



Happily Ever After

RELATIONSHIP SEMINAR

SESSION ONE: SINGLENESS

1. FIRST THINGS FIRST

a. PURPOSE

- i. The Purpose of Life
 1. Genesis
 2. John 3:16; John 17:3
 3. Created for relationship with God
- ii. What's your purpose
 1. Jeremiah 29:11-13
 2. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- iii. The Purpose of Marriage
 1. Marriage is the second most important decision you'll ever make – it will either bless you and help you in fulfilling your destiny, or it will be a burden and pull you away from your destiny.
 2. Jesus said: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh."
(Matthew 19:5-6 ESV)
 3. Marriage can be defined as: "One mortal life **fully shared** between a man and a woman."
 4. The Purpose of marriage for the believer:
To fulfil God's purpose together.

2. SINGLENES AND MARRIED LIFE

a. 1 Corinthians 7:

"7 Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me—a simpler life in many ways! But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is. God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others.

8-9 I do, though, tell the unmarried and widows that singleness might well be the best thing for them, as it has been for me. But if they can't manage their desires and emotions, they should by all means go ahead and get married. The difficulties of marriage are preferable by far to a sexually tortured life as a single.

- i. How do you know if you've got the gift of celibacy or singleness?
 1. If you can manage your desires, especially sexual, and your emotions, and be a content single... then that may be an indication that this gift is for you.
- b. 32-35 I want you to live as free of complications as possible. When you're unmarried, you're free to concentrate on simply pleasing the Master. Marriage involves you in all the nuts and bolts of domestic life and in wanting to please your spouse, leading to so many more demands on your attention. The time and energy that married people spend on caring for and nurturing each other, the unmarried can spend in becoming whole and holy instruments of God (ministry). I'm trying to be helpful and make it as easy as possible for you, not make things harder. All I want is for you to be able to develop a way of life in which you can spend plenty of time together with the Master without a lot of distractions.
 1. If your desire for being in ministry outweighs your desire for marriage and you realize that marriage would only be a hindrance, then this gift may be for you...

3. A SEASON OF SINGLENESS

- a. Truth is that: No one gets married the day they are born.
- b. So many marriages end in divorce for a number of reasons:
 - i. Not prepared for what is coming
 - ii. People rush in to marriage simply because they're tired of being single
 - iii. They often are in love with the idea of being married but don't know what it actually mean and what it will actually take to succeed
 - iv. Expectations of what marriage is about are completely off.
- c. What do you want in a spouse?
 - i. Write a list (top 5 qualities)
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
 - 4. _____
 - 5. _____
 - i. "Getting Ready"
 - 1. BUILD RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
 - a. John 3:16; John 17:3.
 - b. We are called into relationship with God before anything else.
 - c. Discover your identity in Christ.
 - 2. BUILD STRONG GODLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR GENDER
 - 3. Consider: WHAT DO YOU WANT IN A SPOUSE...?

If you're resting in God, He will bring your wife to you.

4. THE PROCESS OF GETTING TO WE

- a. Trust God!
- b. CHOOSING a spouse
 - i. Following God's leading in choosing a spouse but it's your choice.

God will not force you in anything.

- c. What should you want in a spouse?
 - i. What not to base your decision on:
 - 1. "We're in love!" – emotions/ feelings
 - 2. "He's got a really good job and manages his money well."
 - 3. "God told me he's the one!"

Get rid of the Hollywood or Disney idea of love and marriage...

it's better than "one day my prince will come..."

- ii. Make a decision based on Wisdom & Truth
 - 1. Follow principles, and seek godly counsel
- iii. Looking at your list:
 - 1. "Christian" is not enough for top of your list...
 - a. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, "Do not be unequally yoked"
 - 2. "Submitted to the Word"... how deep are they?
 - a. If they discover in the Word, an opportunity to have a course correction in their lives, will they go for it?
 - 3. It's always best to marry someone who believes like you.

