GRAHAM IS WATCHING

WENDY

I had a great time tonight, Owen.

OWEN

I did, too. I haven't gone out for Italian in ages.

WENDY

Yeah!

WENDY LEANS IN FOR A KISS, BUT OWEN RESISTS

OWEN

Uh, I don't think I'm ready for that yet, Wendy.

WENDY

What is it? Oh no, it's my breath, isn't it?! I knew I shouldn't have gotten the garlic knots!

OWEN

No, Wendy. I just don't want to move quite that fast.

WENDY

Oh. It doesn't have anything to do with me, does it?

OWEN

No. Of course not.

WENDY

So you want to go out with me again?

OWEN

How does next Friday sound?

WENDY

Great!

OWEN

It's a date, then. See you Friday.

OWEN WALKS AWAY

WENDY

Bye-ee!

GRAHAM SHOWS AN EXPRESSION OF SURPRISED RELIEF, AND THEN  
CLOSES THE CURTAINS

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM

GRAHAM

Wow. I don't believe it. She's dating  
a...respectable young man. I think  
this calls for celebratory brewski.

GRAHAM WALKS OUT OF THE FRAME TOWARDS THE KITCHEN

FADE TO:

INT. LUBBOCK GIRLS' ROOM

WENDY ASCENDS THE STEPS WHERE HER SISTERS ARE WAITING FOR  
HER.

MARIE

You're back awfully early, Wendy; it's  
only 10:35.

CINDY

Yeah, did you skip dinner or  
something?

CONNIE

I didn't hear Dad yelling. Either you  
two found a new hiding spot, or he  
finally went into a rage coma.

WENDY

Oh, nothing happened. He just dropped me off and we said good night.

MARIE

(sympathetic)

Oh, I'm sorry, Wendy. I guess he just couldn't keep up with your jezebellian ways.

WENDY

Oh, no. We're going out next Friday.

CONNIE

What?! You honestly expect us to believe that?!

WENDY

Believe what?

CONNIE

That you would want to go out with a boy without giving him an inter-oral examination.

WENDY

Well, there's something special about him, something the guys at our school just don't have.

MARIE

He doesn't go to St. Augie's? Who is he?

WENDY

He goes to public school. His name is Owen Mills.

CINDY

Oh, I know him! He took last year's family picture!

CONNIE

Hmm, I get it, now. His dad is loaded and you're just going to wait for him to bite the big one.

WENDY

Actually, his dad is a reverend.

MARIE

(incredulous)

His dad is a reverend?!

CONNIE

(disbelieving)

Okay, now I know you're up to no good. Are you planning on robbing this poor boy?

WENDY

I'm not going to rob him, Connie! You know, I never thought I'd ever hook up with a guy who wanted to wait for romance. But I know there's something about him that'll be worth waiting for. Something great. Something big.

(MORE)

WENDY (CONT'D)

I'm just going to wait patiently for anything he decides to give up on his own accord.

CINDY

He's going to give you his Honda?!

FADE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

GRAHAM IS AT THE TABLE TALKING TO ELIZABETH WHILE SHE CLEANS THE KITCHEN

GRAHAM

You wouldn't believe it if you saw it, Elizabeth. The guy actually pulled away when she tried to kiss him.

ELIZABETH

That's a first. Did she have bad breath or something?

GRAHAM

No! The kid actually said he doesn't kiss on a first date.

ELIZABETH

You said he went to public school?

GRAHAM

Yeah, I can't believe it either. All those years working at Dewey High, and I don't think I've ever seen a kid like him.

ELIZABETH

Well, I'm glad you finally found a boy you approve of. It's a shame you're going to have to tell Wendy to break it off.

GRAHAM PAUSES OUT OF CONFUSION

GRAHAM  
(taken aback)

Wait, what?!

ELIZABETH

Graham, he might meet your standards. But he doesn't meet mine.

GRAHAM

What are you talking about?! He's respectful, law-abiding; what more could you want for Wendy?!

ELIZABETH

Graham, do I really have to address the elephant in the room, here?!

GRAHAM

I think you're doing that right now.

ELIZABETH

Damn it, Graham! You're really going to make me say it out loud, aren't you?!

GRAHAM

Yeah! Tell me. What is it about Owen that's got your panties in a bunch?

ELIZABETH

Fine! My problem with Owen is...he's not Catholic.

