

# Relationships and Marriage

## Relationships- Part One

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**Pray:** Introduction prayer

**Introduction:**

Three week discussion on relationships and marriage  
First two weeks will be on relationships (dating).  
Third week on marriage and what it's all about.

**What is the Purpose of Relationships?**

Dating is a time our lives where we get an opportunity to meet people of the opposite sex and enjoy getting to know them. It is a time to find out what is important in a future husband or wife. It is a time to just have fun.

Is being in a relationship an enjoyable activity? Why?  
Can it also be a painful activity? Why?

The important thing I want to talk about tonight is not the terms "relationship" or "dating" or whether either is "right" or "wrong." What I want to chat about is:

1. To determine when you are ready to date or get into a relationship with someone, and if it is the right thing to do,
2. How you are to relate to the person you are in a relationship with and,
3. What God expects from us in any opposite sex relationship prior to marriage. (We will talk about what God expects in a relationship after marriage in a couple of weeks.)

**Parents:** Did you know that God has a lot to say about relationships? So do your parents. Everything that is discussed in this series must be processed through open discussion with your parents. Their rules are what you must live by. Remember, "Honor your father and your mother." It is a commandment from God. (Exodus 20: 1-17)

**To Get Married or Not:**

Did you know that God created each of you for a specific purpose? Inside each of you is a specific set of talents, abilities and gifts that God placed for you to use. It is important to know that you are not "just a haphazard thing that just happened." It is important to know that God created you. He crafted you to be the specific person you are. There is no one else on earth just like you. You are not a mistake. You are a part of God's great plan and the more you realize it, the better opportunity you have to fulfill his purpose for you.

One of the most important and exciting challenges that await you is discovering God's purpose, honing the skills necessary to implement that purpose and then doing it for God's glory.

Most of you in this room will get married in the future. That is a part of God's plan for your life and it will be a wonderful journey if you walk down the path to marriage using God's wisdom. What an awesome picture, you and your spouse, accomplishing God's purpose together.

Some of you may not marry. You may find that God's path for you is best completed without marriage commitments. That is OK. God has that as a plan for some of you as well.

But, if you are finding the opposite sex interesting and you want to know how to get to know someone of the opposite sex better, dating is the world's answer to how to accomplish this desire for a relationship. Or, let's say you are already in a relationship. What are important questions and actions you should consider as you walk down the relationship path?

**Video:** "Hitch" Trailer- Relationships can be a challenge!!

Questions to consider:

- a. What is the goal of the relationship- To get to know someone better but that's all, or to see if this person is the one you will marry?
- b. What is your motivation in a relationship- pleasing yourself or serving the other person?

Questions to consider if you are already in a relationship or dating:

- a. Does your current relationship hinder you from serving God as a single person?
- b. Do you give yourself away physically or emotionally in ways you regret later?
- c. Would you tell your future children that the way you are handling relationships today is appropriate and recommended?
- d. Do you look at the person you are in a relationship with as a brother or sister in Christ that should be honored and protected or as a trophy to be won or conquered?

### **Where Does a Relationship Take Us?**

What really is the purpose of having a relationship with someone? Is dating really what we have defined above? Read the story from (I Kissed Dating Goodbye, page 13- A girl's dream about her wedding day).

There are pitfalls that we tend to downplay. These pitfalls are dangerous.

1. Dating tends to skip the relationship stage of a relationship.
2. Dating often mistakes a physical relationship for love.

3. Dating often isolates a couple from other vital relationships.
4. Dating can distract young adults from their primary responsibility of preparing for the future.
5. Dating can cause discontentment with God's gift of singleness.
6. Dating can create an artificial environment of evaluating another person's character.
7. Dating often becomes an end in itself.

### **What's Important to God?**

How would God tell us is the right way to enter into and sustain a relationship? In the Bible, a teacher of the law asked Jesus a sincere question. "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" What he was asking was for Jesus to sum up what God really wants us humans to concentrate on. What is really the important stuff? When we sweep aside all the human customs, traditions, and opinions, what remains? Jesus answer was this:

"The most important one....is this.... 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this. 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-33)

Jesus is saying that what really matters in life is to love God with every fiber of our being- heart, soul mind and strength- and to let that love spill over into the way we treat everyone else.