- a. You need to marry someone who values what you value.
- 4. Character... we'll look more at this in a moment
 - a. You can't go wrong if you're looking for character.
 - b. What are they're doing now? How do they spend their time and money? Are they living for something bigger than themselves?
- 5. Faithfulness.
 - a. Do they follow through on what they say (especially the small things) and do they stick to their commitments?

Having a godly "list" and valuing what God values in a spouse.

- 6. Don't limit God by having a carnal list.
- 7. BFF: "I want to marry my best friend."
- 8. The physical: Looks and attraction, likes and types.
 - a. Proverbs 31:30 NLT, "Charm is deceptive, and beautiful does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised."
 - i. "Charm" = *the power or quality of delighting, attracting or fascinating others.*
 - ii. Do you want someone to market themselves to you in

such a way to you that
you're attracted because
you've been charmed?

- iii. "A WOMAN WHO FEARS THE
LORD" = healthy relationship
with God.

What pornography was when it first started is our mainstream media today. We are being bombarded by media telling us that "THIS" is beautiful, and "THAT" is not. The media NEVER market character and godliness to us... only charm (which is deceptive) and their standard of beauty (which does not last).

9. The essentials in considering a potential spouse:
- a. Character
 - b. Calling
 - c. Worldview/ values
 - d. Friendship connection

How to know who your spouse is?

When the minister says "I now pronounce you man and wife, you may now kiss the bride..." BOOM: that's "THE ONE".

- d. Trusting God
- i. It's a journey of trusting God.
 - ii. Remember that there are two people involved in getting married – You and God cant force anyone into a marriage, and so you need to learn to be patient and trust Him.

iii. WHAT IS YOUR FOCUS?

1. Matthew 6:33

e. **TIPS FOR A GODLY RELATIONSHIP**

Marriage is two selfish me's start learning to think like one unified us, sharing everything: one life, one reputation, one bed, one suffering, one budget, one family, one mission, and so forth. No barriers, no hiding, no hard-hearted individualism. Now, total openness with sharing and total solidarity, until death do us part.

- i. Problems in dating like the world: (It can be awkward)
 1. You're two individuals in the sight of God, who are trying to act like one in many respects.
 2. There is no real commitment.
 - a. Insecurity
 3. Dating is: two selfish me's trying to think like one unified us, not really sharing everything. They're testing the waters and seeing if they want to become one, even though they are acting like one in many respects. There are barriers, some hiding, and a lot of individualism. There isn't total openness, no complete sharing. This isn't until death do us part but until I decide to get out of it.
 4. Dating can help form habits in your life which set you up for divorce.

5. Love has to be conditional on some levels because you're checking out the relationship and there is no real commitment yet.

ii. START WITH THE END IN MIND

1. That means that you should have considered marriage before you even started dating!

Guys: the lady got into your car on your first date, in her wedding dress!

2. If you're ready to start considering marriage, you're about ready for a relationship.
3. Choose with the end in mind...
 - a. What kind of person do you want to have alongside you in your old age?

iii. YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME IF DATING ISN'T PURPOSEFUL.

1. You have to be purposeful on purpose.
2. Get to know each other. Ask questions that help you discover the essentials.
3. Practically:
 - a. Get to know her before you start dating seriously/ courting. Go out for coffees and hang out in groups... do things where you can get to know each other.
 - b. When you sense they might be the one... then move s-l-o-w-l-y... seek godly counsel.

The Purpose of Dating: (according to Shayne)

You are seeking to answer the question of “is this who I want to be with for the rest of my life?”

- c. In a relationship you need to answer the question: “Do I see myself with this person for the rest of my life?”
 - i. If the answer is “maybe” = keep going and discover the answer!
 - ii. “NO” = it’s time to move on...
 - iii. “YES” = it’s time to start moving towards marriage... speak to your dad, your pastor or other godly men in your life, who have gone on this path before you.

iv. DON’T BE IN A RUSH.

