

FOR GOD'S SAKE GROW UP

CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- Would you call yourself a romantic? Why or why not?
- On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate your need to grow up? Why?

TRUTH *UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

The Bible has a lot to say about how we should live with regard to romance, whether we're single, dating, or married. Compared to the stories our culture tells us about these things, the gospel is profoundly good news. The gospel is *the* story that makes sense of romance (and everything else). Growing up means believing that story.

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE

READ: Mark 10:1-9

DISCUSS: What was the motivation for the Pharisees to ask Jesus what they did? To what did Jesus refer in his answer? How does Jesus' response shape our view of marriage, dating, and romance?

Jesus, in one brief quotation from Genesis 1:27, 2:24, and 5:2, makes God's vision for marriage clear. We come to relationships driven by individual taste, emotion, and desire. Jesus' has a different angle, seeing romantic relationships as about something more than those things. Despite how much his answer seems intolerant, culturally backwards, or offensive to our sensibilities, we mustn't try to make Jesus give us the answer we want. That is what the Pharisees did.

SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR SINGLENES, DATING, AND MARRIAGE

The book of Proverbs helps us grow up in our romantic lives, so we can grow up as disciples of Jesus. Here are seven principles for dating, marriage, and singleness.

- **Principle 1: Date toward marriage.**

READ: Proverbs 5:18, Proverbs 18:22, Mark 10:1-9

DISCUSS: Do you view marriage as a worthy goal? How are serial dating, hook-up culture, and casual sex outside the biblical vision? What is Jesus' understanding of marriage?

- **Principle 2: Date the right person.**

READ: Proverbs 6:23-24, 2 Corinthians 6:14

DISCUSS: As a disciple, what kind of person should you date?

- **Principle 3: Receive your spouse as God's gift.**

READ: Proverbs 19:14, 31:10-11

DISCUSS: How do these proverbs shape your understanding of marriage and the gift of a spouse? How is that different than our cultural story?

- **Principle 4: Be faithful.**

READ: Proverbs 6:27-29

DISCUSS: What is infidelity like, according to this proverb? How have you seen infidelity bring harm?

- **Principle 5: Use words as blessings not weapons.**

READ: Proverbs 21:9, 27:15-16, 18:21

DISCUSS: In dating and marriage specifically, how are we to use words? Why is this so hard?

- **Principle 6: In singleness, stop waiting to live and work your "land."**

READ: Proverbs 12:11

DISCUSS: Why is singleness hard for us? What should we do in singleness?

- **Principle 7: Fight for joy in God.**

READ: Proverbs 14:30, 23:17-18

DISCUSS: How does joy in God destroy the sin of envy? How will you pursue joy in Him?

GRACE *SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

We should desire to experience the "mingling of souls" marriage provides. There's just one problem, our souls are corrupt. Read Mark 7:20-23 and then pause to reflect.

In the gospel, we find grace for our sinful souls and meaning for romantic relationships. In Mark 10, Jesus quotes from Genesis about the first wedding that opens the story of the Bible. But that relationship was ruined by sin. However, in the final book of the Bible, we find the grand drama of redemption ending with another wedding. Read Revelation 19:6-9.

CHANGE *APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- What is one way you need to change after today's group study?
- How does the gospel give meaning to your romantic life and redemption for your sins therein?
- What does believing the gospel in your romantic life look like, right now?

PRAYER *RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Pray that God would bring conviction for sin and power to change.
- Pray that our church would be a family of holy dating, great marriages, and powerful singleness.