

## PART VI: Good Reasons to be in a Relationship

- I. Introduction
  - a. Last week we considered bad reasons to be in a relationship.
  - b. Purpose of today is to consider good reasons to be in a relationship so that if you are in a relationship or are pursuing a relationship you will do so in such a way that you are properly motivated and aim to please God.
- II. Note of clarification: The following reasons are good reasons provided that it is in the right order of priorities. A good reason that is above pleasing God would therefore not be pleasing to God and no longer a good reason to be in a relationship but an idol.

### **Priorities of good reasons to be in a relationship**

#### **Please God**



- III. Good reasons for relationship  
We will look at four of them.
  - a. Pleasing God
    - i. Understanding what this means
      1. While the context is of Paul describing his ministry, the principle is true: *“Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him”* (2 [Corinthians 5:9](#))
      2. This is the first priority above all else in one’s decision to pursue a relationship.
      3. Courtship ultimately is not to gratify your own desire but really to glorify God.
    - ii. **How do I know my reason to be in a relationship is to please God?**
      1. You are willingly obedient to pursue a relationship God’s way.
      2. You are seeking God through prayers when you are considering whether to be with someone or not.
      3. Your relationship is based upon God.
  - b. You want to model Christ relationship with the Church
    - i. Understanding what this means
      1. Woman: *“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. <sup>24</sup>But as the church is subject to Christ, so also*

*the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”*  
(Ephesians 5:22-24)

- a. You want to be a helper as Eve is.
  - b. You want to see that you desire to one day submit to someone that is your husband, as analogous to the church under Christ.
2. Man: *“<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present to Himself the church <sup>in</sup> all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.”*  
(Ephesians 5:25-27)
- a. You want to be a humble leader.
  - b. You want to be sacrificial towards your spouse.
- ii. How do I know my reason to be in a relationship is to model the relationship of Christ and the church?
1. Ladies, your relationship in the relationship is characterize by:
    - a. Practicing Godly submission to authorities currently present in your lives as unto the Lord.
    - b. A general disposition of helping others.
  2. Guys, your relationship in the relationship is characterize by:
    - a. Putting the other person first
    - b. Be willing and have exercise sacrificial care for others
- c. You want to love the other person
- i. Understanding what this means: 1 Corinthians 13.
    1. Note what love is.
    2. Note what love is not.
  - ii. How do I know my reason to be in a relationship is to love the other person?
    1. Do you show characteristics in 1 Corinthians 13?
    2. Do you see symptoms of selfishness which is contrary to love?
- d. You want godly companionship
- i. Understanding what this means: *“There was a certain man without a [a]dependent, having neither a son nor a brother, yet there was no end to all his labor. Indeed, his eyes were not satisfied with riches and he never asked, “And for whom am I laboring and depriving myself of pleasure?” This too is vanity and it is a grievous task. 9 Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. 10 For if [b]either of them falls, the*

*one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not [c]another to lift him up.” (Ecclesiastes 4:8-10)*

1. A sad scene in **verse 8**.
  2. The goodness and benefit of companionship:
    - a. More productive (**v.9**)
    - b. Help (**v.10**)
- ii. **How do I know my reason to have godly companionship?**
1. Serving the Lord together increases
  2. Love for God grows in each one.