

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT FAMILY MATTERS

1) THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN SINGLE PERSON

A. WHAT'S WRONG WITH LIVING SINGLE FOR THE LORD?

- ◆ *1 Corinthians 7:7-9* – It is good to remain unmarried or a widow... it's good to be single.
- ◆ Even if you desire to get married, you should view your single life as good:
 - a) Allows you the opportunity to serve God more effectively
 - b) Allows you the opportunity to properly prepare yourself for marriage.
- ◆ *1 Corinthians 7:32-38* – We can serve God better single!

BUT HOW?

- a) Standing steadfast in your heart
- b) Exercise power over your own will (flesh)
- c) Decree in your heart to keep your virginity

(Ref. **Matthew 19:10-12** – some make themselves eunuchs/single for the kingdom)

- ◆ THE CHRISTIAN SINGLE IS POTENTIALLY THE MOST POWERFUL PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST!
- ◆ THE FOCUSED AND COMMITTED CHRISTIAN SINGLE IS BY FAR MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Unfortunately, too many Christian singles are on God's injured reserve list... distracted with the cares of this world.

B. SINGLES SHOULD PRESENT THEIR BODIES TO GOD FOR SERVICE

- ◆ **Romans 12:1-2** – We must present our bodies unto God for His service.
 - a) Couples present their bodies during the marriage ceremony
 - b) Ministers present their bodies during the ordination ceremony

- c) Babies are presented during a dedication ceremony
- d) Why shouldn't singles present their bodies during a dedication ceremony?

- ◆ WHEN THE CHRISTIAN SINGLE REFUSES TO CONFORM TO THIS WORLD BUT SETS HIM/HERSELF TO PROVE THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD FOR HIS/HER LIFE, THEY WILL TRULY FIND PERSONAL FULFILLMENT
- ◆ **I Corinthians 6:19-20** – We can glorify God in our bodies, not just by living holy but by presenting our bodies in service to God.

THE SINGLE CHRISTIAN IS MORE AVAILABLE FOR SERVICE, CONSEQUENTLY, GLORIFY GOD MORE WITH YOUR BODY.

C. WILL LACK OF MARRIAGE SEPARATE YOU FROM THE LOVE OF GOD?

- ◆ **Romans 8:35-39** – Who (husband or wife) will separate us from the love of Christ?
- ◆ **St. John 14:15** – If you love Jesus keep all of His commandments (not just the ten!)

(Ref. **Matthew 28:18-20** – Go and teach all nations)

- ◆ **St. John 21:14-17** – To love Jesus is to feed his lambs and sheep. Feed the body of Christ with the Word of God.
 - Teach children, teens, young Christians, mature Christians
- ◆ **Romans 7:1-4** – We are to be married to another who is in Christ Jesus... so we can bear fruit unto God. Go forth and reap the harvest for God.

(Ref. **Isaiah 54:5-6** – Thy Maker is thine Husband)

- ◆ For us to be married to Christ requires a calculated commitment.
- ◆ For many Christians Jesus is their Savior but not their Lord!!

(Ref. **Luke 6:46-49** – Jesus said why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?)

JESUS IS LORD OF THE HARVEST, HE'S LORD OF ALL

PREPARING YOURSELF FOR MARRIAGE... (Bottom line - Grow up Spiritually)

I. RESIST THE FEAR OF GETTING MARRIED

- ◆ **II Timothy 1:7** - Paul reminds Timothy of his strong spiritual upbringing and that God has not given us the spirit of fear.

Common fears to overcome

- 1) Sins, troubles, and problems of your past will follow you.
- 2) Your marriage relationship will end in divorce
- 3) Your marriage will become a life sentence in prison
- 4) Your marriage will hinder you from fulfilling your personal life goals.
- 5) Your marriage relationship will require more of you from your spouse and/or children.

- ◆ **Ephesians 1:3** - God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings ... and marriage is a blessing (Gen 1:28)

II. LIVE HOLY

- ◆ **I Corinthians 7:34** - the unmarried woman (and man) should be holy in body and in spirit
- ◆ **Ephesians 1:3-4** - we are to be holy and blameless
- ◆ **I Timothy 1:8** - we are to pray with lifted holy hands
- ◆ **I Peter 1:15-167** - be holy as God is Holy
- ◆ **Romans 12:1** - we are to present our bodies holy before God

III. NEVER CONSIDER AN UNEQUALLY YOKED RELATIONSHIP

- ◆ **Amos 3:3** - can two walk together unless they be agreed
- ◆ **II Corinthians 6:14-18** - be ye not unequally yoked together
- ◆ **St. John 17:14-17** - God's word becomes your basis of agreement/truth

