

TO MARRY OR NOT?

Pastor James

www.gracetabernaclehyd.org

Father, this morning we come to You, the entrance of Your Word always brings light. Help us Lord, to open our hearts and our minds that Your light may enter, show the darkness in us, sanctify us, cleanse us of that darkness, because the answer to darkness is light because no darkness can stand before light and You are light, Your Word is light. Open our ears, open our eyes, help us to see life as You see it, help us to believe and know though we are seated here physically in the church, in truth we are seated with You in the heavenly places. Help us to see as You see, then truly we will be able to tell our soul, "Be still and know God is God!" Speak to us this morning, Lord. For in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

We have been looking at the series on liberty, today we are looking at the liberty we find in marriage—whether you are single, what you are looking for; whether you are married, what you should be expecting for. Marriage is at the top institution for God on earth because the Bible begins with the marriage and the Bible ends with the marriage. Chapter 2 of the Bible begins with the marriage, chapter 19 of the book of Revelation, the bride is getting ready for her marriage and chapter 21 of the book of Revelation, you see the bride coming down. So in between these two chapters is the rest of history. So the Word of God begins with the marriage and ends with the marriage. Everybody sitting here, who is saved, whether you like it or not, is either preparing to be the bride or preparing to attend the wedding of the bride. Let's hope we get a chance to be the Bride.

Revelation 19:7

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. Read it carefully! ***"Wedding of the lamb has come, Christ's wedding has come,"*** and the word of God says, ***"His wife has made herself ready."***

So whether you are single or whether you are married, you are preparing for something. It says, ***"The bride made herself ready."*** In every ministry of the Word of God is a preparation for that Day, it's for that Day, the original Swayambara—all Indians know what it is—where the king/prince chooses his bride. You know our history, the girls from the noble families were always preparing and hoping that the king's eye would fall on her, they all stood, the king walked through and he picked one girl. And you can prepare for it – the biggest one, Bible says that we can prepare for it. So please remember, the Bible is all about a marriage and a home; God is a Father; Jesus is represented to us as a Son and like we said last evening, therefore by the process of elimination, the third Person in the Trinity, takes the role of a mother.

These are the three offices in a home – the father, the mother, the child. So if you want to know depending upon the one or multiple offices you hold, what you are supposed to be, if you are only a child and not married, "How should I be?" Study Jesus - how He was in relation to His Father and to the Spirit, both. If you are a father, study the Father, how He is in relation to His children, Israel and the Church and if you are a mother, study the Holy Spirit. Just go through the titles of the Holy Spirit itself, you will realize what your role is. That's how you prepare for a life on earth because there is a family in Heaven where there is a Father, and there is, not mother in feminine term, but role of a mother, the Holy Spirit and the Son. And the family on earth and the angelic host, everybody is getting ready, because the Boy has come of age. He is 40 years old.

Isaac got married at the age of 40, it is time for him to get married and the job of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual Eleazer, is to find Rebecca. The Holy Spirit, Eleazer, waits outside the town and he kneels down by the well. We know what the wells signify, it is the wells of salvations and the water signifies the Word of God and the Holy Spirit is looking for the girl who comes first and early to draw water from the wells of salvation. So don't ever discount the ministry of the Word because your heart and your desire for the water of God's Word will ultimately determine where you end. Get these pictures—I said Isaac is 40 years old, if you put one year as 50 years because 50 years is the jubilee in Israel, we don't follow Jewish festivals but they have spiritual significance even for us. Today is the 5th September, Wednesday, the 8th is Rosh Hashanah, the feast of the trumpets, the Jews do not know what it is, they celebrate it at the outer form, we know we are waiting for the feast of the trumpets when the final trumpet blows, the Church is gone and whether we will be left behind or gone is in our hands, not in God's hands. He says, "Make yourself ready to go." Understand these pictures. So, if 50 years is a jubilee and Isaac is 40 years old, spiritual is 40 years old, 50*40 you get 2000 years, Isaac is 40 years old, He is 2000 years old, it's time for the Bride to get ready.

The Bride has only the time left to put the final touches before she is presented. Please remember, like every wedding on earth, the same thing continues, it is the bride who keeps the bridegroom waiting because she is delayed, not the bridegroom. So the first thing you need to understand the importance God attaches to the marriage is because of its significance in eternity. Bible begins with the wedding; it will end with the wedding.