GRAHAM

So what?! The girls date non-Catholics all the time. Heck, Wendy's dated every denomination there is; plus a few Jews, and even a Buddhist for good measure.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, and I didn't like any of them either.

GRAHAM GETS UP TO TALK FACE-TO-FACE WITH HIS WIFE

GRAHAM

(exasperated)

E-liz-a-beth...don't you get it? Wendy's actually dating a nice boy for once! And not one we picked out for her, oh no! One she picked out on her own! Do you realize what a breakthrough that is?! She might actually be turning a corner! She might actually end up on a TV show that's not called "Cops"! Come on, Owen's dad is a reverend for Pete's sake!



ELIZABETH

And that's another thing! I don't like the idea of a man of god having children. I like my ministers to be celibate, lonely, and blue as a Smurf!

GRAHAM

Well, he is a different color, for what it's worth.

ELIZABETH

That's not the point, Graham. We're raising Catholic girls, and Catholic girls do not fall in love with Protestants! This boy might be good enough for you, but he's not good enough for me.

GRAHAM

Yeah, Owen's not good enough for you, but Wendy sneaking out and carousing with outlaws is?

ELIZABETH

Hey, don't you put words in my mouth, Graham.

GRAHAM

Well, that's what she's going to do if we forbid her from seeing Owen.

ELIZABETH

Well then, just ground her like you  
always do.

GRAHAM

Elizabeth. Do you really want to just  
keep grounding Wendy until she finds  
that perfect Catholic unicorn; or  
until the sun swells into a giant, red  
orb of doom and consumes us all,  
whichever comes first.

ELIZABETH

I'm not changing my mind. She is not  
dating that boy. And don't try to  
cover for her, either; or I'll ground  
you, too.

GRAHAM

I'm your husband! You can't ground me  
like Wendy!

ELIZABETH

You're right; I'll ground you like  
beef.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

GRAHAM IS SITTING ON THE COUCH, WENDY DESCENDS THE STAIRCASE

GRAHAM

Got a date, tonight?

WENDY

(defensive)

What?! Me?! Oh, I was just going to confession. You know, absolve myself of my many sins.

GRAHAM

Come on, Wendy, you can't kid a kidder. I know all about your friend, Owen.

WENDY

What, how?

GRAHAM

Well, let's just say dads have a way of knowing these things.

WENDY

Were you spying on us?

GRAHAM

Come on, Wendy. You know I watch every movement you make.

WENDY

(incredulous)

Every movement?!

GRAHAM

Well, not literally. The point is: I know all about Owen; and I have to say, I'm impressed.

WENDY

What?! You're pulling my leg.

GRAHAM

I'm not! He's respectful, responsible; everything your previous boyfriends are not.

WENDY

Wait. You're saying you actually approve of one of my dates.

GRAHAM

Yeah, I am.

WENDY

So, I don't have to hide him from you. I can just come back home without having to sneak through the window.

GRAHAM

Well, not quite. You see, there's the little matter of your mother.

WENDY

Mom?! What problem could she possibly have with Owen?!

GRAHAM

According to her, it's because he's not Catholic.

WENDY

So what?! We've never factored religion into our dates, before.

GRAHAM

That's what I told your mom, but she's apparently adamant about you girls not dating outside of the church.

WENDY

Hmm...oh well, Owen's waiting for me.  
Bye-ee!

WENDY GETS UP AND WALKS TO THE DOOR

GRAHAM

Hold it right there.

WENDY STOPS

WENDY

Oh, come on, Dad. You're not going to let Mom's discriminating taste get in the way, are you?

GRAHAM

No. No, I'm not. I can't believe I'm about to say these words; but I want you to date this boy. And at the risk of your mother turning me into hamburger meat...

WENDY  
(interrupting)

Huh?

GRAHAM

It's a long story. Anyway, if she asks where you are, then I'll just make up a story. I'll say you...went to go see Bonfire of the Vanities.

WENDY

Dad! There's no need to spread nasty rumors about me.

GRAHAM

Oh, right. Well, I'll think of something. But you got to be back by eleven, or else my stories won't do you any good.

WENDY

Okay, dad.

WENDY WALKS AWAY, BUT THEN BACKTRACKS

WENDY (CONT'D)

But wait, what if I go on another date after this? What if it develops into something? You can't just keep coming up with stories.

GRAHAM

Geez, you're right. There's a reason I direct the school plays, and not write them.

