

THE "LIFE AND BIBLE" SERIES
LIVING OUT OUR CHRISTIANITY WITH AN ATTITUDE

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 1:9-14

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

*A SERIES ON DEVELOPING A PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE WALK
WITH GOD AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL SITUATIONS*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Relationships, Discipleship, Witness, Faithfulness

Introduction to the Text;

Colossians 1:9-14

Colossians 1:9-14

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding**; :10 that you may **walk worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing *Him*, **being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God**; :11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; :12 **giving thanks to the Father** who has **qualified us** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. :13 He has delivered us **from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**, :14 in whom we have **redemption** through His blood, even the **forgiveness** of sins.

And it's in "**Real Life**" Where Christians Excel

publicly, practically, personally

getting married / communication / raising kids / respecting him / loving her / sex and a whole lot more...

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

1.) Being a Christian and finding your mate

finding a husband or a wife / finances / self control / servant hood - time

All of this in the context of
What "The Bible" has to say about our Relationships.

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed (happy) *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, (oprah) Nor stands in the path of sinners, (dr. phil) Nor sits in the seat of the scornful (mtv); **:2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD. (Bible) And in His law he meditates day and night. (live it out) **:3** He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he/she does shall prosper.

BEING A CHRISTIAN AND FINDING YOUR MATE

1a.) You're going to marry the person you're dating

So **think** and **pray** and **go** to the Word of God before you ask her out or before you say yes.

Hey Christian; Has a cute sweet thing caught your eye? (talk to God first about it)

Before you hand the keys to your heart over to a stranger, **STOP** and ask the Lord to govern over the relationship.

1.) Attraction

"Lord, she's cute or nice or smart - is she for me? If so, Lord open the door for us to meet.

Attraction is normal

Genesis 29:17b,18-20

...Rachel was **beautiful of form and appearance**. **:18** Now Jacob loved Rachel; so Jacob told Laban... **:20** So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed *only* a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

But it can't be the reason you go on a date

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a godly **man** are ordered by the **LORD**, And **He** delights in **his** way.

BEING A CHRISTIAN AND FINDING YOUR MATE

1b.) The closer the relationship the greater the ministry

Genesis 1:27,2:18,22-25a

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them... **:18** And the LORD God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; **I will make him a helper comparable to him.***"... **:22** Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. **:23** And Adam said: "This *is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." **:24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. **:25** And they were both naked,

Your spouse to be is your
"God-Ordained Ministry"

2.) Purpose

*"Lord, is this relationship going to honor you?
If so, Lord open the door for us to see the purpose for this relationship.*

2 Corinthians 6:14-15

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? :15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

(If) You're a Christian

Your Relationships & Marriage are Ministries Ordained by God.

How Can I Know if she's the right one for Me?

1. Does she love God more than me?
2. Is she serving the Lord?
3. Are others benefited by her?
4. Does her Christianity impress me?

Our Relationships Should Challenge us, Help us, Encourage us to be more like Jesus in those relationships.

That Person in Your life is The One You're to be Serving.

BEING A CHRISTIAN AND FINDING YOUR MATE

1c.) It's a matter of making up your mind

3.) Discipline

"Lord, is this relationship from You? If so, then cause us to see You in it at all times. If not, then dissolve this relationship in an honorable way.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And **lean not** on your own understanding; :6 In all your ways **acknowledge** Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Like Everything Meaningful – it takes a decision

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. :35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

"Love and Marriage is a Willful, Deliberate, Decision - It's not a feeling or an emotion or a concept."

It's a Discipline

but once the commitment of marriage is made it must be kept, honored, invested in, and maintained.

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

2.) Being a Christian and being the love of their life

Tina Turner Sang
“What’s Love got to do with it? What’s love - but a second hand emotion”
Tina Turner Doesn’t Know What Love Is...

