

Sunday School 10/31

Lead in from last week - 2 Corinthians 7:36-38

3 biblical facts about singleness and 5 reasons to be single.

3 Biblical Facts

1. singleness is good.
2. singleness is a gift from God.
 1. Luke 11:13 - If you who are evil know how to give good gifts... (Holy Spirit)
 2. Matthew 7:11 - If you who are evil know how to give good gifts, God give what is good...
3. marital status doesn't have anything to do with your salvation (7:12-24)

5 Reasons to be single

1. this present distress (pressures of the world)
2. problems of the flesh (squashed grapes)
3. passing things of the world - focus on eternal things
4. free from divided attentions
5. marriage is permanent, you are stuck!

Hey Dads (and moms) look for the gift

...36-38. OT arranged marriages, Roman society, parents chose. Pharaoh chose Joseph's wife. 1 Samuel 18:20 - husband and wife did have some say.

v.36 - heard all this and say, I am going to push our little girl to serve God her whole life.

v.37 - God leads through father's decisions. If she has the gift, no special urges to be married.

v.38 - Giving is good, not giving is better. God says. Why, because it's God's gift.

Look at the contrast: marriage - does well, single - DOES BETTER

Dad...mom... encourage devotion to our Lord Christ and his work in your little ones, throughout life. Look for the gift of singleness in your children. Encourage it. 5^ If you see they don't have the gift (better to marry than to burn), guide them into making sure their husband or wife is godly, seeking Christ. Look for fruit, not just words, or easily pretended activities (youth group, know lots of bible words or verses).

What is this chapter saying?

— Marriage is good, it's for most of us. fulfill it, enjoy it sustain it for life.

— Singleness is good. It's a gift. If you have the gift, use the gift!

— As a christian, you will grow, mature and prosper, whether single or married.

Two races - 2 Corinthians 6:14

“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?” (Passing world - remember)

- Importance of not being unequally yoked: CAREFUL!!

Also, Too high of expectations? If you don't have the gift of singleness, God plans to grow you through your one flesh union. Are you expecting someone who is already arrived? That may be why you haven't found someone. Balance....

Value vs. Role and Function

— Value: Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in “Christ Jesus.”

— Romans 8:16-17 - joint heirs

“The Spirit Himself ^atestifies with our spirit that we are ^bchildren of God, and if children, ^aheirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, ^bif indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.”

— 2 become 1 flesh (Genesis 2:23-24, Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:8, 1 Corinthians 6:16 (18), Ephesians 5:31) too pieces of wood, glued together...

— Preciousness of a 1 Peter 3:1-4 (1 Timothy 2:9-10)

“In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be *merely* external — braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”

1 Peter 3:4 precious

Mark 14:3 very costly —same greek word

“While He was in ^bBethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining *at the table*, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure ¹nard; *and* she broke the vial and poured it over His head.”

verse 5 says that one of the disciples said the perfume could have been sold for 300 denarii (300 days wages) That's very costly. (over a years wages)

What does the bible say to...

wives: Ephesians 5:22 wives be subject to your own husbands Colossians 3:18
husbands: Ephesians 5:25 husbands love your wives (buy stuff, trash third time or first time). Colossians 3:19

- - Track through - -

Genesis 1:28 - see relationship between man and woman, and mankind and all other living. Benevolent rule

Genesis 3:16

- Desire - to dominate, to subjugate
- rule - despotic, under the heel

Genesis 4:7

- desire - to dominate, to subjugate Same Hebrew word from Genesis 3:16

This is why this is a battle today. It should not surprise or offend us when the world loses it's mind, as well as so many in the SBC and other mainline churches when someone talks about complementarity. They are looking through sin coated glasses, either from the woman's side or from the men's side. Let's take the sin glasses off and put on some biblical glasses to see what the bible has to say.

Wives:

Ephesians 5:22 and Colossians 3:18 - wives be subject to your own husbands

Let's finish 22-24 in Ephesians 5.

“Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.”

Why is *be subject* in italics (if it's not it should be). Not in the greek. There is no verb in this sentence which means it uses the verb from verse 21: “be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”

Subject? Head? What does that mean?

Subject - verb in verse 21 hupotasso - to willingly line up under

— wife is not commanded to obey - hupokouo used for obey in 6:1, 5 not here.

TREAD CAREFULLY HERE: HERESY...

1 CORINTHIANS 11:3

“Christ is the head of every man, man is the head of every woman, and God is the head of Christ.”

JOHN 10:30 “I and the Father are ¹one.”

JOHN 14:9 “He who has seen Me has seen the Father;”

COLOSSIANS 1:15 “He is the image of the invisible God”

COLOSSIANS 2:9 “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form”

— no inequality in the Trinity. Same value, one is not less.

— not some mix of God and man. 100% God/100% Man.

MATTHEW 28:18 - “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

JOHN 4:34 - “My food is to “do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”

JOHN 5:30 (6:38) - “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

MATTHEW 26: 39 - “And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

— Christ willingly submitted to the Father’s headship.

— Are you willingly lining up behind the leader of your house as Christ lined up willingly behind the Will of the Father when he came to earth as a man to pay the price for my sin...and yours?

— Is the husband worthy of being followed? Nope.

— Is he smart enough, wise enough? Nope.

— So why follow? 1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

How does this look in marriage?

(turn here)

1 CORINTHIANS 7

(turn here)

EPHESIANS 5:21

Roles have nothing to do with superiority or inferiority, but with willingness to follow the design God made. Wives tend to be -

- smarter
- wiser
- better educated
- more disciplined
- more discerning

1 Peter 3:7

— owes self-sacrifice and protection (Practicals)

Put off, put on: Ephesians 4:22,24, Colossians 3:8-10

Husbands:

(turn here) Love your wives - Eph 5:25-30

(turn here) 1 Corinthians 13 (Practicals)

What does the bible say to wives?

— willingly line up behind your husbands.

What does the bible say to husbands?

— love your wives as Christ loved the church.

Is that all that God says directly to wives and husbands? Why?

Because all other instructions are no different than the instructions of the rest of the body. What does Christ expect of the body? This he expects first and foremost of husband and wife... Here is just a taste...

(practicals)

— Romans 12:10 “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

— Philippians 4:5-9 “Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.”

— Colossians 3:12 “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Guess what comes next... Wives, be subject, husbands, love your wives....

— Titus 2:12 "Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,”

That’s a lot... Question I got last night was how do I make this practical, how do I apply this in my life when I come home from work after a really bad day, and I find my wife crying on the floor with a screeching baby with a blood red face, and all I wanted was 10 minutes of peace and quiet to get myself together.

Eph. 4, Col 3. put off the old man, put on the new man, renewed by Christ. The christian walk is simple, but not easy. We have to learn to recognize sin or POV’s that are the world’s not God’s, put that off, then find out what principle the bible offers, and find a practical way to put it into practice. Phil 4:5-9

What will putting on the new man look like to this husband?

What would putting off the old man and putting on the new man look like to this wife?