- 1. If you feel like you’re in a rush, for whatever reason, then slow down, or ask some godly friends to help you slow down.

v. DON’T BE UNEQUALLY YOKED.

- 1. “You are not the same as those who don't believe. So don't join yourselves to them. Good and evil don't belong together. Light and darkness cannot share the same room. How can there be any unity between Christ and the devil? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? God's temple cannot have anything to do with idols, and we are the temple of the living God. As God

said, "I will live with them and walk with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people." 2 Corinthians 6:14-16 ERV

vi. YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

vii. DECIDE TO BE OBEDIENT TO THE WORD OVER THE PASSION AND EMOTIONS YOU ARE EXPERIENCING.

1. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
Jeremiah 17:9 KJV
2. You should never do something because you "feel" like it, or dont...

viii. REMEMBER THAT: THIS IS NOT YOUR SPOUSE.

1. Treat him/ her as though you'd treat someone else's spouse, or how you'd like someone else to treat your future spouse.
2. In view that you may not get married, seek to bless the person so that should you break up, you'd leave them better for having known you.

ix. ESTABLISH HEALTHY BOUNDARIES IN DATING:

1. Your family is your family.
 - a. Your boyfriend or girlfriend is not yet family. Honour your family above your boy/girlfriend.
2. How to love your girl/boyfriend?
3. What about submission?
 - a. Women: He is not your husband.
 - b. Men: you are not her husband until the minister says "I now proclaim you man and wife."

- c. YOU ARE NOT ONE SO DON'T TRY BE ONE.
- d. If you see yourselves together forever you should start making decisions together (like which city to live in) – you need to start moving in the same direction, but you are still two individuals. This complicates matters!

x. DATE IN A WAY THAT WILL BRING GLORY TO CHRIST.

- 1. Leaving the other better than you found them.
- 2. What you sacrifice now, you will enjoy even more, later.

xi. REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE CHOOSING TO LOVE SOMEONE.

- 1. Learn what real love is.
- 2. Receive God's love and allow it to change you

xii. CONSIDER POSSIBLE CHALLENGES YOU MIGHT FACE and choose someone who will be a good team-mate to face these potential challenges with. Most people going into marriage don't consider the challenges they might face. Here are a few problems some people face:

- 1. Challenges with finances
- 2. Difficulties in relating to each other
- 3. Loneliness
- 4. In-law strains
- 5. Struggles in defining roles of husband and wife

6. Communication challenges
7. Decisions about values and lifestyle choices.
8. Suffering (health, work issues etc.)
9. Choices of where to attend church
10. Dealing with differences (including male/female, backgrounds, religious training, regional)
11. Decisions about traditions, like “where should we spend Christmas?”
12. Resolving conflict.
13. Work and career struggles.

f. **SEX**

- i. What did God intend with sex?

“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.” Genesis 4:1 KJV

“Then Adam had intercourse with his wife, and she became pregnant. She bore a son and said, "By the LORD's help I have gotten a son." So she named him Cain.” Genesis 4:1 GNB

“Adam had sexual relations with his wife Eve. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Cain. Eve said, "With the LORD'S help, I have made a man!" Genesis 4:1 ERV

1. The God-given purpose for sex is for us to glorifying Him as we fulfil its design, within marriage between a man and a woman, for

procreation, intimacy, comfort, and physical pleasure.

2. Pleasure

- a. In the book of Song of Solomon children are never mentioned... but sex is mentioned a lot and it's revealing to us that sex is intended for pleasure within the commitment of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- b. Song 1:2, "May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine."

3. Procreation / Children

- a. Gen. 1:28, "And God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

4. Intimacy / Oneness

- a. Genesis 2:24, the man and woman were one flesh.
- b. Oneness is demonstrated and enjoyed in marital sexual intimacy
- c. Song 1:13, "My beloved is to me a pouch of myrrh which lies all night between my breasts."
- d. Song 2:3, "Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. In

his shade I took great delight and sat down, and his fruit was sweet to my taste."