Important: Our value as a person does not come from a relationship. Each of us is valuable because God made us and loves us. Analogy- It is like a beautiful oil painting telling the artist that his work is ugly. What right does the painting have to judge its own creator.

**Love:** Define Love- to admire, to celebrate, to cherish, and to lavish over. 1Corinthians 13 is God's definition of love.  
 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8)

### **The World Says Love is:**

- a. For the fulfillment and comfort of me
- b. Primarily a feeling
- c. Beyond my control

### **God Says Love is Something Totally Different:**

God says love is,

- a. Not centered on self, rather it is centered on giving. God shows us love by pointing to His Son. This was the only way our sins could be forgiven. Jesus took the place of the guilty. He offered himself up to death so that we could have eternal life. And all who find forgiveness and life through Jesus are called to follow his footsteps- to love others because He first loved us (1 John 4:19) Christ taught that love is not for the fulfillment of self but for the glory of God and the good of others.
- b. Not a feeling. Sure there are intense feelings that come with love. However, Christ said “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” (John 14:15) That means doing what the Bible says. It means always protecting others, not using them.
- c. Is under our control. Yes, the intense feelings can be very challenging to manage. But they are manageable. This is called character. Doing what is right even when every ounce of you says differently.

“Love must be sincere.” (Romans 12:9) This means love has no room for deceit or hypocrisy. There are no hidden agendas here.

“If you really loved me, you’d do it.” This is really saying,  
 “I don’t care about you, your convictions, or how this could hurt you- satisfy me.”

**So What is the Point in a Relationship? More Questions:**

- a. Are you ready for marriage? In other words, are you ready for a lifelong relationship commitment? (financial, emotional, relational)
- b. Are you looking for a marriage partner?
- c. Is it appropriate to open your heart and your partner’s heart to romance and intimacy without a commitment to marriage?
- d. Is it OK to move from relationship to relationship, leaving broken hearts along the way?

**What is Romance and Intimacy?**

**Romance:** Expressing love to someone. Romance is actions. It’s pursuing someone with the goal of winning their heart. Why do you want to win the persons heart? Because you want to be with them and love them and have them love you. Romance is a part of the courtship process leading up to marriage. Romance is really sweet and God created it.

Warning: If you are trying to romance someone without the purpose of marriage behind it, all you are doing is opening your heart and that of the person you are pursuing to love and intimacy and then shattering it when you end the relationship. Is that a smart thing to do?

**Intimacy:** Opening your private self to someone, being close and familiar, characterizing a person’s deepest nature. It is giving your heart to someone. Intimacy is also physical. It is giving your body to someone in a sexual manner. Intimacy usually

takes time because we generally don't open our private self to someone we don't trust.

Intimacy is the reward of commitment.

How do you feel when you open yourself up to someone and they then tell others about you- Betrayed?

**Heart:** So what does God say about the heart aspect of intimacy?

God wants us to be intimate. He desires us to have a sole mate (best friend) that we can share our deepest thoughts and feelings with.

God says that a "Man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24 KJV) Leaving and cleaving are ways for the husband and wife to become sole mates, to be best friends and lovers.

In Deuteronomy, "If a man is recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid upon him. For one year he is to be free to stay home and bring happiness to the wife he has married." (Deuteronomy 24:5)

However, God warns us to be careful about giving our heart to someone before you are ready for marriage. In the Song of Solomon, Solomon's bride says, "Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires." The feelings of love and romance are very powerful. If you awaken them before you are ready for marriage, you will end up hurt.

**Physical:** So what does God say about the physical aspect of intimacy?

Sex is God's idea. He created it and therefore it is good.

He told Adam and Eve to be "fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28)

God said Adam and Eve were "naked and were not ashamed." (Genesis 2:25)

God said that "man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24-25 NIV)

**Purity:** But God also says;

Sex is only for those that are married. ALL other sex is sin. "ALL means ALL, that's ALL ALL means." "Do not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:3-17, The Ten Commandments)

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. (Hebrews 13:4)

God also says "but among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." (Ephesians 5:3)

God says "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body." (1 Corinthians 6:18)

In fact, God recognizes the strong desires of sex and says, "But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife and likewise each woman to her own husband." (1 Corinthians 7:2-3)

- It doesn't matter if you love the person. It doesn't matter if you are really committed to the person.
- Sex is only permitted within the marriage covenant. God says that commitment is only commitment when you get married.
- There is a reason for this. God knows that sex with your sole mate is pure and wonderful. He also knows that sex with multiple partners will only result in pain. Why, because we leave a piece of our hearts with each sexual partner we have. We give away an intimate part of us that is only designed to be given away in marriage.
- God knows our hearts. He knows the pain that will happen in the future.
- Sex is real fun and exciting. But, when it is not a part of marriage, it will leave you hurt and impure. It can also leave you with the lasting affects of disease that, in many cases, is not curable and in some cases is deadly.

