

Playing the Long Game

Part 4: The Waiting is the Hardest Part

Objective: To challenge us to stay true to scripture and to love others in the middle of a broken and divided culture.

Read together:

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?"

4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Matthew 19:3-6

Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

11 "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

John 8:10-11

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

Revelation 21:5

- Have you ever tried to find a 'loophole' in a rule or guideline? Tell the group about it. Why do we look for 'loopholes'?
- The Pharisee's were looking for a loophole to marriage. Jesus didn't give them one. Based on Jesus' answer, what are the boundaries for human sexual expression?
- Pastor Steve said, "God doesn't give us boundaries because he wants LESS for us. God gives us boundaries because he wants MORE for us." Can you think of examples where stronger boundaries resulted in greater freedom? How do God's boundaries on sex give us more/better life?
- Why do you think so much of our modern society finds it's identity in it's sexuality? What are others sources people find their identity? What should be the ultimate source of our identity?
- How does changing our focus from ourselves to others or to Jesus impact the way we live our lives?
- What does it look like to speak truth and demonstrate love? How can we practically apply this to the current conversations regarding sexuality? If we spoke truth and demonstrated love more consistently, how would that change the conversations?
- Do you spend more time focusing on what others should be doing or on what Jesus has called you to do?

Final Thought: God is in the process of making all things new. In the meantime we must trust and wait for God to bring lasting transformation. Spend some time praying that God will give you the patience to trust and wait.

This Week: We all know people - on all sides of this issue - who struggle to wait for God to make all things new. What can you do to make the waiting less hard for someone else?

