

Part 3: Modern Relationship Myths Pastor Grant Fishbook May 21 & 22, 2011

Modern Relationship Myths

1) Being single is bad.

Truth: Being single is bad when you use that season of life for <u>experimenting</u> and <u>excuses</u>. Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. -2 Timothy 2:22

Truth: Being single is amazing when you use that season to develop spiritual devotion and dependence.

And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time. – 1 Kings 8:61

2) I can do this on my own.

Truth: Loving, biblical community is a <u>protective covering</u> for your relationships.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. — Hebrews 10:23-25

3) Being in a relationship with another human being will complete you.

Truth: Your spouse will <u>complicate</u> you. <u>Only Jesus</u> can complete you.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. — *Ephesians 3:17-19*

4) Marriage is an archaic institution heading towards extinction.

Truth: Marriage is a divine institution that God <u>continues to bless</u>.

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. – *Genesis 2:24*

5) If my marriage doesn't work out, I can always get out.

Truth: Your marriage will suffer if you go into it with an escape clause.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

— Ephesians 5:25

...and the wife must respect her husband. – Ephesians 5:32

Next Steps

If you need prayer or someone to talk with today, come down in front of the stage after today's service. We promise no one will do anything weird. A member of our After Service Prayer Team will be glad to listen and pray with you.

If you'd like to dig deeper into what the Bible teaches about various relationships, check out the following books:

For single women: Lady in Waiting by Jackie Kendall & Debby Jones
For single men: Chiseled by Shaun Blakeney & Marcus Brotherton

For engaged couples: Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts by Dr. Les and Leslie Parrot

For married couples: Love & Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Relationships by Les and Leslie Parrot

Small Group Questions

- 1) Who is your closest friend? Why are you two so close?
- 2) Have you ever been burned in a relationship? What did you learn both positively and negatively?
- 3) How is your relationship with God today?
 - a. Distant
- d. Dynamic
- b. Cordial
- e. Other
- c. Growing
- 4) What are your unfiltered thoughts about God's relational plan called marriage? How do your thoughts line up with God's blessing on marriage?
- 5) Regardless of your relational status, what are you doing to support marriages within your church or your circle of influence? What could you be doing?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?