Read the story in the book "I Kissed Dating Goodbye" by Joshua Harris, page 13.

Example: Use a ripe tomato as an example of a person's heart. Talk about situations in that person's life where he/she gives away a part of his/her heart to someone else (a kiss, holding hands, sharing personal items that are kept close to his/her heart, touching, sexual intercourse, etc.) Each time a person does something that gives away a part of his/her heart, push a nail into the tomato. The goal is to end up with a tomato that is dripping and smashed because it has been torn apart from the actions of the owner.

Maintaining purity is not just committing to not having sex (intercourse) with someone. Purity is a part of your heart as well. Each of us will have to determine where to draw that line not to cross (how far is far enough). The line that awakens love (romantic thoughts and feelings) before it is time (when you are ready to consider marriage). The best way to do this is to seek godly counsel (your parents, a married couple you trust, your youth leader) and be wise in knowing what is best for you.

#### **How far is too far Rule of Thumb?**

- Don't touch anything that a bathing suit covers.**
- Stop intimacy (physical- touching such as holding hands, kissing running hands through the hair, etc. or emotional- how deep and personal the conversations become) at a point there you know the feeling of romance, love and desire are being awakened.**

**Challenge:** What is the purpose of guy/girl relationships during your single years?  
 How are you going to deal with the emotions and feelings that come with these relationships?  
 Are you going to hold the desires for romance and intimacy close to you or are you going to give them away?  
 We are forgiven- Jesus has taken our sin and washed it away. We can be pure again.

**Next Week: We Continue to Talk About Relationships.**

- Enjoying your single years
- Responsibilities for guys, girls and both together in relationships
- Special guests: Garrett Gales and Mia Luna- talk about their relationship.

**Pray:** Closing prayer.

# **Relationships- Part Two**

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**Pray:** Opening prayer

## **Review From Last Week:**

1. Relationships- what is their purpose?
2. What's important to God?- Love
3. What does the world say about love?
  - a. Fulfillment of self
  - b. A feeling
  - c. Not in our control
4. What does God say about love?
  - a. Centered on the other person and their needs
  - b. Being obedient to Gods Word
  - c. Can be controlled- character
5. What does God say about sex and how far is too far?
6. Awakening the desires of love (romance and intimacy) before it is time.
7. Holding tight onto your purity

## **Special Guests This Week and Next Week:**

Garrett Gales and Mia Luna (this week)

Jimmy and Dana Glynn (next week)

## **Do you Have Questions:**

Pass out 3X5 inch cards. If anyone has a question on relationships, dating or marriage, please write it down on a card anonymously. Next week, we will be breaking into guy and girl groups at the end of the teaching and will answer questions from the cards. We will have special guests be in the groups as well.

## **Is Dating the Only Way?**

- No, you don't have to date to get to know someone.
- You can be friends with the opposite sex without the strings of romance, intimacy and love.
- You can get to know someone better by talking to them, serving with them, enjoying their company.
- In fact, you will really get to know someone better when you don't open up your heart to love, romance and intimacy until you believe that a certain someone is potentially your soul mate for life and you desire marriage. Why? Because you are much more objective in your evaluation of a persons integrity and character when you are not "in love."
- So, don't feel obligated to jump into dating.

## **Your Single Years are a Treasure and God's Timing is Best**

- Remember, part of growing up is learning to wait for certain things. Waiting on romance, intimacy, love and relationships is not impossible to do. It is good and healthy. It builds character. Life is a journey, not a destination. You will have plenty of time to savor the romance and love of your spouse in the future.
- Commit your single years to growing, learning serving and honoring God. This is a special time that you only have once. Enjoy it and use it to discover your specific purpose here on earth. In doing so, you will please your Creator.
- Do you believe that God is in control of your life? Do you believe that God's timing for your life is better than your own? Let me answer these questions with a simple "yes." Don't try to second guess God. He knows what is best for you. Your job is to live your single years for His glory. When you do, God will bring that special someone to you at the right time. You don't need to be searching for him or her.