Ephesians 5:31-32

³¹ ***“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”*** This is there in Genesis 2:24.

³² ***This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***

Why is it important? It is because it's a mystery. Marriage is a mystery; every Christian marriage on earth symbolically represents the marriage of Christ to the Church. That's why marriage as an institution is the most attacked institution by the enemy and the world system and the world system wants to change the entire definition of marriage and every Christian wedding is under constant attack because the devil knows what it represents on earth, it represents the union of Christ to His Church. Now we have laid the format about why it is so important to God, and therefore, we attach that importance because God considers it important.

Whenever Jesus was asked this question about marriage or divorce, or anything connected with marriage, He did not go back to the law of Moses, though they lived by the law of Moses, He said, “It was not so in the beginning.” When Satan came, He went to the law of Moses and said, “It is written,” but when man came and asked questions about marriage, He did not go to the book of Moses, He went right to the book of Genesis chapter 2, before the fall begins and He says, “It was not so in the beginning,” He says, “This was how it was in the beginning.” So, whenever you ask Jesus about a question, He will refer you back to Genesis 2, because that's where it all begins. Marriage, everything begins in Genesis 2. If our Savior, our Lord, our God and our future, if you are blessed – bridegroom – refers to Genesis chapter 2—let's go to Genesis chapter 2. Genesis 3 onwards is the fall – the breakup of the marriage; 2 is how it should have been.

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸ ***And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”***

First lesson about marriage – it is not your and my idea, it's God's. Because marriage originated in God's mind, man does not have the autonomy to change its definition, it is God's idea, it is not man's idea. It is not Adam who said “It is not good for me to be alone,” it is God's idea who said, “It is not good for Adam to be alone.” So, go to the source. Marriage is not man's idea; marriage is God's idea. Therefore, it is divinely instituted institution and man cannot tamper with it, we do not have the right to tamper with it. So understand the first premise from the first statement God makes after Adam is created. Remember, this we looked long time back – when God created man, He did not create woman, He created a man, He made a place, He made the trees, the provision, the garden of Eden, and He put a person over there and He gave him a purpose – watch and tend – these four things and then He set a perimeter around the purpose and said, “You can eat all these things but you cannot eat one.”

So, these five things were set and when I teach other churches about marriage, the seminars I take, I said that's the first thing you need to look – man – because it begins with the man, it doesn't begin with the woman. Marriage doesn't begin with a woman; it begins with a man. Do you have a plan? Do you have a purpose? Do you have a provision? If you don't have, don't get married. First, man need to have a place, and a purpose and provision before he gets entangled with somebody else's life, brings her into his life, first be very clear—man, it's spoken to the man, till Eve is created, everything is spoken to the man. So man has to be very careful and very serious. When we do our weddings, we make that statement, it should not be entered lightly. There is a preparation for all these things. Of course, most of us did not know these things but now that you know, if you are already married, go back and put it right with God because there is verse in the book of Acts, you can stand on, “The seasons of ignorance God overlooks.” Now that I have told you, you are no longer ignorant, there is nothing to overlook. So don't overlook, but look into it.

So, the first thing God says over there is, ***“It is not good that man should be alone.”*** This is God's idea, premise number one.

Second premise is, ***“I will make him a helper comparable to him.”***

If you go to divorce courts, it's made very easy now, the government has made it very easy. One of the conditions they put over there is; non-compatibility, irreconcilable differences because that's what first thing God says, ***“I will***

make him a helper compatible to him. So, all young man who is not married, ask God, “The girl You bring into my life should be somebody who is compatible to me and who will help me in Your divine purpose.” We are not talking about worldly marriages –boy met girl, girl met boy and they ran away – we are not talking about that, we are talking about Kingdom marriages: “Thy will be done on earth, Thy Kingdom come, Thy name be hallowed in my marriage.” Like I said, God is the God of mercy, those who goofed up, God is the God of restoration. So look at that picture.