BEING THE LOVE OF THEIR LIFE

2a.) Means that you respect them above all others

You Can Observe “Respect”

it’s **seen** by how you **treat** someone. – the actions
it’s **heard** by how you **talk** to someone. – the words
it’s **felt** by how you **speak** to someone. – the tone

The definition of “respect” in the English Bible appears as; “honour” or to “prize” or to hold in “high regard” – “to hold them in the light”

To see them as God sees them

In The Context of Being Single; Sexual Temptation and Respect

sexual temptation is my personal battle that I take to the Lord. if I respect my date, I will never violate her to satisfy my temptation.

1Thessalonians 4:3-6

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; :4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel (the body – private parts) in sanctification and honor, :5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; :6 that no one should take **advantage** of and **defraud** his brother (or sister) in this matter...sexual issues and in conduct

Respect Means That You Love Him/Her Enough *and that you want this relationship to grow.*

Any form of sexual activity outside of marriage
is sexual immorality which will ruin the “heart and soul” of a promising relationship. –
It messes with your minds !

BEING THE LOVE OF THEIR LIFE

2b.) Means that you submit to them above all others

Hello - - Attention Please - - Focus

Never think that after you get married he/she is going to wake up after the wedding and be submissive.

Ephesians 5:21-24

submitting to one another in the fear of God. :22 Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord. :23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. :24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

BEING THE LOVE OF THEIR LIFE

2c.) Means that you affirm them above all others

This “Depth of Love” Begins Long Before Marriage

Genesis 2:21-24

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. :22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. :23 And Adam said: “This *is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” :24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Ephesians 5:25-28

Husbands, **love** your wives, just as Christ also **loved** the church and gave Himself for her, :26 that He might **sanctify** and **cleanse** her with the washing of water by the word, :27 that He might present her to Himself a **glorious** church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be **holy** and **without blemish**. :28 So husbands ought to **love** their own wives as their own bodies; he who **loves** his wife loves himself.

BEING A CHRISTIAN IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

3.) Being a Christian and managing your resources

MANAGING YOUR RESOURCES

3a.) Managing your relationship and your time

Amplified Version of Romans 12:1-2

I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship. :2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

When looking for a husband or wife look for a disciple

Statistically - the bulk of ministry in any church - who's doing the doing? (the 35 to 55 factor)

By far it's getting done by parents of young children, full-time dad's and single moms and those from about 35 to 55 years of age - - why?

There are exceptions, and those are the ones to watch !

Why you ask? – because they're givers, usually generous, doers, caring.

Their Time is God's Time and They've Judged Heaven is Worth Investing In.

Is the man or woman you're interested in on God's clock?

MANAGING YOUR RESOURCES

3b.) Managing your relationship and your money

Matthew 6:20-21

but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. :21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

In a Relationship That's Leading Towards Marriage

Granted, one might be better at handling the money as an accountant better than the other - but never should money be the issue of division.

He has his checking account and she has hers. "Whatever he does with his money is his business"

...and the two shall become one flesh - - but the buck stops here !

When Lisa and I met, we were Christians, we loved Jesus, we were going to church, but... when I took her to my church for our first Sunday morning service together, she and the Holy Spirit gave me a bloody nose...

I wasn't tithing a portion of my income back to God.

I was in love with my money – it wasn't God's money in my mind.

Malachi 3:8-10

"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. :9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation. :10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will* not *be room* enough to receive it.

My wife taught me this... (1) we will get our paychecks and deposit them. (2) we will first give the Lord what's His. (3) then we will pay the bills (4) then we will buy food with what's left (5) if there's anything left over, take me out.

MANAGING YOUR RESOURCES

3c.) Managing your relationship and your priorities

Before you ever commit to a relationship, you need to examine that persons life.

Whatever their life is about, will become your life too for good or evil, for better or for worse.

Benjamin Franklin Said;

“Before someone gets married they should have both eyes wide open. Then after they’re married they should keep one eye closed.”

It’s easy to make a commitment, it’s another thing to keep it.

Colossians 3:1-3

If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things** (priority) which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. :2 **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth. :3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

We all need prayer – perhaps you have a relationship that you want to dedicate to the Lord.

End of Study