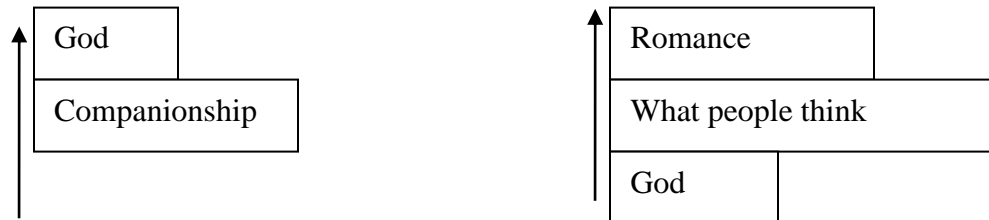


Session 4: Bad Reasons to be in a Relationship

- I. Introduction
 - a. We are now departing singleness and entering in our studies of relationship and courtship.
 - b. Purpose: To consider what are some bad reasons to be in a relationship so that singles may probe their heart motivation to be in a relationship.
- II. Note of clarification: Some of the bad reasons for a relationship are not wrong in of itself. Any good reasons can become bad reasons if the priority for a relationship is above glorifying God.
- III. Note the Right versus the Left in the diagram of right and wrong priorities in why one want to have a relationship:



- a. Anytime we have anything above God, it becomes our functional “god.” It takes the place of God and is an idol.
 - b. We need to take **1 John 5:21** seriously: “*Little children, guard yourselves from idols.*”
 - i. Notice this verse is stated in the New Testament church era and not during the Old Testament era when Israel was tempted by polytheistic idols. The fear for idols is real even for us today.
 - ii. Notice John wrote this addressing “*Little children*” implying these are dear affectionate believers.
- IV. Bad reasons for relationship
- a. Bad Reason #1: The other person is a person’s idol
 - i. Interpreting this biblically:
 1. This is a common one and we should always be searching whether that person has become our god instead of God.
 2. “*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*” (**Matthew 6:24**)
 - a. If you idolize someone above God then that person will be your “master” more than God.
 - b. Ulitimately you will hate God and you will serve the person or the fantasy of what you think that person is like as your chief source of joy.
 - c. When you serve that person as your chief source of joy just don’t be surprised that you will be disappointed because only God can satisfy.
 - ii. How do I know this is an idol?

1. You really don't know that person and you spend more time imagining what that person is like rather than really know who they are.
 2. You spend more time thinking about them than you do about the things of God.
 3. When you think more about the other person more than God, when you find more satisfaction in that person's company or thinking about that person than you do being in the presence of God or thinking about Him.
 4. You daydream about the other person and it is affecting your ability to fulfill your responsibilities.
- iii. Practice:
1. To remove the idol require that one know no one is perfect (**Romans 3:23**), and only God is perfect.
 2. Let it sink in: If you make someone a functional idol you will eventually find out that he or she will not fulfill your expectation and you will eventually hate them.
- b. Bad Reason #2: When one want to have romance for romance sake
- i. Interpreting this biblically
 1. This describes the phenomenon when one is more in love with the concept of love rather than loving a person. This is selfish and contrary to the spirit of love (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:5 "*it does not seek its own*")
 2. Be warned: "*Sheol and ^[b]Abaddon are never satisfied, Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.*" (**Proverbs 27:20**)
 - a. This will make one always move from one relationship to another because one is not satisfied with an actual person; one's eye then will never be satisfying as testified in this verse.
 - b. Realize this ends up being a very self-destructive lifestyle where one is always lusting for more but never content.
 - ii. How do I know this is an idol?
 1. You move from one relationship to another all the time.
 2. Your best part of any courtship is the beginning.
 3. You read a lot of romance novels and inappropriate writings.
 4. You never picture the relationship in hard times and growing deeper through the hard times in ways that involve your own personal sacrifice and personal pain.
 - iii. Practice:
 1. Study God's love. Practice even being loving right now in platonic relationship by putting off unselfishness and putting on the love of Christ.
 2. Be around those who are Christian in godly marriages who are transparent. Be willing to be disciple by one (according

to your gender) or both of them in order to have an accurate view of marriage rather than the idol of romance for romance sake.

c. Bad Reason #3: To enhance self-confidence

i. Interpreting this biblically

1. It is a bad reason to be in a relationship when your primary purpose of being in a relationship is for your own self-confidence.
2. Your identity is not in whether or not you are in a relationship but in Christ: “*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*” (1 Peter 2:9)

ii. How do I know this is an idol?