### **Special Guests:**

Garrett Gales and Mia Luna

## **But, If You do Decide to Get into a Relationship, How do You Do it in a Godly Manner?**

### **The Guy's Responsibility:**

1. To be a leader and defend the honor and righteousness of your sisters in Christ.
2. Stop acting like hunters trying to catch girls, instead seeing yourselves as warriors standing guard over them.
3. Recognize that guys struggle with the sex drive more than girls (girls struggle with their emotions). Guys must be sincere and honest in communication. Stop leading girls on. Make sure nothing you say or do is designed to stir up inappropriate feelings or expectations.
4. Treat all girls as the princesses that God created them to be. Open doors and pull out chairs for them, give them your coat when its cold, walk on the inside of a street to protect them from traffic, pay for all expenses on dates, etc.
5. Guard girl's hearts.

### **The Girl's Responsibility:**

1. Recognize that guys struggle with their eyes. It is extremely difficult for a guy to remain pure when looking at a girl who is dressed immodestly. How you dress tells something about you. Are you trying to arouse the appetite of a guy or are you trying to protect him?
2. Recognize that girls struggle with their emotions. Your emotions desire to be loved, needed and cherished. Guard your emotions, keeping track of when they begin to move in a direction that is not healthy. But, remember that your desire for love and commitment becomes healthy when you are ready for marriage.

3. Stop acting like butterflies wanting to be caught. Flirting is a way to stir inappropriate feelings and expectations.

### **Everyone's Responsibility:**

2. Be obedient to God's Word.
3. Have a selfless desire to do what's best for the other person.
4. Be accountable to others (your parents, your church, godly friends). Seek wise counsel and follow it.
5. Avoid situations that could compromise the purity of your body or mind and that of the other person
6. **Be committed to guard the sacredness of sex.**  
**How far is too far rule of thumb?**
  - a. **Don't touch anything that a bathing suit covers.**
  - b. **Stop intimacy (physical- touching such as holding hands, kissing running hands through the hair, etc. or emotional- how deep and personal the conversations become) at a point there you know the feeling of romance, love and desire are being awakened.**
7. Seek God above everything else. If you try to find fulfillment in a person, you won't. Everyone will disappoint you at some time. Only through seeking and loving God can you find true fulfillment.
8. Every relationship is an opportunity to model Christ's love.
9. Recognize that your single years are a gift from God. He wants you to use them appropriately serving Him and others.
10. You don't need to pursue a romantic relationship before you're ready for marriage.
11. You cannot own someone outside of marriage.

### **Sin- Finding Forgiveness:**

So, now I have made some of you feel real bad or guilty because of past sin in your lives. You may be saying that your purity is gone. It is true that you can't take back what you have already lost. You may also be living with the consequences of past sin. But, there is hope. Read story about the card file room (I Kissed Dating Goodbye, page 104)

- a. This dream is a picture of what Christ accomplished when He died on the cross. He literally took our guilt on himself. And this meant more than just having his name on a card. It meant receiving the punishment from God for all those sinful words and actions we committed and deserve to be punished.
- b. It is only through repentance of our own sins, and putting our faith in Christ that this substitution can take place. We each have a card file room containing all our sinful deeds and thoughts. But just because we admit this or feel bad about it doesn't mean we are forgiven. Remorse can't save anyone. Only faith in Christ can. One day, each of us will stand before God to be judged. "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." (Romans 14:12) All the cards of our lives will be dumped out before Him for review. My hope is that I have written more good cards to help make up for the bad ones. Even

though I am guilty and deserve to be punished, the name of Jesus Christ will be on those cards. We can be forgiven, no matter how hard the blood stain of sin.

- c. Let us behave decently, not in sexual immorality and debauchery. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Romans 12:13-14).
- d. No one can stand before God in purity. We are all sinners. Some of us here tonight have already lost your purity in various degrees. No matter how filthy the rags of our defilement may be, in a moment of repentance and faith the heart turned toward God loses its impurity. So, see yourself as God sees you, clothed in radiant white, pure, justified.
- e. If you have memories that continue to hound you, turn away from them. Ask God for forgiveness. If you can make it right with the other person, do so. Reject the behavior from now on. God has promised to remember this sin no more (Hebrews 8:12) Move on. A lifetime of purity awaits you.
- f. If you need help in this area, please see me or one of the leaders.