WENDY HAS AN EPIPHANY

WENDY

Hey, wait a second. Owen's dad is a reverend, right? Well, his services start at ten every Sunday.

GRAHAM

Yeah. What's your point?

WENDY

Well, Father Hargis usually ends his mass by nine-thirty. What if we went to Owen's dad's service afterwards?

GRAHAM

Why?

WENDY

Because if she actually got to know Owen's family, and his congregation; then maybe she'll change her mind about him.

GRAHAM

Are you, of all people, actually suggesting we go to two church services in one day?

WENDY IS TAKEN ABACK

WENDY

(concerned)

Oh god, I'm turning into Marie.

GRAHAM

Don't worry. You're only suggesting it for the sole purpose of getting with a boy; you're still the same Wendy.

FADE TO:

INT./EXT. FAMILY CAR - DAY

THE FAMILY IS GATHERED IN THE FAMILY SUBURBAN, WITH GRAHAM AT THE WHEEL AND ELIZABETH AT HIS SIDE

ELIZABETH

That was a lovely sermon by Father Hargis.

GRAHAM

I don't know. I don't remember anything in the Bible about the Cincinnati Bengals covering the point spread.

ELIZABETH

I think he just meant that as a metaphor.

GRAHAM

He went on for ten minutes about the two grand he lost. Then used that to guilt trip us all into putting more money on the collection plate.

ELIZABETH

Hey, he swore he never bet with church money. That's good enough for me.

THE CAR PULLS INTO THE PARKING LOT OF REV. MILLS' CHURCH



ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Uh, Graham. What are we doing here?

GRAHAM

Elizabeth. I thought we ought to branch out and explore our spirituality, one church at a time.

ELIZABETH

Graham! This is Reverend Mills' church, isn't it?! I told you I don't want Wendy dating his son, and I'm not changing my mind! Now let's get out of here before someone sees...

JUST THEN, REV. MILLS APPEARS AT THE PASSENGER SIDE WINDOW NEXT TO ELIZABETH, SMILING AND HAPPY TO SEE THE FAMILY

REV. MILLS

Hey, Lubbocks!

ELIZABETH

Aaaah!

REV. MILLS

(laughing)

What? You've never seen a preacher man, before? I'm glad to see you all; my son's told me all about you. How about you come in? The choirs just warming up; and after the service, Momma's making chicken and waffles!

REV. MILLS WALKS AWAY

CINDY

Chicken...and waffles?

SHERRY

That's the best combination I've heard  
since chocolate and peanut butter.

CONNIE

Thank God, because I'm starving.

GRAHAM

Me too. Last one in is a rotten  
waffle!

GRAHAM AND THE KIDS START TO GET OUT OF THE CAR

ELIZABETH

Hey. Hey! Get back in the car, right  
now! We've already gone to mass!

MARIE

Yeah, but come on; how often do you  
get to go to church twice in one day!?

MARIE IS THE LAST TO GET OUT OF THE BACK SEAT, LEAVING ONLY  
ELIZABETH. SHE SIGHS AND GETS OUT TOO.

FADE TO:

INT. REV. MILLS' CHURCH

THE LUBBOCKS WALK INTO THE CHURCH. THEY ARE THE ONLY  
CAUCASIANS IN THE ROOM. A BOUNCY GOSPEL DIDDY IS BEING PLAYED  
ON THE PIPE ORGAN, WITH THE CHOIR SINGING IN THE BACKGROUND.  
THE LUBBOCKS LOOK AROUND THEM IN CURIOSITY.

SHERRY

I've never been in a church like this  
before.

J.R.

Yeah, the people here actually  
look...happy.

OWEN SPOTS WENDY FROM ONE OF THE PEWS. HE WALKS UP TO HER AND  
THE REST OF THE FAMILY.

OWEN

Wendy! I can't believe you're here!

WENDY

I can't believe it, either.

OWEN

My dad will be thrilled. He loves  
newcomers. Is this this your family?

WENDY

Yeah, this is Cindy, Connie, Marie,  
Sherry, J.R., Harvey, Melissa, my dad,  
my mom...

OWEN

Hi, everybody. I'm Owen. I'm afraid  
it's just me, my dad, and my grandma.  
Have you met my grandma, yet?

WENDY

Not yet.

OWEN

(calling out)

Hey, Grandma! Come meet the Lubbocks.  
Lubbock family, this is my grandma,  
Gertrude.

