

Series: Biblical Relationships

WEEK 2

Section 2 – ENGAGEMENT

A – A Biblical Definition and Look at Engagement – Eph 5:22-33; Gen 1:26-27

REMEMBER the **MYSTERY** of Marriage – it is a picture of Christ and the **CHURCH!**

*** You will need to think about these things! ***

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of **soul** and **spirit**, and of the **joints and marrow**, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

SPIRIT: **DATING** – God sought us out first – it is a spiritual pursuit!

John 6:44 No man can come to me, **except the Father which hath sent me draw him**: and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, **will draw all men unto me**.

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: **therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee**.

- Dating should remain **SPIRITUAL!**
 - It is allowing God to control **everything!**
- If we submit to Him, He will “quicken” our spirit and place **His Spirit IN** us.
 - Eph 2:1-9; 1 Cor 6:19-20; Eph 1:13-14

QUICK QUESTIONS – Consider your relationship with JESUS CHRIST?

- 1 – How did you enter into the relationship with Him? John 6:44-45, 65; Mt 11:27; 16:17
- 2 – What was the process God employed to “date” you?

SOUL: **ENGAGEMENT** – Before becoming engaged to God, He “proposes” to us!

- We must respond **YES** in order to be “engaged” as it were to Christ.
 - God uses the words “espoused” and “betrothed”
 - Mt 1:18-20; Deut 22:23-24; Gen 29:21

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2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have **espoused you to one husband**, that I may present you as **a chaste virgin to Christ**.

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; **that ye should be married to another**, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

- Engagement is likened to our **SALVATION**.
 - Gen 24:57-58; Act 8:37; Rom 10:9-13

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- When we say "yes", we begin to grow in our relationship with Christ by getting to **KNOW HIM** better!

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow** thereby:

2 Peter 3:18 But grow **in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may **grow up into him in all things**, which is the head, **even Christ**:

- Engagement is the "**soulish**" element in the relationship between a man and woman.

QUICK QUESTIONS – Consider how God's WORD affected your SOUL?

- 1 – How **did God's Word** affect my thoughts?
- 2 – Affect my **emotions**?
- 3 – Affect my **desires**?
- 4 – Affect my **decisions**?
- 5 – Affect my **character**?

BODY: **MARRIAGE** – is likened to the redemption of our body at the Rapture.

- We will have a body **LIKE** His body, and we will be in His presence.
 - Phil 3:21; 1 John 3:2

Philippians 3:21 Who shall **change our vile body**, that it may be fashioned **like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, **when he shall appear, we shall be like him**; for **we shall see him** as he is.

- The marriage will be consumed – **PHYSICALLY!** [**Physical is LAST!**]

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- Titus 2:11-15

Titus 2:13 *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

- During this time there is a “wedding feast”.
 - Rev 19:9; 22:16:17 -- **this mirrors our wedding picture!**

QUICK QUESTIONS – Consider the day our relationship with Christ will be PHYSICAL?

- 1 – How do you **hope** for that day?
- 2 – Does your **desire to be pure** and faithful on that day **affect your decisions today?**

B – The Purposes of Engagement

1. For the couple to begin bonding together **EMOTIONALLY** – Phil 2:1-2
2. For the couple to begin to “leave” parents and “cleave” to each other – Gen 2:24
3. For the couple to learn of discuss past **FAMILY** relationships and past relationships with **FRIENDS**. Also to communicate the upcoming changes to others closely associated with them. (things WILL CHANGE – the must!)
 - Why people do not like their mate’s “friends”...
 - Why the “In-laws” problem exists...
4. For the couple to learn to **WORK** together as a team.
 - The “I” and “ME” must become “WE”
 - Plan wedding TOGETHER
 - Plan Honeymoon TOGETHER
 - Plan living accommodations TOGETHER (other details: cars, jobs)
 - Plan financial budget TOGETHER
5. For the couple to agree on or discuss **FAMILY** planning.
 - Children? Child discipline? Goals? Plans? Dreams? Vision? Fears?
 - NOTE: Q: Why? A: 1 Thess 5:4

C – The Principles Governing Engagement -- Hosea 2:19-20

- 1) FOREVER

We are eternally secure in our relationship with Christ from this point on; a young woman (any age) needs the security of a lasting relationship after leaving home. Also, a young man (any age) must needs begin to lay that foundation of security in his bride’s heart. He, also, has need of this security from her! *Jo 6:37; 10:27-29*

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2) RIGHTEOUSNESS

Being in behavior that is acceptable to God; Having integrity; virtue; correctness in conduct; pure; approved of by God *Rom 12:1; Phil 1:11*

3) JUDGMENT

Discernment coming from understanding; Discernment from the BOOK -- *Heb 5:14*; Understanding comes from the Lord – *Prov 28:5*

4) LOVINGKINDNESS

This is the seed of trust – *Ps 36:7; 51:1*; not just kindness ... but lovingkindness; a deep desire to please

5) MERCY

Compassion driven by safety – *2 Sam 24:14; Prov 18:10*; the man must make their relationship a safe place; tender love; forgiveness; heart-felt emotion; care for her/him

6) FAITHFULNESS

There is no other love or lover; gets my time, attention, etc.; faithful to spouse – not parents, friends, boss, etc. – *Prov 5:15-19*

7) KNOW HIM

PHYSICAL AT LAST!!!!!! After marriage ceremony is complete – *Gen 2:24-25; 24:63*; on the wedding day the preacher is still a Bible believer ... not a village priest – *Mt 19:6; Mk 10:9*

IMPORTANT NOTE: All these things **MUST** be answered (personally) positively prior to the proposal by **BOTH** the man and the woman. *During the engagement period the couple must know and understand biblical RESPONSIBILITIES toward each other.*

D – CONCLUSION

1. God's intention, our mission – *Eph 2:10, 21*

God intends to display His love for His bride to the **SEEN** and unseen world (and visa versa) He wants us to model that love in our relationship to our spouses!!!

2. A special wedding gift

If a Christian couple will work dating and engagement Biblically ... God has a very, very special wedding gift for them!

3. Once again ... it comes down to CHOICES and **DECISIONS**.