**Video:** Show video clip from Spiderman (screen 25 where Peter Parker gives a part of his heart to MJ in a hospital room where Peter's Aunt is recovering from an attack from Goblin.) Peter and MJ have known each other since grade school. Peter is in love with MJ. He knows her heart. He knows her character. He knows her because he has been a part of her life, as a friend, for years. But, he has been careful not to hurt her or stir up the emotions of love until it is time.

**Challenge: How are We, as Christians, Going to React to the Relationship Game?**

1. Are we going to jump into dating and relationships just like the rest of the world, using people for our own pleasure? Are we going to jump from relationship to relationship, leaving behind broken hearts and destroying purity?
2. Or, are we going to take a stand for protecting the guys and girls in our lives? Are we going to stand tall for purity, not awakening the desires of romance before it is time? Are we going to look at our guy and girl friends as brothers and sisters in Christ?

**Next Week:** We will talk about marriage. Give it some thought to it this week.

- What is marriage?
- Why did God create marriage in the first place?
- Why do we get married?
- Why is the institution of marriage so important?

**Prayer:** Closing prayer

# Marriage

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**Prayer:** Opening prayer

**Review from Last Week:**

1. Is dating the only way?
2. How should we look at our single years?
3. If we do decide to date, how do you do it in a godly manner?
  - a. Guys responsibility
  - b. Girls responsibility
  - c. Everyone's responsibility
4. If you have sinned in a relationship, how do you find forgiveness?

**Video Clip:** Princess Bride marriage sequence

**Define:** What is the purpose of 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. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate.” (Mark 10:7-9)
- “If a man is recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid upon him. For one year he is to be free to stay home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.” (Deuteronomy 24:5)
- “But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.” (1 Corinthians 7:2-3)
- Marriage is a covenant, not an agreement. This means Gods plan is that it last a lifetime.
- It is a good thing to desire to love someone for a lifetime, to share your life with that person, to be best friends and lovers. Isn't it glorious to share your life and your life's purpose with someone who truly believes, cares and cherishes you? God knows this, He put that desire into our soul.

**Man and Woman Are Created Equal:**

- Created equal- (Genesis 1:27) “So God created man in his image, in the image of God He created him, male and female.” Man and woman are created equal. However, in marriage they each have different roles and responsibilities. These roles and responsibilities do not make them any less equal, just different.
- “Eve was not taken out of Adams head to rule over him, neither out of his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal to him, under his arm to be protected by him and near his heart to be loved by him.” Matthew Henry

**Special Guests:**

Jimmy and Dana Glynn

**Roles:**

Husband- Leader (Genesis 2:15-18, 3:16) “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.” (Ephesians 5:22-24) “Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well, and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)” (1 Timothy 3:1-5)

- God has appointed the husband as the leader.
- It is a lie to say you can’t lead because you don’t know how.
- Husbands don’t earn the right to be leader, they just are.
- You are to lead actively, by example and direction.
- What is a leader? Protector, Provider, Scout, General, Priest, Physician, King.
- It takes courage to be a leader. Courage is not the absence of fear, it is marching right into the darkness despite the fear.

Wife- Helper “The Lord said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable for him.’”(Genesis 2:18) “Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man and the head of Christ is God.”( 1 Corinthians 11:3) (Also refer to 1 Corinthians 11: 8-9, 1-12)

- Helper is the wife’s assigned duty as designated by God
- Help accomplish the dream (God’s purpose) of the husband.
- Be a counterpart to her husband
- Respect- Enable, believe, love, and support her husband.

