



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“We Are Family: Family of Mine”

Ps James Lowe – August 9, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What do you think are the three most important characteristics of a healthy family?
- Growing up, who was your favorite person from your extended family? Why?
- What's one distinctive characteristic that most of your family members have?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1st Corinthians 7:1-5

God established the Family to be the backbone of society, and He gave each one of us a role to play for our families to succeed. The world has become absolutely confused about what family is and is not. The Bible has something to say to each family member, no matter in what stage of life you are. Whether you are married, single, divorced or even widowed, God wants you to be a part of a healthy family.

I. **God’s Purpose for Marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Mat 19:3-6)**

Marriage was designed by God as a lifetime commitment between a man and a woman, for the purpose of procreation and mutual enjoyment. Anything outside of God’s parameters will never be able to fulfill God’s purposes for marriage. To have this kind of marriage, we need to build on something stronger than good looks, money, romantic excitement, and social acceptance. There must be Christian commitment, character, and maturity. We need to build our marriages on the Word of God not on what the world tries to teach us that marriage and sex is. 1 Corinthians 7 clearly goes to extra length to emphasize the mutual enjoyment and ownership of each other’s bodies within the covenant of marriage.

II. God's Purpose for Singles. (1 Corinthians 7: 6-11)

Paul is knowledgeable about the benefits of marriage and yet he claims his rights to be single. Being single is not an inferior position; rather a gift from God for those who, for the benefit of the Kingdom, have the ability to stay single and pure. If you have the desire of intimacy, you don't have the gift of celibacy. God wants to give you the desire of your heart, but you need to trust Him and look for a relationship within His will. The Bible is clear that Christians ought to marry a man or a woman that also fears the Lord. Purity before marriage is an act of confidence in God. Being single allows a person to focus on the Lord, serve Him and grow.

III. Overcoming Divorce. (1 Corinthians 7:12-16; Matthew 19:7-9)

God's will is for the marriage union to be a permanent, lifetime commitment. There is no place in Christian marriage for a "trial marriage"; nor is there any room for the "escape hatch" attitude: "If the marriage doesn't work, we can always get a divorce." God has put "walls" around marriage, not to make it a prison, but to make it a safe fortress. There is a certain pain and consequences that accompany divorce that God wants us to avoid. But if you have gone through divorce, there is redemption for you. God has not rejected you. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn divorced people, but for those who have gone through a divorce to find salvation and hope in Him. If you have gone through a divorce, there is no better place for you to be than at the family of God. You need His love and the love of His family to restore your heart and see the light again.

No matter what our marital status is, we can find fulfillment, hope and love in the family of God. He has a place for each one of us.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What did you learn from this lesson and how are you going to apply it to your own marital status?
- What can you do this week to express your appreciation to your immediate family?
- What change do you need to make to ensure that your family not only survives but thrives?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray, thanking God for your family.
- Pray, asking God for his help and grace so we can do our part for our family to succeed.
- Pray for the families of our nation. Pray for God's mercy to lead our nation to repentance, so that we may value family as God does, and so our society may prosper.