1. You believe being in a relationship makes you have value and dignity.
2. You believe you don’t have value and dignity if you are not in a relationship.
3. You love to tell others about your relationship; but purposely omit the things that doesn’t make you look good or you exaggerate the quality of your relationship so that people will think highly of you.
4. You are not sure who you are when you are not in a relationship.
5. You feel there is no purpose of living if you are not in a romantic relationship.
6. You have an overly obsessive focus on who you are with as being something that either lift up or lower down your status.

iii. Practice:

1. Those who want a relationship primarily for self-confidence will want to rush into a relationship. But Be careful of not waking up love until it’s time (Song of Solomon 2:7, 8:4).
2. You need to internalize this in your heart: Your identity is in Christ and not relationship!
3. You need to realize any relationship and marriage is momentary in light of eternity; let that put relationship in perspective.

d. Bad Reason #4: Everyone is in a relationship

i. Interpreting this biblically

1. Sometimes people desire to have a relationship or enter a relationship because of the pressure that “everyone is in a relationship.”

2. The over-riding thought with this bad reason is the thought “Why is everyone in a relationship and I am not?”
 3. Interpreting this biblically when one someone wants to be in a relationship primarily because everyone is in a relationship there might be envy.
 4. Hear what God’s Word has to say about envy: *“Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.”* (Galatians 5:26)
 - a. Here the Apostle Paul is writing to the Church in Galatia.
 - b. Among the things Paul prohibit is *“envying one another.”*
- ii. How do I know this is an idol?
1. Anytime anyone ask you about whether you are in a relationship you get:
 - a. Angry
 - b. Hurt
 - c. Mean
 2. The over-riding dominating emotion you have being single is the emotion of being Jealous/Envious of those in relationships.
 3. There is the constant thought that no one else knows how you feel in your singleness, loneliness, etc., since one has the perception that everyone is in a relationship.
- iii. Practice:
1. **1 Peter 2:1-3** has helpful principles to help put away envy: *“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”*
 - a. The command is clear in **verse 1**: *“putting aside all...envy”*
 - b. How?
 - i. Focus on consuming God’s Word: *“long for the pure milk of the word”* (v.2a)
 - ii. Focus on growing in your spiritual life: *“so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation”* (v.2b)
 - iii. Focus on the kindness of the Lord: *“if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”* (v.3)
 2. Cultivate a regular habit of daily thanking God for salvation and everyday things. The opposite of jealousy/envy is thanksgiving to God.
- e. Bad Reason #5: Not to be bullied
- i. Interpreting this biblically

1. Sometimes with guys there might be others men making fun of them for being less than a man since they are not in a relationship; so some want to be in a relationship more for not being bullied or made fun of more than any other reason.
 2. This is a fear of man: *“The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.”* (Proverbs 29:25)
 - ii. How do I know this is an idol?
 1. You want to be in a relationship so people don’t make fun of you.
 2. You also can’t stand being teased in other area of your life.
 3. You easily want to impress people in other areas of your life as well.
 - iii. Practice:
 1. Fear God more than fear man.
 2. Cultivate fear of God by loving Him! Study the Gospel to love Him and therefore want to Please God more than pleasing anyone else!
- f. Bad Reason #6: Sex
- i. Interpreting this biblically
 1. LEFT OFF
 - ii. How do I know this is an idol?
 - iii. Practice:
 1. Sexual sin inherently selfish; cultivate love. Begin by loving in platonic relationship (family, church).
 2. Study up on biblical love.