**Responsibilities:**

Husband- Love “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her body by the washing with water through the word and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any kind of blemish, but holy and blameless.”(Ephesians 5:25-27) (Also refer to Ephesians 5: 28-29, 33, Proverbs 31: 28-29)

- Loving your wife is a command.
- If a husband doesn’t love his wife, it is a sin.
- Husbands are to love their wife as Christ loved the church. What kind of love is this? Sacrificial- It’s a love that stays and sustains even when everything else is falling apart.
- Husbands are to love their wives, in both actions and emotions.
- He must actively choose to keep loving his wife.
- A wife needs her husbands love

Wife- Submit “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”(Colossians 3:18) (Also refer to 1 Peter 3:1, 3-4 and Ephesians 5:22-24)

- Submit (Upotasso- Greek) means to come under, to organize or arrange under the leadership of another. Everyone submits to someone else (employees to employers, children to parents, everyone to Christ, Christ to God the Father, etc.)
- Wives, submitting is a command of God. It is sin not to submit to your husband.
- A wife is to willingly submit. This is not the husband’s responsibility to require his wife to submit.
- Wives are only to submit to their own husband, not any other man.

**Loyalty:**

Husbands and Wives- Loyalty:

Loyalty- A faithfulness that is steadfast in the face of any temptation to renounce, desert, or betray. It is security and protection that comes from trust.

- Success in marriage is more than finding the right person, it’s being the right person. Robert Browning
- Knit your hearts with an un-slipping knot. William Shakespeare
- Marriage is a perpetual test of character.
- Character is whom you are when no one is watching.
- Loyalty is an issue of the heart.
- Loyalty is saying “everything I have and am must only go to my spouse.”
- Loyalty goes beyond being right.
- It is staying away from close friendships with other women (for the husband), and other men (for the wife).
- It is not talking about problems in your marriage to other women (for the husband and other men (for the wife).
- It is not looking at sexually graphic videos or movies. “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”(Matt 5:27-28)
- It is staying away from pornography.
- It is staying away from soaps and similar stuff on TV.
- It is staying away from romantic novels
- It is remaining faithful (adultery) 10 Commandments
- Does God judge the unfaithful? YES  
“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this manner no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.”(1Thes 4:3-8)

- Men are visual. Repent for your sinful thoughts and actions. Ask for forgiveness. Be faithful.
- Women, keep your feelings in check.. Be careful not to allow them to be untruthful. Feelings often lie. Repent for your sinful thoughts and actions. Ask forgiveness. Be faithful.

Video Clip: Spiderman II (Hospital room sequence where MJ and Spiderman talk with Spiderman's mother present).

**Challenge: How are We as Christians, Going to View Marriage?**

In the marriage covenant:

1. Enjoy each other
2. Sex is good, in fact its great
3. Romance is wonderful and necessary. Never give up on romance
4. Let love (Gods definition) set the course
5. It's like "Ring Around the Rosie," if one goes down, you both go down. The goal is to hold hands tightly, holding each other up at all times.

Are we going to look at it as the world does, as an agreement that we keep as long as it works for us? Are we going to be willing to break the agreement when the going gets tough, when our spouse no longer is meeting out "needs" or when sickness or some other tragedy strikes home?

Or, are we going to look at marriage as God does, as a covenant that doesn't have a back door to escape. Are we going to commit our lives to that special someone, live the ordained roles and responsibilities assigned to us by God and then work hard to be the best husband or wife to our partners till God calls us home to be with Him.

Are we going to hold up the marriage bed as sacred and preserve our bodies and minds only for that future husband or wife?

Guys, recognize that your future wife has a lot more to loose in marriage. She changes her name when she married you. She is financially more dependent since you are the primary provider. Are you going to honor that commitment she has made to you? Can she trust you to be there for the long term? Are you providing the covering and protection she needs and deserves?

During the single years, are you going to accept the role of the leader? Are you going to going to provide a cover of protection over the girls in your life, honoring them as sisters in Christ, treating them with the love that they deserve?

Girls, during your single years, are you going to start practicing for the role that God has assigned you in marriage? Are you going to let the guy lead, are you going to protect his heart by dressing and acting appropriately, not flirting or

attempting to awaken romance before it is time? Are you going to honor the guys in your life as brothers in Christ, treating them with the respect they deserve?

Everyone, are we going to be remembered by our current brothers and sisters in the Lord for being godly examples of Christ.

Guys, will the future husbands of the girls in your life today be able to walk up to you and say, “thank you for honoring and protecting my wife’s purity when she was single.”

Girls, will the future wives of the guys in your life today be able to walk up to you and say, “Thank you for respecting and honoring my husband’s purity when he was single.”

**Small Groups**

Break up group into guy and girl groups. Jimmy and Garrett will be with the guys to answer questions and Dana and Mia will be with the girls to answer questions.

**Prayer:** Closing prayer