

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Still The One
Message Title: Oneness
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: February 19, 2017

UP NEXT

- **Marriage Conference** - The *Married With Benefits* Marriage Conference on March 4th. Register online at www.marriedwithbenefits.org Couples both married and engaged will benefit from practical sessions addressing marriage benefits like communication, forgiveness, purity, humility, and making sex mutually fulfilling.

MAIN IDEA

Oneness in any relationship requires work.

INTRODUCTION

- From an early age we believe a lie about marriage. Specifically, that there is “one perfect person out there for you” It’s called “The Right One” or “Soulmate” myth. The myth goes like this... out of the billions of people on this planet, you have to search and find your soulmate like two separated puzzle pieces that magnetically find their way to one another. And then once you find them, your marriage will undoubtedly be uplifting and harmonious.
- If that were true, then wouldn’t it stand to reason that some idiot a hundred years ago would have married the wrong person and ruined it for everyone else after him? The truth is, the world has gotten marriage backwards. Too many spend all their energy searching for and finding the “right one” only to marry them and assume things will just ‘work out’ because it was meant to be. Or maybe saying it this way will make more sense. We spend all of this time, energy, and money preparing for and planning the *Wedding Day* and very little or even no time, energy, and money investing in the *Marriage* itself.
- This is a backwards way of thinking about marriage.

DISCUSSION

- If you are not married, what is your reaction to us doing a sermon series on marriage?
 - Does it seem unnecessary?
 - Does it seem too far removed from your current situation?
 - Are there any other areas of your life right now that you are learning about something you have not experienced yet?
 - What possible bits of wisdom could you take away from a sermon series like this one?
 - Our Challenge to you: Please don’t check out. This is more than a series on marriage. It is a series on relationships. Even if you’re not married, you are in relationship with others. There is always something to learn when you read God’s Word.
- How many of you actually push back/disagree that there is a “Soulmate” myth?
 - In other words, do you think God has ordained & orchestrated certain marriages?
 - One of the reasons thinking there is only one perfect person out there for you is that when marriage gets tough (as it will) we start thinking something is wrong. We begin thinking things like, “Maybe I

married the wrong one” or “Maybe that friendly coworker is the right one” or “Maybe my old girlfriend was the right one and I let her go. I’ll reconnect on Facebook”

"Long engagements are like going shopping without any money... either I leave frustrated or I take something that doesn't belong to me"
Voddie Baucham

• Have someone read **(Genesis 2:21-25)**

- What word does your Bible use in verse 24 when it says that *man leaves his father and mother and is _____ to his wife?*
- Too often we have such a malnourished understanding of biblical words in English. The Hebrew word used here is *davaq* and it is a verb meaning to cling to, join with, stay with. It is used of something sticking to or clinging to something else (like a fish’s scales, Ezek 29:4).
- However, perhaps the best use of this term in the Old Testament is when it depicts the relentless disease of leprosy clinging to a person, never going away and yet always persisting.
 - How does a negative picture like leprosy help us understand what God intended for our marriages?
 - How does this relentless, persistent joining of two people differ from our current culture’s understanding of marriage?
 - Would the original audience of Genesis understand our American understanding of “The Starter Wife”?

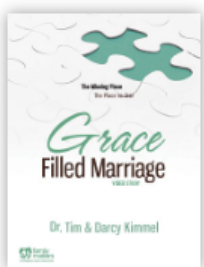
• Have someone read **(Ephesians 5:21-33)**

- Husbands: What is the most difficult part of this passage for you?
 - Wives: What is the most difficult part of this passage for you?
 - Why can marriage/relationships be so difficult at times?
 - Bottom line, you are a sinner and your spouse is a sinner. When two sinners live together there is no such thing as “happily ever after”
- Is God’s greatest desire for us to be happy in life?
- If yes, how would you defend your answer? And at what cost does happiness come?
 - If no, then why do we say He is a loving God who cares for us?

If you’re not married, focus on Ephesians 6:1-9 instead. And answer the questions accordingly.

APPLY IT

- Sign up for the Married With Benefits Marriage Conference by going to www.marriedwithbenefits.org
- Get involved in re|engage this coming Fall. Class begins in August. www.reality.church/reengage



rightnow MEDIA

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

GRACE-FILLED MARRIAGE - by Tim & Darcy Kimmel

This study explores a radical hypothesis: Most marriages don't fail because they lack love...they fail because they lack grace.

Visit reality.church/rightnow to login or request access.