

FOUNDATIONS OF A GREAT MARRIAGE (PART 2)
HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE MARRIAGE OF YOUR DREAMS
(EVEN IF YOU'RE ALREADY MARRIED)
2/12/2023

I. Introduction

- A. Though many people dream about great days in their future, they _____ far less for them.
1. The beautiful thing is when it comes to things like marriage, fulfilling a call, doing something special for God, God has actually planned it for us; He has circled the date.
 - "...All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Psalms 139:16b NIV)
 - "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)
 2. Our preparation will help determine our _____. How we prepare for what God has, will determine whether it is received, delayed, or forfeited.
 3. This is true of marriage whether we're hoping to be married or preparing for what God has for us in the next season. Learning to _____ is also how we learn to repair.
- B. We learned that preparing for what God has for us in dating, marriage or anything means we have to learn to think _____ than the world. "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:2 NLT)
1. The world tries to change God's design to fit their broken desires. Breaking and rejecting God's design doesn't change the _____ of what is good, right, and blessed; it just breaks us and keeps us from experiencing the good God's design can bring.
 2. When it comes to dating and marriage, we said the key to finding God's plan is not as much about finding the right person but _____ the right person. Everything good we want on the outside comes from becoming and believing what God wants on the _____.
- C. In dating and marriage this is so important because in the end we tend to not attract what we want; we attract who we _____. "If you want to attract the right person, become the type of person the person you're looking for is looking for." -Andy Stanley
- D. Three key ways to prepare (or repair) for marriage of your dreams:
Become secure and _____ in Christ, grow and become stronger in _____, be rightly planted in healthy _____.

II. The first and most important way to prepare for the marriage of your dreams is to be secure and satisfied in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

There is no person who can complete you; _____ can complete us. "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." (Colossians 2:9-10 NKJV)

- A. God's plan for a happy marriage is not two incomplete people who need a human soul mate to complete them. It is two people who are complete, coming together satisfied and secure in Jesus, so they can joyfully serve one another and fulfill the mission God has called them to together for: to build a legendary family and help heal and change their world.
- B. Reasons why this is so important
1. Nothing is more difficult than trying to fulfill the needs and grow a relationship with someone who is insecure. An _____ person tends to look to the wrong thing to complete them (mirror, paycheck, boyfriend/girlfriend, success...)

“Many people secretly or unknowingly go into a dating relationship hoping that someone will prove to them what they fear is true about themselves is wrong.” (Craig Groeschel-Wisdom for dating YouVersion Reading plan)

2. Insecure people tend to need more and settle for less. Secure people _____ and expect more.
3. Insecure people often are wearing a label or _____ over their lives that Jesus can remove. (Leah-the girl nobody wanted)
 - “Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, “Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” So he was named Levi. She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, This time I will praise the Lord.” So she named him Judah.” (Genesis 29:34-35)
 - “...you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord’s hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married. As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.” (Isaiah 62:2b-5 NIV)
- C. Our completeness doesn’t depend on our marital status, having children, living up to any expectation. Our completeness is not in what we’ve done or not done, or who approves of us or doesn’t; our completeness is in _____, chose us who says we are His masterpiece, perfectly accepted and in His righteousness worthy, righteous, and complete. It comes from realizing the purpose of our life is not to be married or anything else. It is to be devoted to Jesus and to serve His mission for His glory wherever we are. (I Corinthians 7:7)
- D. Our satisfaction is in realizing He has already provided everything to be fully content in my _____ and season of life. The secret to moving to what God has for the next season of life is connected to our ability to learn to be fully content in Jesus in this season. “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.” (Phil. 4:10 NIV)

One of the myths some believe is that marriage will solve issues we have; only Jesus solves issues. If we bring issues into our marriage, we don’t solve those issues we share them.

III. The other two keys to preparing for the marriage of our dreams

- A. We prepare for marriage and all God has for us by _____ righteousness. You can’t build a relationship of blessing on a foundation of sin and disobedience.
 1. The key to knowing tomorrow will be better than today is if we’re getting better.
 - “People are anxious to improve their circumstances; they don’t understand that the way you improve your circumstances is to improve yourself.” -James Allan
 - “The most important key to a happy marriage is two growing people.” -Pat Robertson
 2. This Scripture gives us 5 key areas to grow in for a great marriage. “...But set an example for the believers in speech, in love, in conduct, and purity.” (I Tim. 4:12 NIV)
- B. A third crucial way to prepare for the marriage of your dream is to be planted and growing in healthy, _____ - _____. The strength or weakness of your community will powerfully shape the quality of your marriage both before and after you are married. “Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.” (Prov. 13:20 NIV)

(Answers: A. prepare, destination, prepare B. differently, truth, becoming, inside C. are D. satisfied, character, community II. only Jesus B. insecure, need less, sentence C. God who loves us D. present situation)