

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT FAMILY MATTERS (Changing lives for God's Kingdom purpose)

Objective: To define the roles and importance of a Christian family.

Goal: To understand the purpose of living Single or Married for God.

Living Single for Christ – Powerful Potential

Week #1 – Benefits of Living Single for Christ

Discussion Question: What are some benefits of living single for the Lord?

1. I Cor 7:7-9 It is good to remain unmarried
 - a. Allows you the opportunity to serve God more effectively
 - i. I Cor 7:32-38
 - ii. Focus and Commitment – Makes you More Productive than any other individual in the body of Christ
2. If you desire to get married you should view your single life as good:
 - a. Allows you the opportunity to properly prepare for marriage

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

Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices – Rom 12:1-2

3. When the Christian single refuses to conform to this world, they will find personal fulfillment.
 - a. I Cor 6:19-20 – not just living holy but presenting our bodies in service to God.

Week #2 – Preparing for Marriage

Discussion question: Will lack of marriage separate you from the love of Christ?

Rom 8:35-39 Who? (Husband or Wife)

John 8:14-15 Keeping God's commandments

John 21:14-17 Feeding his lambs and sheep (teaching others the Word of God)

Rom 7:1-4 Married to Christ (Isa 54:5-6)

- b. Requires commitment
4. Resist the fear of Getting Married – II Tim 1:17
5. Common Fears to overcome
 - a. Relationship will end in divorce
 - b. Past problems and sins will follow you
 - c. Marriage will hinder my fulfillment of personal goals
 - d. Marriage will require more than I can give
6. Marriage is a blessing – Eph 1:3, Gen 1:28
7. Live Holy
 - a. I Cor 7:34 – unmarried should be holy in body and spirit
 - b. I Pet 1:15-16 be Holy as God is Holy
 - c. Rom 12:1 present our bodies Holy to God

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Week #3 – Preparing for Marriage

Never consider an unequally yoked relationship

Discussion question: What are some areas that should be discussed before committing to marriage?

1. Money & assets
2. Who works and how long
3. Division of labor in the home: areas of responsibility
4. What church do we attend & doctrinal issues (e.g. tithes)
5. When and how many children
6. Children from a prior marriage
7. Disciplining of children

Committed to the Marriage Relationship

1. Gen 2:21-24 - Leave and cleave
2. Matt 19:3-12 – No man should separate
3. Eph 5:28-33 – be committed to operating as one

Week #4 – God's Purpose for Marriage

Discussion Question: What is the primary purpose for marriage?

1. Be fruitful and multiply – Gen 1:27-28
2. Seek and find God – Acts 17:24-27
3. Matt 22:34-38 – Love God

Discussion Question: What is the role of the husband?

“The husband is the head of the wife and his family”

1. Takes leadership in family relationship – Eph 5:22-33; 6:1-4
 - a. (see other notes at top of page 5)
2. He is the Covering
3. Responsible for the household serving the Lord
 - a. Josh 24:14-15
 - b. Abraham Gen 18:16-19
 - c. Teaching the children – Deut 6:3-7

“Husband and Wife Relationship”

4. Interracial Marriages
 - a. Num 12:1
 1. Opposition from family
 - b. Acts 17:24-26
 1. God made all nations of people
 - c. Acts 10:28, 34-35
 1. God is against Racism
5. Submitting one to another
 - a. Eph 5:21

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6. Handling Conflict
 - a. I Cor 13:4-8
7. Dating...It's Man's not God's idea
 - a. Prov 18:22 whoso finds a wife not a girlfriend

Week #5 – Family Responsibilities

Discussion questions: What are some responsibilities of the Parents & Children?

1. Parents
 - a. Prov 22:6 – train by example
 - b. Prov 22:15 – don't tolerate foolishness
 - c. Eph 6:4, Col 3:21 – (Fathers) bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
2. Children
 - a. Eph 6:1-3 – Obedience
 - i. Honor Mother & Father
 - b. Col 3:20 – obey in all things

THE "D" WORD

The evil spirit of Divorce has been assigned to every marriage to destroy and stop the fruit the marriage is to produce

Discussion question: How does God feel about Divorce?

1. Mal 2:14-16 (Amp)
 - a. God hates divorce he does not hate the divorcees
 - b. Matt 19:3-8
 - c. I Cor 7:10-15
2. Don't believe the lie of the Devil: that God's Word doesn't provide healing for marriages.
3. Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of divorce
 - a. Deut 28:15, 30, 32, 42
 - b. Gal 3:13-14
4. Determine to restore and strengthen your marriage
 - a. Ask God to forgive you – I Jn 1:9
 - b. Confess the sin in your life – I Jn:4-10
 - c. Forgive your spouse – Mk 11:24-26
 - d. Ask Jesus to heal your broken heart – Luke 4:18
 - e. Commit to always walk in love – I Cor 13:8
 - f. Continually protect and invest in your marriage –Jas 5:16; Gal 6:7-9
 - i. Pray effectively
 - ii. Sow into your marriage