GERTRUDE, OWEN'S GRANDMOTHER, WALKS UP TO THE FAMILY. SHE  
LOOKS THEM OVER.

GERTRUDE

Owen, why did you invite the Brady  
Bunch to church?

OWEN

No, grandma. This is the family of  
that girl I told you about.

GERTRUDE

Which one?! I told you I don't approve  
of five-ways.

OWEN APPROACHES WENDY AND PUTS HIS ARM AROUND HER. WENDY IS  
HAPPY, ELIZABETH IS NOT.

OWEN

No! I'm talking about Wendy, here.

GERTRUDE

Why does her hair look like scrambled  
eggs?!

OWEN

I don't really care what her hair  
looks like. I'd just like to get to  
know her better; if her family  
approves, at least.

ELIZABETH  
(exasperated)

I need to sit down.

ELIZABETH JOGS TO THE FRONT PEW. OWEN AND WENDY LOOK  
DISAPPOINTED.

WENDY

I guess we better sit down, too.

THE FAMILY MAKES THEIR WAY TO THE FRONT PEW, WITH GERTRUDE SITTING AT THE AISLE END OF THE PEW NEXT TO CINDY. THEY ALL PAUSE BRIEFLY, UNTIL CINDY BREAKS THE SILENCE AND ASKS GERTRUDE A QUESTION.

CINDY

Hey, have I seen you somewhere,  
before?

GERTRUDE

Probably. I've been around.

CINDY

No. I know I've seen you before.

GERTRUDE

I think you have me confused with  
someone else.

CINDY

Oh, come on. You were in that  
thing...on TV.

GERTRUDE

What?!

CINDY

Yeah. You'd look out the window, while  
the other ladies were talking about  
stuff on the steps of that apartment  
building.

GERTRUDE LOOKS FORWARD, TRYING TO IGNORE CINDY

CINDY (CONT'D)

And then you'd make fun of whatever  
they were saying.

GERTRUDE

I don't know what you're talking  
about.

CINDY

Come on, you know..."There's no place  
like home, child!"

THE MUSIC ENDS, REV. MILLS APPROACHES THE PODIUM

REV. MILLS

Good morning, brothers and sisters.

GERTRUDE  
(interrupting)

Excuse me, son!

REV. MILLS

Yes, momma?

GERTRUDE

Could I speak for a moment, please?

REV. MILLS

Oh, of course.

GERTRUDE STANDS UP

GERTRUDE

Thank you, son. I just wanted to speak  
briefly about an issue in our  
community that's very important to me,  
and that's the issue...

GERTRUDE LOOKS TOWARDS CINDY

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

...of our kids smoking the reefer.

GERTRUDE CONTINUES TO STARE AT CINDY. SHE LOOKS FORWARD, A BIT EMBARRASSED AT BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.

DISSOLVE TO:

REV. MILLS REACHES THE TAIL END OF HIS SERMON

REV. MILLS

I want to close my sermon today by welcoming some newcomers to our congregation: Graham, Elizabeth, Marie, Cindy, Wendy, Connie, J.R., Sherry, Harvey, and little Melissa. This is the Lubbock family. You know, I wasn't expecting them to come here this morning; but it seems a higher power might have known they were when he guided me to conclude the service with this. I read a passage from the book of Galatians the other day, and it got me to thinking about the ways we still separate each other by these little differences we all have. We have our church, they have theirs. We have our neighborhoods, they have theirs. Now, some of that is beyond our control, history will teach you that. But in other ways we still prefer to, on our own accord, associate with quote-unquote "our own kind".

FOCUS TURNS TO THE LUBBOCKS IN THE FRONT ROW

REV. MILLS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

That's why I'm so happy to have the Lubbocks here today. I don't think we've had White folks in our church since Happy Days was on the air. I know it had to have taken you all just a little bit of courage to join us this morning; you probably had no idea what to expect. I hear you usually go to St. Augustine's; and honestly, most of our regulars would probably be a little bashful to worship there. But at the end of the day, how different are we really? We have flesh, we have blood. We have hair; well, most of us do. No offense, Graham.

GRAHAM RUBS HIS SCALP IN EMBARRASSMENT. FOCUS TURNS TO ELIZABETH AS SHE LISTENS TO THE APEX OF HIS SERMON, BECOMING SILENTLY EMOTIONAL AS HER WALLS AGAINST INTERDENOMINATIONAL DATING COME DOWN.

