

Sierra's Weekly Message Action Plan



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Use the Message Action Plan below to help put the things you learned this weekend into practice. If you missed last weekend's message, [Click Here](#) to listen to it online.

Jesus View of Marriage, Divorce & Singleness Matthew 5:31,32; Matthew 19:3-12 Dan Wilvers-June 12th, 2016

In both the Sermon on the Mount and a later encounter in the Gospel of Matthew Jesus addresses the misguided theology of his day, and ultimately ours as well, as he speaks to the sanctity of marriage.

1. Jesus Shows Us What Makes Marriage, *Marriage*.

'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be *united* to his wife, and the two will become one flesh' Matthew 19:5

To unite, literally means to make a covenant.

In a wedding, you are not so much declaring your present love, though of course that's the reason for it. In a wedding ceremony you are promising future love.

Best example of this, is the other covenant relationship besides husband and wife, the one between parents and children. What do parents do? You love them despite the way they act towards you. That's covenantal love. You're in it to win it.

Action Step: Do you like to think that you're a person of your word? Of course you do! Then remember your promises when you entered into a covenant before God in marriage to your

spouse, recommit yourself today to create a permanent and lasting legacy of love in your marriage.

2. Jesus Shows Us The Purpose of Marriage.

‘**For this reason** a man will leave his father and mother and be *united* to his wife, verse 5a
What's the reason? The answer is found Genesis Chapter 1:27 and Jesus quotes it here in Matthew 19:4 “... *male and female he created them.*”

The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Genesis 2:18

God creates Eve to complete Adam and to become his companion, become his friend.

Therefore **the purpose of marriage** is an **ultimate friendship**.

To be in love and to be in marriage means not just that you're physically naked but that you're personally naked, that you have made yourself absolutely vulnerable. You've opened up all the way, and you're still loved and you're delighted in. *Of course because of sin in us*, and the ensuing insecurities it breeds in us makes us scared to do it. It's a really difficult thing. But when we do it and we find someone there loving and rejoicing and accepting us at this deep level we are as whole as we can get this side of heaven.

Action Step: Begin to take the time to sit down and really share with one another, be open with what's uncomfortable about opening up in a vulnerable way and you'll discover that it's not so scary after all. But make sure you affirm one another, remember to love your spouse is to love yourself.

3. Jesus Shows Us The Priority of Marriage.

‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be *united to his wife*,

More than any other relationship, marriage must have the priority. It must be the most important relationship in your life because it's created as the one that has the power to make or break you in life.

In the garden, God did not put a parent and a child as the first human relationship and God did not put two people of the same gender as best friends. Why? That is not the most fundamental relationship.

Action Step: Take an opportunity this week to tell your spouse at least one thing about them that you find amazing. It's great to say, "I appreciate you", even saying, "I love you", but to tell them something you think is amazing about them is really special. Try it!

4. Jesus shows us three things about divorce and singleness

- Jesus Christ says if you understand marriage as this deep unity, this deep oneness, then you will discover that divorce cannot be like taking off your clothes; divorce is more like taking off your arm.

Therefore what *God has joined together*, let no one separate.”

- You see, even though God meant marriage to be permanent ...but because of sin in us and in the world, there are conditions in which divorce is sometimes the only way to survive, and Jesus says so.

I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, *except for sexual immorality*, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

- There are only really two types of people who can be comfortable single. Those physically unable and those who have a call from God.

Jesus replied, “For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the *sake of the kingdom of heaven*. The one who can accept this should accept it.”

Matthew 19:11-12

A lot of you say, “I know that by my own desire for marriage, I don’t have that permanent calling.” If that's you and your single right now, in that case, Jesus says at least for the time being it's a temporary calling you need to accept.

Well how can it be a temporary calling? He says at the very end of verse 12, “**The one who can accept this should accept it.**”

Right now, your singleness (if you are single), is a temporary calling. The only way you can endure it is if you look at it as a calling from God. Otherwise you'll get bitter over it.

Jesus was a single person. Jesus. He's the paragon of true humanity, so it can't mean to be single is somehow to be subhuman in any way or somehow disfigured in any way. No way.

Action Step: But it can be a superior calling if you willing to receive it as a calling. If you say, "Oh Lord, I am not going to fear marriage nor am I going to rage against my singleness. Instead, I am going to use the freedom I have as a single person to serve people, that's what it means to offer up your singleness. This is the biblical position I offer all single people and all people of Christ who struggle with same sex attraction.

I'll be starting a new 9 week series this week entitled, "A Public Faith". *Sharing the Hope That's Within*.

Our passage will be from John Chapter 4, "The Woman at the Well".

In a situation like today where so many different held beliefs are on display, and the fact that Christianity holds to a very narrow path regarding truth and the human experience it begs a question.

How can people be true to themselves and not hide who they are and still get along?

Actually that's three questions in one. But no matter who you are, if you care about the world in which you live, that's a huge question to answer.

There are really only three possible alternatives. Either you hide who you are for fear that your neighbor will be angry at you, 2) you speak out about your beliefs and who you are in such a way that you provoke anger in your neighbor, 3) or you learn how to share who you are and you are open about who you are but do it in such a way that creates peace and civility.

Of course, the third alternative is the only one that has integrity, and that will be our goal for the series.

Much love Church family, much love to you!

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