



This week's sermon

Man and Woman

Genesis 2:18-25

Four macro-observations from the creation of man and woman:

1. There is only one race.
2. There are only two sexes.
3. Marriage was instituted before all other human institutions.
 - a. *Family creation is a primary purpose of man on earth.*
 - b. *God locks sex into the confines of marriage, for procreation and pleasure.*
4. Marriage has a spiritual corollary that is eternal.

Applications:

- The church must always strive to be more family than social club.
- Christians should run from sexual sins—porn, adultery, prostitution, and fornication.
- Marriage should be held in high esteem.
- Reject the world's values when it comes to being wives and mothers, husbands and fathers.
- We must reach out to the hurting and harassed.

Digging Deeper into the Message

Pastor Mike spoke about the church being more of a family. Reflect on this as we look into some scriptures that examine this further.

Read Mark 3:31-35. How would Jesus' words have been shocking in the culture of that time?

What implications does that have for his followers both then and now?

How is the concept of the church as a family described in Romans 12:3-5?

What does this connectedness look like in your life?

What does Paul indicate was the cost Jesus paid to give us unity and belonging in 1 Corinthians 10:15-17?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

What does this say about the value of individuals?

How is a community described?

What dignity is given to those who seem weaker?

How can we practically apply this?

Read Ephesians 2: 11-22. How are we brought near to God?

What value, then, should be placed on our reconciliation to God?

How then should we value unity?

What metaphor does Paul use to describe the household of God?

How can we encourage each other to live more as a family?

"The early Christians did their best to live as an extended family, caring for each other in the way in which (in that world) extended families did. They called each other "brother" and "sister" and really meant it. They lived and prayed and thought like that: children of the same father, following the same older brother, sharing goods and resources where need arose. When they talked about "love," that's the main thing they meant: living as a single family, a mutually supporting community. The church must never forget that calling." - N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian*

Community Group

Icebreaker: What is your idea of a refreshing evening?

Discussion Questions:

Tell about a relationship that you've had that was with someone from a different culture.

Read the first point.

Why do you think that this concept doesn't seem to play out in our culture?

Where should we start, as the church, in showing that there is only one race?

Read the second point.

How should the church be loving those who struggle with this idea?

Read the third point.

What do you think is the most important thing in healthy marriages?

The fourth point speaks of the metaphor in Ephesians 5:31-32.

Read those verses. What does this imply for the church and what impact should that have on the larger community?

Read the applications. Which one stands out to you?

- How do you see the church being like family? What ways are there to promote this in a more real and tangible way?
- What are some things that can help keep us away from sexual sin?
- How can we support healthy marriages?
- What differences do you see in the world's expectations of family roles and what we see in the Bible?
- Reaching out to the hurting with dignity, compassion and offers of inclusion is part of Jesus' mission – how are we doing this?

What else would you like to discuss from the sermon?

Application: Do the Digging Deeper section and talk with God about how to build up His family.