



lyona bible church

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – MARCH 21, 2010

Announcements – Please read these to your group!

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

- **THEOS:** A new semester started and begins each Sunday at 9am. Classes are still open.
- **Sportsman's Banquet:** This year's expo and banquet will be held on Saturday, April 24 starting at 4pm.

Desperate Households: Q&A, Part 6 (Various)

Questions

1. What was the most interesting idea or principle about this Sunday's message?
2. Have someone read Ephesians 5:22-33. What is the purpose of marriage? What roles are the husband and wife to play in marriage relationship?
3. Have someone read Genesis 2:18-25. It is popular beliefs that if you're not happy then get a divorce. So basically the purpose of marriage is to make a person happy. But according to the passage, what are the purpose of marriage and the purpose of your life?
4. Have someone read Matthew 19:5-6. Why do 50% of marriages fail?
5. Have someone read Ephesians 5:21. What is the context of this verse? Is there mutual submission in the marriage relationship? If the husband is not to submit to the wife then what is his role?
6. How can you "affair-proof" your marriage?
7. Why is it a popular idea, especially with singles, to think that marriage completes you or that someone is your soul mate? Is this a true and honest interpretation of Scripture?
8. Have someone read Genesis 2:24 and 1 Corinthians 6:16. What is the purpose of sex? How does sex lose its "bonding" power and purpose?
9. 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 is a question in bold and the speakers answered the question.

Text: Genesis 1-3; Proverbs 19, 21, 27; Matthew 6; 1 Corinthians 6-7; Ephesians 4-5; 1 Peter 3

Speakers: Michael Fraser and Jeff Geyer

Message: Desperate Households: Q&A, Part 6

What is the purpose of marriage?

Michael Fraser:

- Genesis 2: 18-25
- Marriage was designed to provide:
 - Companionship
 - Communion
 - Completion*
- Marriage is designed to make you Holy; it was never intended solely as the avenue for you to be happy.
- Once we grasp that concept and pursue Holiness we find that we also achieve Happiness.

Jeff Geyer:

The purpose of marriage is for spouses to reflect the Gospel (Ephesians 5:22-33). The Gospel is Jesus Christ restoring us (the Church) back to God through His death and resurrection. Paul explains in the Ephesians passage that a marriage reflects the relationship between Christ and the Church. Christ lovingly leads the Church through sacrificial unconditional love and nourishment, while the Church submits to and respects the headship of Christ. The husband is to be the Christ-portraying figure in the marriage and the wife is to be the Church-portraying figure in the marriage.

The Gospel empowers forgiveness and forbearance. As the Church, we are sinners, who are constantly falling, but Christ is so patient with our annoying behavior. He is constantly forgiving us of our sinful behavior. We must reflect that forgiveness and forbearance on our spouse. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, "Love does not sustain the marriage, but marriage sustains the love."

Why do one in two marriages fail?

Michael Fraser:

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. *Therefore what God joined together, let man not separate.*" Matthew 19:5-6

Four negative risk factors that create barriers in marriage and increase marital failure: (*what man allows to separate*)

1. Escalation
2. Invalidation
3. Negative Interpretations
4. Withdrawal and Avoidance

How does communication prevent conflict?

Michael Fraser:

- Ephesians 4:25-32
- *Four negative response styles:*
 - Passive responses
 - SILENCE
 - DENY
 - FEAR & DOUBT
 - MARTYR
 - Evasive responses
 - FLEE
 - MINIMIZE
 - SMOOTH OVER
 - SHIFT BURDEN

- Defensive responses
 - CLAIM STATUS (often by NEGATION)
 - CONSPIRACY
 - PUFF-UP SELF
 - BLAME others & EXCUSE self
- Aggressive responses
 - ATTACK
 - SHAME
 - SUE
 - WIN (defeat opponent)
- Six Questions to ask yourself before you communicate:
 1. Have I *Prayed* for God's help?
 2. Do I have the *Facts* right?
 3. Should *Love* cover it?
 4. Is my *Timing* right?
 5. Is my *Attitude* right?
 6. Are my *Words* loving?

What happens when a home becomes "kid-centered"?

Jeff Geyer:

A couple weeks ago, we talked through the biblical principle of treasure (Matthew 6:24). Your kids are a gift from God. They are not yours. God allowed you to be the stewards of those little souls. But many parents are worshipping their kids. They are devoting their time, energy, and resources to their kids. Everything in their life revolves around their kids. You have the dad living out his dreams through his son, who doesn't want to disappoint his dad. You have the mom living out her dreams through her daughter, who doesn't want to disappoint her mom. This is why there are so many people who despise God when death comes knocking on their kid's door. They have hoarded their kids instead of seeing them as God's.