IV. WHAT YOU NEED TO DISCUSS BEFORE YOU COMMIT TO GET MARRIED

- ◆ **Proverbs 4:1-7** - get wisdom and understanding
 - 1) Joint ownership and joint access of money & assets
 - 2) Whether you both work or not, and how long
 - 3) Division of labor in the home, areas of responsibility
 - 4) What church you will attend together & doctrinal issues

- 5) Whether to have a family, when & how many children
- 6) Whether to buy a home. When & where
- 7) Life insurance and retirement plans
- 8) If children exist from a prior relationship you need to discuss:
 - a) The proposed marriage with the children
 - b) How child discipline will be handled
 - c) Any special concerns/needs of the children
- 9) Financial and custodial obligations of prior relationships.

V. BE COMMITTED TO THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP

- ◆ **Genesis 2:21-124** - leave and cleave
- ◆ **Matthew 19:3-12** - no man should separate what God put together
- ◆ **Ephesians 5:28-33** - be committed to operating as one

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE

- ◆ The primary purpose for marriage is to raise a family, not just to have companionship and sexual activity.
- ◆ **Genesis 1:27-28**
 - ◆ Fruitful - children
 - ◆ Multiply - grandchildren
- ◆ The primary purpose for family is to raise a people who will seek, love, worship and serve the true and living God.
- ◆ **Acts 17:24-27** - to seek and find God
- ◆ **Revelation 4:10-11** - to worship the Lord God
- ◆ **Matthew 22:34-38** - #1 commandment is to love God
- ◆ **Matthew 4:10** - worship and serve God only

THE HUSBAND IS THE HEAD OF THE WIFE AND HIS FAMILY

- ◆ **Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4** - the husband is commanded to take leadership in relationship to his wife and family.

HEAD (Authority or Covering)

The Husband Should Take the Lead As:

- A. Lover of his wife by giving himself for her
 - ◆ **Ephesians 5:25-33**
- B. Provide for his children and grandchildren

- ◆ **Proverbs 13:22** – a good man leaves an inheritance
 - ◆ **I Timothy 5:8** – he who provides not for his own house is worse than an infidel (unbeliever)
- C. Channel of blessing for his wife and seed
- ◆ **Deuteronomy 30:19** – deciding on life & blessing
 - ◆ **Malachi 3:8–12** – the tither shall bless his seed
- (Ref. **Haggai 1:6–7 & Psalms 127:1**)
- D. Providing vision or purpose for the family
- ◆ **Acts 2:17** – men receive visions and dreams
 - ◆ **Proverbs 29:18** – when husband has no vision the family perishes
- E. Being both tender and tough
- ◆ **Mark 11:12–21** – Jesus was tough
 - ◆ **Matthew 15:21–28** – Jesus was tender
- F. A man of prayer; a man who seeks God
- ◆ **Acts 13:22** – a man after God’s heart
 - ◆ **Psalm 27:1–5** – David sought God
 - ◆ **II Chronicles 26:1–5** – Seek God; God prospers you!

THE HUSBAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL HIS HOUSEHOLD (whoever lives in your house, children, in-laws, relatives, servants or guests) TO SERVE THE LORD

- ◆ **Joshua 24:14–15** – Joshua said, As for me and my house... he spoke for the entire household.
- ◆ **Genesis 18:16–19** – god blessed Abraham because he knew he would command his children and household to serve or keep the way of the Lord.
- ◆ **Deuteronomy 6:3–7** – Parents are to teach their children diligently God’s word.
- ◆ **Ephesians 6:1–4**
 - a) Children are to obey the parents in the teaching of the Lord
 - b) The Father is to be the principle teacher/trainer of the children in the knowledge of god

Nurture – education, training, correction, instruction

Admonition – calling attention, mild rebuke or warning

HUSBAND, WIFE RELATIONSHIP

A. INTERRACIAL MARRIAGES

- ◆ **Judges 14:1–4** – Samuel’s parents did not know this was of God
- ◆ **Numbers 12:1** – Moses married an African woman

- a) Your biggest opposition can come from your family
- b) But all they can do is talk
- c) God defended the marriage of Moses and Zipporah
- ◆ **Acts 17:24-26** - God made all the nations of people
 - a) All nationalities have the same bloodline.
- ◆ **Acts 10:28,34-35** - God is against racism
 - a) God brings the different nationalities together
 - b) God does not respect one nation over another, except those that fear Him and worth righteousness.
- ◆ **Acts 16:1** - Timotheus was a product of interracial marriage

