



Wednesday: Lesson 15& 16

Saturday: Lesson H

The Home—Bearing God's Image in Marriage and Singleness

INTRODUCTION

"The happiest, most satisfied people are those pursuing Jesus aggressively, passionately, supremely, constantly! And some of them are single . . . some of them are married!!"

—Scott Maxwell

1. Man—created in God's image

Genesis 1:26-27

2. Man—fallen from God's image

Genesis 5:1-3

3. Jesus—displays God's image

Colossians 1:15; Philippians 2:6-8

4. Man in Christ—restored to God's image

Romans 8:29; Colossians 3:10

THE GREATEST RELATIONSHIP IS THAT WHICH WE HAVE WITH JESUS!

5. Bearing God's image as a married woman in Christ

Genesis 1:26-27

Genesis 2:18-22

Ephesians 5:22-33

Ephesians 5:18-22

Simple roles—submit

Be filled with the Spirit of God

"...as to the Lord"

1 Peter 3:1-4

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15; Acts 16:1-3—Lois and Eunice

Titus 2:3-5



APPLICATION:

What are the implications of God's original intention for marriage?

- It grounds marriage in something that never changes.
- It elevates the purpose and reason for marriage—whether a woman is married or single.
- It sweetens every act of humble service in marriage.
- It excludes marrying or otherwise entering into a close relationship with a man who is NOT in Christ.
- It restricts your consideration of divorce to only those cases where it's biblically permissible (and even at that, it's only a last resort after you've exhaustively and earnestly sought restoration).
- It keeps Jesus absolutely at the center of marriage.

6. Bearing God's image as a single woman in Christ

- a. Jesus' prayer—John 17:20-23
- b. Marriage isn't always better—Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 7:7
- c. The gift of singleness—1 Corinthians 7:1-7; 1 Timothy 5:1-2
- d. The privileges of singleness—1 Corinthians 7:28-35
- e. Some examples of undistracted devotion to the Lord
 - Ruth
 - Tabitha (Dorcas)—Acts 9:36-40



- Lydia—Acts 16:14-15, 40
- Anna—Luke 2:36-38
- Mary Magdalene—Matthew 27:56, 62; 28:1; Mark 15-16, esp. 16:9; Luke 8:2-3; 24:10; John 20:1, 18
- Mary and Martha (coming later)

APPLICATION:

What are the implications of God's purpose for singleness?

- It underscores the importance of oneness with the body of Christ (John 17:21; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-13).
- It cultivates a special closeness to the Lord because of greater awareness of Him as her provider and protector.
- It calls for repentance from sinful discontent, compromise, and unbiblical thinking (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 10:5).
- It calls for ongoing renewal of our minds (Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 4:8).
- It elevates personal purity and holiness in body and spirit (1 Corinthians 7:34).
- It strengthens our commitment to growing in unity and self-giving love in the home.
- It humbles single women to seek the wisdom and protection of her Christian parents and/or church leadership (e.g. elders, small group leaders) and/or older women in the church.
- It keeps smallgroup involvement a priority (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- It motivates a prayerful pursuit of undistracted devotion to the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:35).