When it has been about your kids for 18-25 years, you will lose 18-25 years with your spouse. Your spouse doesn't have your attention and affection. Neither of you are fulfilling your roles in the marriage in reflection to that of the Gospel. The husbands are not cultivating their relationship with their wives; and wives are not respecting and submitting to their husbands. Marriages that end after 18-25 years end because spouses were dads and moms instead of husbands and wives. Parents took over the role Christ in the lives of their kids. Parents who try to be everything to their kids leave nothing for their spouse. The spousal relationship is the top relationship in that marriage, next their walk together in Christ. This relationship was before the kids, during the kids, and after the kids. The marriage relationship was intended to last a lifetime.

How do blended families overcome the parent/step-parent dynamic?

Michael Fraser:

"Children, *obey your parents* in the Lord for this is right. *Honor your father and mother*, which is the first commandment accompanied by a promise, namely, that it may go well with you and that you will live a long time on the earth. *Fathers, do not provoke your children* to anger, but raise them up in the *discipline and instruction of the Lord.*" Ephesians 6:1-4

- The Crucial nature of the marriage relationship: there must be harmony and unity!
- The great need for Patience!
- Enjoy the relationship you have now.
- Be Realistic in your Expectations.
- Move gradually into Discipline.
- Make the marriage a Priority!

Is there mutual submission in a marriage (the husband also submits to the wife)?

Jeff Geyer:

In Ephesians 5:21, there is an idea that there is mutual submission between a husband and a wife. The context of 5:21 is actually in regards to the context of Paul's urge for unity in the body of Christ (4:1-5:21). Paul writes about equipping the saints for ministry (4:11-14), instructing "each one" of them to speak truth to their neighbor (4:25), and encouraging them

to address “each other” in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (5:19). Clearly there is a plurality in his audience and in this context is the church at Ephesus.

The word for submission in this context is actually a military term. Submission is an equal placing themselves in subjection to another for the benefit of all concerned. Submission is done in the church by submitting to each other because we all are priests (1 Peter 2:9). It is implying for everyone to submit to each other for the purpose of unity or unifying under the mission of the church, which is developing disciples of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).

Since Paul is talking about submission, he goes right to unpack this principle into the marriage relationship. Wives are to submit to their husband. Husbands are never in Scripture commanded or instructed to submit. If there was mutual submission in the home then there would a two-headed monster leading that family. Husbands are called to lovingly lead their wives by sacrificing their wants, needs, dreams, and expectations for her needs. He is to nourish and cherish his wife like he would his own body.

Submission in a marriage is to reflect the Gospel. In the Godhead, there is equality between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. It’s not Papa Bear, little Jr. Jesus bear, and a little ghost. They are equal in essence but distinct in function—they play different roles. So Jesus submits to the Father and the Spirit submits to the Father and to Jesus. In the marriage, the husband submits to Christ just as Christ submits to God and the wife submits to her husband just as the Church submits to Christ. Remember husbands are the Christ-portraying figure in the marriage, while wives are the Church-portraying figure in the marriage.

Due to the fact that two people are sinners, submission for the wife is never absolute obedience, even though the husband gets the deciding vote. Christ must always trump the husband. The husband is a sinner, so that guarantees that he is going to lead at times contrary to Scripture (violating biblical principles not preferences).

This goes back to Genesis 3, where the woman was deceived and the man disobeyed. Due to the fall, this is where the head of the home comes from. One of the consequences to the woman eating of the forbidden fruit was to submit to her husband. If we want to blame anyone we need to place blame on our first parents. A woman submitting to her husband was not going to be easy. God explains to Eve that her desire is to fight against her husband and in result she needs to submit to his position (Genesis 3:16). In response, Adam was to cultivate his wife, along with the earth.

How to affair proof your marriage:

Michael Fraser:

Proverbs 5:1-23

1. Stop
2. Remember
3. Confess
4. Commit

Putting up ‘hedges’ of protection around you marriage:

- Hearing
- Encouraging
- Dating
- Guarding
- Educating
- Satisfying

What does it mean to be a “quarrelsome” wife?

Jeff Geyer:

In 1 Peter 3:4, Peter quickly explains that a woman’s adorning should not just be in designer jeans and tanning beds but that they focus on making their mind and soul attractive with the never-dying beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. In the culture that Peter wrote to, quiet and gentle women were considered more attractive than the women who dressed in the

latest fashion.

The internal attraction looks like a woman who is gentle with her husband. She is not undermining him or his leadership in the home. She is gently leading him to lead her and the kids. There are times when I will be wrapped up in ministry or fall asleep on the couch that I neglect to lead Jenny as her spiritual head of the home. So there are times that while I am brushing my teeth, she is placing our marriage devotional on my pillow. As I turn to get into bed, I see the book on my pillow and realize that she is gently nudging me to lead her as her husband. She is not brash and mean about it. She is gentle about getting me to lead.