REV. MILLS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

The point is we are all bound by forces so much stronger than mere demographics. We are part of one human family; one planet, one father. And we and the Lubbocks have even more in common than that;

(MORE)



REV. MILLS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

we recognize the love and sacrifice of  
God's one begotten son. Sure, we still  
love those who may not; but who are we  
to reject the kinship that comes from  
following our one Lord and Savior?  
Which leads me to that passage from  
Galatians, chapter three, verse twenty-  
eight...

FOCUS RETURNS TO REV. MILLS

REV. MILLS (CONT'D)

"There is no longer Jew or Greek,  
there is no longer slave or free,  
there is no longer male and female;  
for all of you are one in Christ  
Jesus." Thank you! God bless you all!

THE SERMON ENDS AND THE CONGREGATION EXPRESSES APPROVAL. THE  
ORGANIST BEGINS TO PLAY ANOTHER HAPPY GOSPEL TUNE. AS  
EVERYONE BEGINS TO LEAVE THEIR PEWS, ELIZABETH RUNS UP TO  
WENDY.

ELIZABETH  
(melancholy)

Wendy, can I talk to you for a minute?

WENDY  
(a little annoyed)

Yeah, Mom?

ELIZABETH

Uh, I want to talk to you about  
something. I think I might have been a  
bit too harsh about this boy you like.

WENDY

Oh?

ELIZABETH

Yeah...there's something telling me that I should have taken into account more than just his denomination.

WENDY

Mom? Did the reverend's sermon get to you?

ELIZABETH

(sheepish)

I'm not saying that...but if you want to go on a few dates with Owen, I have no good reason to tell you not to.

WENDY

(excited)

Oh, thank you, Mom! Hey, Owen!

OWEN COMES UP TO WENDY AND HER FAMILY

OWEN

Yeah, Wendy?

WENDY

I got some good news! My mom says we can go out!

OWEN

That's great! But I think I should tell you something, I'm not really up for serious romance right now...

WENDY

Oh no! You're becoming a monk! God, why do I keep doing this to myself!

OWEN

No, Wendy. I'm just saying I'm not ready yet to be exclusive or anything. I'd still like to play the field if that's okay with you?

WENDY

Oh no! You're a gigolo! God, why do I keep doing this to myself!

OWEN

No, not that either. No sex or anything like that, just dating. I just want to keep my options open.

WENDY

Well, I think I can handle that. There are a few guys I'd like to see again, myself.

OWEN

So, would you still like to see me again?

WENDY

Sure!

OWEN

How about next Friday?

WENDY

It's a date.

OWEN

Well, how about your family joins us  
for Grandma's chicken and waffles.

GERTRUDE WALKS UP TO OWEN AND WENDY

GERTRUDE

You rang?

OWEN

I was just telling Wendy about your  
chicken and waffles.

GERTRUDE

Well, I'll let you in on a little  
secret. I only make the waffles, the  
Colonel makes the chicken.

OWEN

So how about it?

GRAHAM WALKS UP BEHIND WENDY

GRAHAM

You had me at Colonel, young man. I  
can't believe my daughter is actually  
dating someone like you! Come here,  
you!

GRAHAM PROCEEDS TO HUG OWEN AND GIVE HIM SOMETHING RESEMBLING  
A noogie. HE GRINS AND BEARS IT. WENDY'S EMBARRASSED.  
GERTRUDE JUST SHAKES HER HEAD.

GERTRUDE

I've said it before, I'll say it  
again; I'll never understand White  
people.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II

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TAG

INT. REV. MILLS' CHURCH - DAY

MARIE IS STANDING IN FRONT OF THE CHOIR.

CHOIR MEMBER

Have you ever sung with a choir  
before, young lady?

MARIE

Who cares? I was born for this!

ROLL CREDITS

THE ORGANIST BEGINS THE SONG

MARIE (CONT'D)

CHOIR

*Oh, happy day!*

*Oh, happy day!*

*Oh, happy day!*

*Oh, happy day!*

*When Jesus washed*

*When Jesus washed*

*Oh, yeah, when he washed*

*When Jesus washed*

*When Jesus washed*

*When Jesus washed*

*He washed my sins away*

*Oh, happy day!*

*Oh, happy day!*

*Oh, happy day!*

*Oh, happy day!*

*Oh, happy day!*

CHOIR MEMBER

(overjoyed)

*Yeaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!*

CHOIR

*Oh, happy day!*

FADE TO BLACK.