



lyona bible church

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – FEBRUARY 14, 2010

Announcements – Please read these to your group!

Please check your bulletin and the website (www.lyona.org) each week for additional information.

- **Leadership Community:** This is the bi-annual gathering (event) for inspiration, information, and community with our ministry leaders and ministry volunteers. Sunday, February 21 from 12:30-1pm in the Ministry Center.
- **THEOS:** A new semester starts Sunday, March 14 beginning at 9am.
- **Sportsman's Banquet:** This year's expo and banquet will be held on Saturday, April 24 starting at 4pm.

Desperate Households: Desperation, Part 1 (Ephesians 5:21-25; 1 Peter 5:5-7)

Questions

1. What was the most interesting idea or principle about this Sunday's message?
2. When you got married or if you are dating around, what did or do you look for in that person? What are some of your dreams and expectations of marriage? Have you communicated that to your spouse/date?
3. How are these dreams and expectations "premeditated" disappointments? What is one thing that all of these expectations have in common?
4. Why do some marriages end up in "debt-debtor" relationships? Who is responsible (for this end result)? When did it start—before or after the "I dos"?
5. Have someone read Ephesians 5:21-25. How is love a gift and not an expectation? How does this principle change the dynamic of your marriage (relationship if you are dating)?
6. Have someone read 1 Peter 5:5-7. What does Peter imply when he writes about being "clothed with humility"? How would you define humility (see notes below)? What does humility look like in your marriage (relationship if you are dating)?
7. What are you desperate for in your marriage or relationship? Why is it so important to live a Christ-centered life?
8. Do you, after hearing the sermon this Sunday, need to confess anything or repent of anything? What in your life needs to change?

Prayer Requests

A place to write out your groups' prayer requests

SERMON NOTES

Each header with sub-points is a slide used in Sunday morning's PowerPoint presentation.

Text: Ephesians 5:21-25; 1 Peter 5:5-7

Speaker: Michael Fraser

Message: Desperate Households: Desperation, Part 1

We enter marriage with a lot of wishes, dreams, desires; things that we want or expect.

Unfortunately, Expectations are Premeditated Disappointments!

All Expectations have one thing in common: the big "I"

- I wish, I desire, I want, I expect
- **A Christian marriage is not where you throw Bible Darts at each other:**
 - "The Bible says you should..."
- **That is not a Christian marriage; it is an "I" marriage with a cross around its neck!**
 - Using the Bible to control and manipulate
- **"Control behavior through the use of expectations"**
 - Parenting, not Marriage
- **What do you do when the two I's in marriage collide?**
 - You can Leave
 - You can Conquer
 - You can Compromise
 - "I am concerned about my marriage!"
 - Problem is that you are not committed to 'the marriage'; you are committed to a Person!
 - Marriage is the description, not the Goal!
- **Too many marriages are a "debt-debtor" relationship:**
 - You owe me!
- **Question???**
 - "What does your spouse owe you?" Answer: NOTHING!
- **Love is a gift, not an expectation!**
- **Ephesians 5:21**
 - "submit to one another out of fear of God (reverence for Christ)"
 - This is illustrated in verses;
 - 22 "wives submit..."
 - 25 "husbands love..."
 - Take all of the gratitude, energy and passion you have to God for what He has done and express it to your spouse!
 - Take the debt free relationship you have with God and apply it to your marriage.
- **1 Peter 5:5-7**
 - "Be submissive to one another"
 - "clothed with humility"
 - "...gives *grace* to the humble."
 - The ability/power you need to do what needs to be when it needs to be done.

- “...gives grace to the *humble*.”
 - A declaration of dependence; an announcement of obedience; an acknowledgment of total *desperation!*
- **Are we Desperate Households for God to work?**
- **Marriage is not living under the glare of the two I's; It is living under the shadow of the cross.**