

Truth in Love: Motive for Honoring the Opposite Sex

Ephesians 4 & 5; Colossians 3

Sunday, September 24, 2006

Question: Does the present system that American Christians practice for finding a spouse follow biblical principles or does it violate them?

Review: Paul commanded us to no longer live like we did before we became Christians which was motivated by deceit to gratify our lusts; we either:

- a. *deceive ourselves* that sexual gratification will satisfy
- b. *seduce others* to engage in sensuality with us

10 principles & 12 examples for how we are to treat others while pursuing a spouse -- which is different than the world -
- using **Ephesians 4-5** & **Colossians 3** as our basis

How Should We as Christians Treat Others and Why?

1. We are commanded to _____ Christ in how we treat others (Ephesians 5:1, 4:1)
2. Since Jesus, not man, is our Master and Judge, we are motivated to _____ Him now to receive a future _____ (Colossians 3:23-24)
3. His _____ love for us motivates us to _____ others (Ephesians 5:1b-2, Colossians 3:13b)
4. We are to preserve the _____ of the body of Christ b/c there is one Lord, one Faith and one baptism (Ephesians 4:3-5)
5. We are to speak the _____ in _____ as it relates to doctrine b/c it results in the spiritual growth of all in the church. (Ephesians 4:14-15)

6. We are to speak _____ to others as it relates to moral purity and relationships -- and not use _____ -
- b/c we are all members of Christ's family.
(Ephesians 4:25 [Zech 8:16-17], Colossians 3:9)
7. We are to no longer _____ from others (_____)
(Ephesians 4:28, 1 Thessalonians 4:6)
8. We are to only _____ what is edifying and gives grace to others; we are to teach and admonish each other with _____ . (Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 3:16)
9. We are to show acts of _____ & forgive each other.
(Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12-13, Romans 15:1-2)
 - a. *Kind* (chr'stós)=
10. We are to consciously allow the _____ of Christ to rule in our hearts because our salvation is secure & God is in control (Colossians 3:15)
peace =

Question:

1. Parents how should we coach our children to imitate Christ in the process of looking for a spouse?
2. How are our children to discover God's will while:
 - * personally modeling integrity in all their relationships knowing it will be rewarded by God
 - * sacrificially and selflessly loving others
 - * experiencing the peace of Christ today knowing that God is control of their future
 - * always speaking the truth so as to edify & build up others
 - * never stealing (defrauding) the heart or the purity of another should they be someone else's future spouse
 - * diligently preserving unity within the church?

**Biblical Principles
for Finding a Spouse**

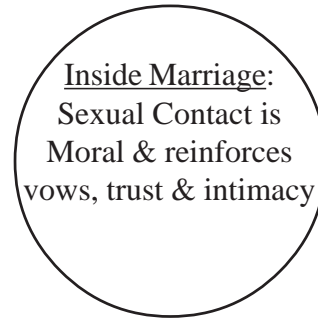
**American System
for Finding a Spouse**

1. _____ Will:
2. _____ & Peace:
3. _____ Perspective:
4. _____ -Term Perspective:
5. _____ in Communication:
6. _____ Model of Manhood:
7. _____ My Brother Because God Will Judge Me If I Don't:
8. Sexual Contact Is to be Exclusively _____ For Marriage:

1. _____ Needs:
2. _____ & Anxiety:
3. _____ Perspective:
4. _____ -Term Perspective:
5. _____ in Communication:
6. _____ Model of Manhood:
7. I'm Not _____ About My Brother, Since I Believe That What I Do With a Girl Before Marriage Is My Own _____ .
8. _____ Marriage - Except for Intercourse - Sexual Contact is not immoral nor will it violate my future vows:

**Biblical Principles
for Finding a Spouse**

**American System
for Finding a Spouse**



Outside Marriage:
Sexual Contact is Immoral & violates vows, trust & intimacy

9. My "Yes" Means " _____ ":
Foundation of a _____ Relationship
 - 10 Out of a Desire to Preserve _____ in our Group, I _____ my Words & Actions.
 - 11 _____ Sexual Temptation:
 - 12 Love Is a _____ :
- Conclusion:**
If the typical system for finding a spouse here in American is not biblical then what are we as Christians supposed to do?
How are we to act differently? What process should we follow?
Next Week we will look at the what the Bible says about the process that the Hebrew people historically used during the OT & NT period and see what principles we can glean from their example which can help us today.

Wedding

<i>Before Marriage:</i>	<i>After Marriage:</i>
Sexual Contact with anyone who is not my spouse is morally okay & won't violate my future vows	Sexual Contact with anyone who is not my wife is now immoral & violates the vows, trust & intimacy of my marriage
9. My "Yes" Means " _____ ": Foundation of a "Temporarily - _____ " Relationship:	9. My "Yes" Means " _____ ": Foundation of a "Temporarily - _____ " Relationship:
10 I'm Not _____ that Unity in Our Group Will be Affected by My Words and Actions, Because I'm Confident that This Girl is "The _____ ".	10 I'm Not _____ that Unity in Our Group Will be Affected by My Words and Actions, Because I'm Confident that This Girl is "The _____ ".
11 _____ Sexual Enjoyment:	11 _____ Sexual Enjoyment:
12 Love Is A Strong _____ :	12 Love Is A Strong _____ :