

Jesus is Lord of My Marriage, Family and Dating
 Tampa
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 by
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1. To make Jesus Lord of our marriage, family and dating is to do it His way.
2. Outline: the ABCs of Marriage, Family and Dating.
 - a. Lisa and I will do one point apiece on each section.
 - b. I will speak to the men, and Lisa will address the women.
 - c. Points will start with A, B, and then C for easier recall.
3. Marriage
 - a. (Jeff) Men: your wives need your "attention"!
 - i. 1 Peter 3:7 = "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."
 1. There are five separate thoughts that build on each other in this verse, but we only have time to exegete the first one:
 - a. "...be considerate as you live with your wives..."
 - b. Literally: "dwell together according to knowledge"
 - i. Q: How well do you "know" your wife?
 - ii. Q: Do you know what makes her happy?
 - iii. Q: Do you know what makes her sad?
 - iv. Q: Do you know what worries her?
 - v. Q: Do you know what she needs from you when she's worried?
 - vi. Q: Do you know how to take care of her and keep her healthy and balanced?
 - ii. Practical challenge: Spend some quality time every day with your wife.
 1. Lisa and I either:
 - a. Sit in the patio before she goes to work.
 - b. Or take a walk and catch up after work.
 - c. (A phone call during the day - just because- is bonus points!)
 - d. (Note: if small children at home, then maybe after they go to bed.)
 - iii. Main Point: be considerate to your wife; dwell with her according to knowledge; pay attention to her!
 - b. (Lisa) Women: your husbands need your "admiration"!

- i. Ephesians 5:22-24, 33 = "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything... 33However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."
 1. Story: "A couple married for 15 years began having more than usual disagreements. They wanted to make their marriage work and agreed on an idea the wife had. For one month they planned to drop a slip in a "Fault" box. The boxes would provide a place to let the other know about daily irritations. The wife was diligent in her efforts and approach: "leaving the jelly top off the jar," "wet towels on the shower floor," "dirty socks not in hamper," on and on until the end of the month. After dinner, at the end of the month, they exchanged boxes. The husband reflected on what he had done wrong. Then the wife opened her box and began reading. They were all the same, the message on each slip was, "I love you!"
 2. If we're not careful, what we used to be attracted to can now be an irritation:
 - a. Before: "He's so fun, carefree and spontaneous."
 - i. Now: "He's so irresponsible and lazy."
 - b. Before: "He's so athletic."
 - i. Now: "All he wants to do is workout."
 3. Go back to what first attracted you to him...
 4. Daily give encouragement and admiration.
 5. Quote John Eldredge: "After interviewing thousands of women, I think a woman's deepest fear is abandonment. And I've discovered that a man's deepest fear is failure. So when a woman attacks a man's masculine strength, she brings about his worst fear. Now he withdraws. He backfires, and his wounded heart must be healed."
 6. Practicals...

4. Family

- a. (Lisa) I'm going to address parenting younger children, and Jeff is going to address parenting teens.
 - i. Women, let's turn to Proverbs 13...
 1. See if you can guess which phrase that starts with "B" I've chosen to label this point...
 - ii. Proverbs 13:24 = "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."

- iii. Proverbs 19:18 = "Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death."
 - iv. Proverbs 20:30 = "Blows and wounds cleanse away evil, and beatings purge the inmost being."
 - 1. Point: "Blows and wounds" ☺
 - v. Proverbs 22:15 = "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."
 - vi. Proverbs 23:13-14 = "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death."
 - vii. Proverbs 29:15 = "The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother."
 - viii. Proverbs 29:17 = "Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul."
 - b. (Jeff) Men, we need to "befriend" our teens.
 - i. John 15:15 = "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."
 - 1. Jesus' relationship with the Apostles changed as they grew spiritually.
 - a. In the same way, our relationship with our children needs to change as they grow physically.
 - 2. John Eldridge makes the point that a father is the God-ordained person to usher his children into adulthood.
 - a. Interview with John Eldridge: "...the boy needs to know from his father that he has what it takes. If a man does not have that one question answered deeply and affirmatively, it cripples him the rest of his life."
 - ii. Main Point: Fathers, tell your boys: "You have what it takes!"
 - 1. Tell your girls: "You are my princess!"
5. Dating
- a. (Jeff) Single & College men: We need to treat the sisters with "chivalry"!
 - i. Colossians 3:19 = "Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."
 - 1. God's design for how all men are to treat all women... (How Jesus treated women in the gospels.)
 - a. Opposite of the world!
 - i. Sad quote from Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "The world's male chivalry has perished..."
 - b. Brothers: let's bring chivalry back in the church!

- i. Share: chivalry was our “code of behavior” when I was a single college student in the church.
 - ii. Let’s bring chivalry back to the Tampa Bay Church!
 - ii. Practicals:
 - 1. How to treat a lady:
 - a. Be kind & courteous.
 - i. Open doors.
 - ii. Carry their books.
 - iii. Get up to refill their water.
 - iv. Give them your full attention when talking.
 - b. Think ahead and plan dates.
 - i. Take them out on dates!
 - 2. M.P. = Treat our sisters as princesses!
 - b. (Lisa) Single and College sisters: We need to be “content” in our dating lives!
 - i. Philippians 4:11-13 = “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”
 - 1. Contentment has nothing to do with your marital status.
 - a. Contentment has to do with being focused on God and his purposes.
 - b. Share: I was content as a single... (Focus)
 - 2. Learn “the secret of being content in any and every situation!”
 - a. God loves this!
 - b. Will give you peace and joy!
 - c. Will be most attractive to the brothers!
- 6. Close (Jeff)
 - a. Main point = God’s way works!
 - i. Let’s make Jesus Lord of our marriage, family and dating!