- e. Song 2:6, "Let his left hand be under my head and his right hand embrace me."
- f. Song 4:5, "Your two breasts are like two fawns, twins of a gazelle, which feed among the lilies."

5. Companionship / Comfort

- a. 2 Samuel 12:24, David and Bathsheba's child died and so they had sex as a means of comfort for one another.
- b. In seasons where life is tough and words don't help, physical comfort ministers to one another.
- c. Song 3:1, "On my bed night after night I sought him whom my soul loves . . . "

6. Protection

- a. 1 Corinthians 7 – regular sex between a husband and wife can help to prevent temptation for either spouse to seek satisfaction in a sinful way; outside of sex between each other.

ii. TIPS FOR A GREAT SEX-LIFE: (FOR UNMARRIED)

1. FAITHFULNESS TO YOUR SPOUSE.
2. IF ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF SEX IS "CHILDREN", THEN ONLY HAVE SEX WITH

THE PERSON YOU'D LIKE TO PARENT
CHILDREN WITH.

- a. How to know who to parent children with? When the minister says "I now pronounce you man and wife, you may now kiss the bride..." BOOM: that's "THE ONE".
- b. According to "health grades operating company": "You can get pregnant on birth control. No method (except not having sex) is guaranteed to prevent pregnancy 100%. But some birth control methods are more effective than others..." just not 100% effective 100% of the time. Sound risky.

3. PURITY PREPARES YOU FOR GREAT SEX.

- a. Saving yourself for your spouse is sowing towards a great sex life.

4. AMAZING SEX IS THE RESULT OF HEART
COMMITMENT, NOT A ONE-NIGHT STAND.

- a. We are not just animals. Sex is not simply a biological thing. You cannot separate the physical from the emotional.
- b. "Be happy with your own wife. Enjoy the woman you married while you were young. She is like a beautiful deer, a lovely fawn. Let her love satisfy you completely. Stay drunk on her love, and don't go

stumbling into the arms of another woman.” Proverbs 5:18-20 ERV

5. FLEE FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY – it will destroy you!

“Son, listen to this piece of wisdom from me. Pay attention to what I know to be true. Remember to live wisely, and what you learn will keep your lips from saying the wrong thing. Now, another man's wife might be very charming, and the words from her lips so sweet and inviting. But in the end, she will bring only bitterness and pain. It will be like bitter poison and a sharp sword. She is on a path leading to death, and she will lead you straight to the grave. Don't follow her. She has lost her way and does not even know it. Be careful. Stay on the road that leads to life. Now, my sons, listen to me. Don't forget the words I say. Stay away from the woman who commits adultery. Don't even go near her house. If you do, others will get the honor you should have had. Some stranger will get everything you worked years to get. People you don't know will take all your wealth. Others will get what you worked for. At the end of your life, you will be sad that you ruined your health and lost everything you had. Then you will say, "Why didn't I listen to my parents? Why didn't I pay attention to my teachers? I didn't want to be disciplined. I refused to be corrected. So now I have suffered through just about every kind of trouble anyone can have, and everyone knows it." Now, about sex and marriage: Drink only the water that comes from your own well, and don't let your water flow out into the streets. Keep it for yourself, and don't share it with strangers. Be happy with your own wife. Enjoy the woman you married while you were young. She is like a beautiful deer, a lovely fawn. Let her love satisfy you completely. Stay drunk on her love, and don't go stumbling into the arms of another woman.” Proverbs 5:1-20 ERV

“Surely you know that your bodies are parts of Christ himself. So I must never take what is part of Christ and join it to a prostitute! The Scriptures say, “The two people will become one.” So you should know that anyone who is joined with a prostitute becomes one with her in body. But anyone who is joined with the Lord is one with him in spirit. So run away from sexual sin. It involves the body in a way that no other sin does. So if you commit sexual sin, you are sinning against your own body. You should know that your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit that you received from God and that lives in you. You don't own yourselves. God paid a very high price to make you his. So honor God with your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:15-20 ERV