Second premise is, you need a spouse who is compatible, who compliments you and she is a helper and don't feel bad about this term 'helper,' – ladies – because that's the same term used with the Holy Spirit, that's exactly what Jesus says, “I will tell the Father and He will send you a Helper just like Me.” What does He mean? Compatible. You can compare Him to Me. What will be the Holy Spirit like? Exactly like Me. Comparable, compatible. So, don't pick people who are not compatible to you, spiritually or otherwise. He looked and God brought every living creature to Adam and Adam named them but he could not find somebody who was compatible to him, who would help him in the God given purpose.

Third premise you go to verse 21.

Genesis 2:21

²¹ And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

Third premise for believing man—believing is not enough, believing, surrendered man—is that, your marriage is God's responsibility, not yours. That would of course apply to the girls too. If you are a surrendered child of God, your marriage is God's responsibility. Let's go to the beginning as Jesus said.

Next premise, verse 22.

²² Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

It is His initiative, not yours. Next Sunday we will look at how He does but this Sunday we are setting the premise. You can pray about it, fast about it and all that, but it is not your responsibility, responsibility lies with Him and initiative lies with Him. It doesn't say that Adam went wife-hunting, it says that God brought the woman to him and He is still the same God and He never changes, He still brings the girl to the man who is surrendered to His will. That's how Rebecca came to Isaac, or you will end up with Rachael. Like Jacob ran after Rachael and all he had was trouble.

And then the fifth premise, verse 25.

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

KJV version is beautiful, particularly this verse.

God, who instituted the marriage, sets the terms of the marriage, the relationship. What is that? “*He shall leave, he shall cleave and they shall become one.*” These are the terms of marriage. That's why the other four is so important. So the ultimate purpose of marriage or end product of marriage should be oneness or unity. It's a process, it's not that it automatically becomes but it is a process and at the end, somewhere down the line, the people become one and when the two become one as person, power is released because the power of God which other marriages don't have, in Christian believing marriages when two of you agree on anything on earth, it shall be done in heaven. The entire universe is held together because there is oneness in Trinity. That's why the proclamation to Israel, “Hear, O Israel, the Lord thy God is One,” Elohim is One, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, there is no division in Them, They are One. Out of their oneness brings out everything. And you know what? He wants that to be reflected in Christian marriages. If that is your purpose, out of that oneness comes dominion. How does God exercise dominion over the earth? The Father through the Son, through the Spirit exercises dominion over all creation because they are one and He spoke the same blessing over man and woman and said exercise dominion. How does it come? From your oneness. Understand the purpose because we don't understand the purpose and that's the five-fold blessing to man given in Genesis chapter 1.

Genesis 1:28

²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Why? Because that's how God does, He exercises dominion over His entire creation because of the oneness in the Trinity. So don't miss out on this purpose and if you have been already married, you still can reach that goal because if any man is in Christ Jesus, he or she is a new creation, the old failures have passed away, behold, He makes your

marriage new and understand the vision and the purpose, surrender new on the altar to the Lord, and allow God to change your marriage so that God's purpose for Adam and Eve can be fulfilled through all of us in our little spheres which God has given us.

All this man, Adam and Eve were supposed to do under God, not outside God. So, what the devil told Adam and Eve, his subtle lie was, "You can exercise dominion without God," and that's how the fall takes place. So instead of dominating earth, when the fall came, now they are competing each other – the husband is trying to dominate the wife, the wife is trying to dominate the husband and all you have is chaos and fireworks. Dominion is still taking place, but it's not over the earth, it is over each other and it goes all the way up to the top of secular systems, governments... They are not serving the people, they say "For the people, by the people, of the people," it doesn't work like that. It is all domination. The most democratic system is also not about serving, it is about suppression and about domination. You know why? When we take God out of picture, that's what finally happens, okay. So the original purpose still stands, but only under God.

Last two Sundays we said the issue always is lordship. Are we under the lordship of God? Do we agree to the lordship of God? Not God, but the LORDSHIP of God!

So, the first premise about marriage after these five premises is that, if you want these objectives to be fulfilled in your marriage, the first thing you have to do is come under the lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ in your marriage – individually and together. Paul talks about the rules within the marriage in *Ephesians 5, verse 21* onwards, he puts this statement...

Ephesians 5:21

"... ²¹submitting to one another in the fear of God."

