

SERMON NOTES

March 14, 2010

“Biblical Manhood, Womanhood and Being Single”

Selected Scripture

I. The Final Destiny... IS NOT MARRIAGE

Mark 12:25

II. Jesus Never Married... YET HE WAS FULLY MAN

Luke 6:40

III. A Higher Calling... THE BIBLE CELEBRATES CELIBACY

1 Corinthians 7:7,32-35

1 Corinthians 9:5,15; Matthew 19:12

IV. A Gift of God

1 Corinthians 7:7; Matthew 19:12

V. Jesus' Promise of Repayment... A NEW FAMILY – CHURCH

Mark 10:29-30

VI. God Is Sovereign... WHO GETS MARRIED AND WHO DOES NOT

Job 1:21; Psalm 84:11

Romans 8:32

VII. Mature Manhood and Womanhood...IS NOT DEPENDENT ON MARRIAGE

Ada Lum - *At any age the single woman needs to respect herself as a sexual being whom God created. She is not less sexual for not being married. Sex has to do with biological drive for union with one of the opposite sex. Sexuality has to do with our whole personhood as a woman or a man. It has to do with the ways we express ourselves in relation to others. It has to do with being warm, understanding, receptive sexual beings when we relate to another female or to a child or to a man who is the least prospect for a husband! . . . I try to treat him as I do my two brothers. I enjoy Leon and Dick. I respect them. I like to hear them talk about masculine things in masculine ways. I am pleased when they treat me thoughtfully. . . . With care and discretion a single woman can and should be a real woman to the men around her.*

Elisabeth Elliot tells of a conversation she had with Gladys Aylward, missionary to China: *She had been a missionary in China for six or seven years before she ever thought of wanting a husband. When a British couple came to work near her, she began to watch the wonderful thing they had in marriage, and to desire it for herself. Being a woman of prayer she prayed a straightforward request that God would call a man from England, send him straight out to China, and have him propose. She leaned toward me on the sofa on which we were sitting, her black eyes snapping, her bony little forefinger jabbing at my face. “Elisabeth,” she said, “I believe God answers prayer! He called him.” Then, in a whisper of keen intensity, “but he never came.”*

John White - *Just as the fasting person finds he no longer wishes for food while the starving person is tortured by mental visions of it, so some are able to experience the peace of sexual abstinence when they need to. Others are tormented. Everything depends upon their mindset or attitude. The slightest degree of ambivalence or double-mindedness spells ruin.*

I cannot stress this principle enough. Neither hunger for food nor hunger for sex increases automatically until we explode into uncontrollable behavior. Rather, it is as though a spring is wound up, locked in place, ready to be released when the occasion arises. And should that occasion not arise (and here I refer especially to sex), I need experience no discomfort.”

Elisabeth Elliot “How may a single woman enter into the meaning of motherhood if she can have no children?” She answers: *She can have children! She may be a spiritual mother, as was Amy Carmichael, by the very offering of her singleness, transformed for the good of far more children than a natural mother may produce. All is received and made holy by the One to whom it is offered.*

CALVARY COTTAGE COMMUNITY

Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be a woman and not a man?
2. What does it mean to be a man and not a woman?
3. What is the Masculine/feminine personhood (not just anatomy or physiology)?

We are persuaded from Scripture that masculinity and femininity are rooted in who we are by nature. (They are not simply reflections of a marriage relationship.)

4. How does the above stated reality apply to me?
5. Read one the quotes and discuss.

Prayer Requests:

Praises:

Verse to memorize:

CORE CHRISTIAN VALUES – Week 10

BELIEF – “What We Need to Know”

Belief #10 - Stewardship: the belief that everything a person owns belongs to God (I Timothy 6:17-19)

PRACTICE – “What We Endeavor to Do”

Practice #10 - Investing our Life: giving of our life to fulfill God’s purposes (Romans 12:1-2)

VIRTUE – “What We Expect to Be”

Virtue #10 - Hopeful: coping with the hardships of life and death because of the hope we have in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 6:17-20)

APPLICATION:

Application is Hard Work:

1. ...because it requires serious thinking.
2. ...because Satan fights it viciously.
3. ...because we naturally resist change.

Four Steps to Practical Application:

- I. **Pray** for insight on how to apply the passage.
- II. **Meditate** on verses you have chosen to study.
 - a. Put yourself in the biblical scene.
 - b. Emphasize words in the passage you are studying.
 - c. Paraphrase the passage.
 - d. Personalize the passage you are studying.
 - e. Use the S-P-A-C-E-P-E-T-S acrostic. *
- III. **Write** out an application – (Personal, Practical, Possible, Provable)
- IV. **Memorize** a key verse from your study.

Questions to Ask When Studying the Bible:

1. What attitude do I need to change (surrender)?
2. What do I need to start doing? Stop doing?
3. What things do I need to believe? Stop believing?
4. What relationships do I need to work on?
5. What ministry should I be having with others?

*S – Sin to confess?

P – Promise to claim?

A – Attitude to change?

C – Command to obey?

E – Example to follow?

P – Prayer to pray?

E – Error to avoid?

T – Truth to believe?

S – Something to praise God for?