The internal attraction also looks like a woman who is quiet with her husband. She is not nagging and berating him to do things around the home or even leading her. She is quiet when discussing things with him. This kind of behavior in the Scripture is sometimes referred to as *quarrelsome*. There are four times in Proverbs that deter women from being quarrelsome. A quarrelsome wife is like a continual dripping of rain (Proverbs 19:13; 27:15), which is annoying and irritating and something we beg to stop. Solomon, the author of Proverbs, says that it is safer for a guy to live in a desert or on the corner of the roof than to live inside with a quarrelsome wife (Proverbs 21:9, 19). It is better for your husband live in the corner of your house in 8-degree weather with snow than to live inside with heat with you nagging him.

Your godliness and your time cultivating your relationship with God are precious in His sight. God will use your godliness to gain your husband to Christ and get your husband to begin leading you and the family. Pursue that gentle and quiet spirit.

I feel like I have the gift of singleness, so will I ever be “complete”?

Jeff Geyer:

It is a popular idea that a person is not “complete” until they get married to their soul mate. People buy into this all time and it seems that it starts out very early in life.

There is this scene in the popular movie *Jerry Maguire* where Renée Zellweger and Tom Cruise in the elevator and this man and woman come in, and they're kind of all over each other basically making out in the elevator. And then he backs up and he signs (he's deaf) something to the girl, and then she kisses him. And Renée was like, “Aw!” And then she tells Tom, “He just said, ‘You complete me.’” And then if we fast-forward to the end of the movie, Tom Cruise runs into this living room where there are all these really bitter, angry women. He throws down his bags and says, “I’m good in the living room. They used to always send me into the living room. I could go into the living room and close the deal, so let’s just do this. Tonight was a very big night for our little experiment. Tonight was a very big night for our little company, but it wasn’t nearly as good as it could have been. It wasn’t nearly what it could have been because you weren’t there. You complete me.” And Renée was choking back the tears going, “Shut up. You shut up. You had me at ‘Hello.’” And everybody was like, “Aw, that’s so sweet!”

There’s a problem with that. No one can complete you except for Christ. You are a sinner who is broken and needing to be restored and another sinner who is broken and needing to be restored cannot complete you because they cannot even complete themselves. Christ completes us—whether you have the gift of singleness or not. For those who are looking for someone to complete you other than Christ, you will get hurt because no guy or girl can meet all of your needs, dreams, and expectations.

I want to get married, but how do I know if this person is the right one for me?

Jeff Geyer:

First, it may be best to understand what marriage is and what it is not. Marriage was not intended to save you from your insecurities and be the answer to your dreams. Marriage cannot promise you the white picketed fence with 3.2 kids and a prince-charming husband. There is added conflict in a marriage because it is the union of two sinners. Marriage is an inadequate savior that cannot complete you. Getting married is not going to complete you. Only Christ can provide for you ultimate joy and completion and He is the only One that can be your identity and hope.

Second, it is all about trajectory. Look for the guy or girl that is getting their life ready for marriage. They are working on their character, cutting the chord with their parents, and finances. They are intentional about growing up and growing in

Christ. Girls, look to see how the guy treats his mom and sister(s)—all women in his life. If he is disrespectful and looks at women based on their cup size, run. He is just a little boy. Realize that you cannot change them—and getting into a marriage thinking you can—will crush you.

Michael Fraser:

The typical religious view of dating:

- Social
- Psychological
- Emotional
- Physical*



The typical way most dating goes:

- Social
- Physical*
- Psychological
- Emotional



God's view of dating:

- Physical*
- Emotional
- Psychological
- Spiritual
- Social



Why is sex before marriage sinful and unhealthy?

Jeff Geyer:

It may be best to first understand the purpose of sex. God designed sex to establish and seal the life-long commitment and continue to strengthen and renew that commitment through having a healthy sex life. Marriages flourish when there is a healthy sex life, which is why it is so important to make time for sex. Life can get hectic with work, kids, and hobbies, so it is vital schedule time for sex.

God intends for sex to have “oneness” power, whether you intend for it or not (1 Corinthians 6:16). Sex seals and renews the covenant relationship between a man and woman. When sex becomes a screening process or hook-ups, it will lose its purpose and power.

It is like duck tape. The purpose of duck tape is to bond two things together. When you keep ripping off the duck tape, it loses its purpose and bonding power. Just like sex, it was intended done with one person for a lifetime. When you keep hooking up and/or looking at pornography, sex will lose its purpose and power in your life. So when you do get married, sex will have lost its purpose and power.

You will train yourself to lose the bonding power of sex between two people. Sex is never about satisfying yourself but giving yourself to a life-long commitment. Sex is the ultimate investment to the ultimate commitment. So don't make the ultimate investment when there is no ultimate commitment.