B. SUBMITTING ONE TO ANOTHER

- ◆ **Ephesians 5:21** - we are to submit to each other
- ◆ **Ephesians 5:22-24** - the wife is to follow the leadership of the husband
- ◆ **Philippians 2:14** - do all things without murmuring/disputing
- ◆ **I Peter 3:1-4** - the wife can win the unsaved husband by adorning the hidden man of the heart with a meek and quiet spirit.
- ◆ **I Peter 3:5-7** - the husband can earn the honor of the wife by understanding his wife through getting to know her, spending time together talking, observing, listening

HANDLING CONFLICT

- ◆ **I Corinthians 13:4-8** - love never fails
 - Pays no attention to a suffered wrong
 - Takes no account of the evil done to it
- ◆ **Proverbs 15:1;23** - always give a soft answer
- ◆ **Amos 3:3** - always seek agreement... in:
 - How to manage finances
 - How to raise the children
- ◆ **II Timothy 3:16-17** - let the holy scriptures have the final word
- ◆ **Ephesians 4:26** - let not the sun go down on your wrath
- ◆ **Matthew 5:9** - seek to be a peacemaker
- ◆ **Proverbs 15:22** - get ministerial counsel before the conflict gets too serious... or the marriage purpose will be disappointed

DATING? IT'S MAN'S, NOT GOD'S IDEA

- ◆ **Proverbs 18:22** - whoso findeth a wife, not a girlfriend
- ◆ **Ephesians 5:31** - only for the cause of marriage shall we leave father and mother... not for boy/girl friend
- ◆ **I Corinthians 6:18-20** - flee fornication by avoiding compromising situations
- ◆ **I Corinthians 7:35-37** - god wants us to be virgins by properly behaving ourselves

TRAINING UP YOUR CHILDREN

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENTS

- ◆ **Proverbs 22:6** – we parents are responsible for training our children. train by example
Train (means – Hebrew) – initiate, discipline – dedicate, train up; make do
- ◆ **Proverbs 22:15** – we should not tolerate foolishness. We should spank children
- ◆ **Proverbs 13:24** – loving parents will spank the child
- ◆ **Ephesians 6:4** – fathers are to bring the children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
- ◆ **Colossians 3:21** – if the father provokes his children they can get discouraged

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHILDREN

- ◆ **Ephesians 6:1–3**
 - a) Obey your parents
 - b) Honor father and mother
Live healthy, well and live long
- ◆ **Colossians 3:20** – children obey your parents in all things

Husband love wife → wife submit to husband → children obey parents → servant obey master

THE ‘D’ WORD – DIVORCE**DIVORCE IS AN EVIL SPIRIT!!!**

The evil spirit of divorce has been assigned to every marriage to destroy and stop the fruit the marriage was to produce.

GOD HATES DIVORCE

Read **Malachi 2:14–16** (Amplified version)

- ◆ But, God still loves the divorcees (under the new covenant, any sin but the unpardonable sin (blaspheming the Holy Spirit) is covered by the blood as soon as you repent and receive forgiveness.
- ◆ **Matthew 19:3–8** – what God has joined together, let no man put asunder.
- ◆ **I Corinthians 7:10–15** – don’t divorce an unsaved spouse
- ◆ There is no escape clause in marriage where God is concerned. Marriage was not made for divorce
- ◆ DON’T BELIEVE THE LIE OF THE DEVIL: THAT GOD’S WORD DOESN’T PROVIDE HEALING FOR MARRIAGES.

JESUS HAS REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF DIVORCE

- ◆ **Deuteronomy 28:15,30,32,41** – the curse of the law (result of divorce)

- ◆ **Galatians 3:13-14** – Christ has redeemed us from divorce

DETERMINE TO RESTORE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE

- 1) Ask God to forgive you
 - ◆ **I John 1:9** – confess our sins
- 2) Confess the sin in your life
 - ◆ **I John 1:4-10** – so our joy may be full
- 3) Forgive your spouse
 - ◆ **Mark 11:24-26** – forgive so your prayers be not hindered
- 4) Ask Jesus to heal your broken heart
 - ◆ **Luke 4:18** – Jesus heals broken hearts and sets free the bruised
- 5) Commit to always walk in love
 - ◆ **I Corinthians 13:8** – love never fails
- 6) Continually protect and invest in your marriage
 - ◆ **James 5:16** – pray effectively for your marriage
 - ◆ **Galatians 6:7-9** – sow into your marriage and reap a harvest