That's the lordship of Jesus Christ! That's the key verse. Whether you are single now, or whether you are married, there is a way. Like I said, all Christians' trouble is with lordship and as long as we do not allow God to exercise lordship; any area of your life where Christ is not Lord, you do not have peace or control over those areas, it's impossible. The man God used most, after Jesus is of course, is Apostle Paul. He was single, look at how he begins his Christian life.

Acts 9:5-6

⁵And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

"Then the Lord said," not "Then the God said." "Who are You, God?" then God will speak to you. "Who are You Lord?" Then the Lord will speak to you. Many people hear from God, they are not hearing from the Lord because when you hear from God, it is a saying, but when you hear from the Lord, you know He has commanded you and you are surrendered. Who are you hearing from?

⁶So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Lordship is established and after that he never looks back, and God is able to speak to him clearly, more than He spoke to any man, He could speak to him. So, if now in your heart, if you want to speak it out, you accept the lordship of Lord Jesus Christ over every area of your life whether you are single or married, He will be able to speak to you, otherwise, take a good secular lesson.

So, the first question is – Lord, should I marry or not? if you are single. To Jeremiah, God said, "Don't marry." And if He says, "Marry," the second question should be – Lord, whom should I marry? Let's go the very familiar verse, Romans 12, verse 1 and 2.

Romans 12:1-2

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, --in terms of marriage— but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

So, first He says "Would you please surrender?" do you want a good wife, do you want acceptable wife, or do you want the perfect wife I have for you—not that she is perfect or you are perfect, but that is the perfect match I have for you." You can marry a good wife, it would be a good marriage; you can marry an acceptable wife, it would be an

acceptable marriage in God's sight; or you can marry a perfect wife and it will be a perfect working out of God's purpose in your marriage.

So, before you can step forward, the question of lordship needs to be accepted. It is only discovered through surrender, the will of God is only discovered through surrender of your body daily, and surrender of your mind and since marriage is the second most important decision you ever will make—the first being salvation, the second is whether you get married or not get married, it will not only affect your life on earth, it will also affect your rewards in Heaven because of how your life plays out. Though marriage is until death parts you, its ramification go beyond death. Simple—first man to be raptured, Enoch, was taken alone because his wife was not a perfect wife. She was left behind and he was taken alone. So, your marriage will have ramification beyond this life. So don't think about it lightly, be very serious. The most comprehensive chapter in the Bible—I am talking about Kingdom marriage—is 1 Corinthians chapter 7. If you study that chapter, all those who are single, all those who are married, read that chapter, you will see if you read the Bible, marriage is the rule and singleness is the exception. Singleness is not the rule but marriage is the rule because God said in the beginning, "It is not good for man to be alone." So marriage is the rule, but singleness is the exception. But because of the times and what the Church has gone through for 200 years, you have to hear from God. Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 7 actually puts singleness above marriage, or the Holy Spirit does.

1 Corinthians 7:8,37,40

⁸ But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am;

He compares them to him. We will see the reason why he says so in verse 37.

³⁷ Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well.

⁴⁰ But she is happier if she remains as she is, according to my judgment—and I think I also have the Spirit of God.

So whether you are male or a female, he says, "If you choose to be single, it is better than getting married." But remember this – verse 7.

1 Corinthians 7:7

⁷For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.

The meaning of 'gift' over there is charisma, meaning, singleness or celibacy. Celibacy is a gift of the Holy Spirit. If you don't have it, get married and if you have it, don't get married because you operate or live according to the gift the Holy Spirit gives you. If you want to be single, you ask Lord, "Give me that gift." You hear about all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but nobody talks about this gift. And two of the most powerfully men ever used by God in the New Testament were single. One was Jesus and the other was Paul. They were both single. And why does he say that? Look at verse 7:35.

1 Corinthians 7:35

³⁵ And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.

Because it is not easy to get the perfect wife or the perfect husband according to God's purpose for you, so, it can become a distraction. Ultimately what are we here for? To glorify God! And you look at the great men in the Word of God – Jacob's life was a mess, you know why? Because of marriage, but he had to marry because he had to bring forth Israel. So, in his case, singleness was not an option, only thing is that he and his parents goofed-up. His father was not like his grandfather, so, goofed-up. Moses' ministry was hamstrung by his wife; Prophet Samuel's ministry and the necessity of anointing a king before his time came, because his marriage was a mess. Understood?! That's why the people asked for a king because they said, "We do not want your sons to be judges." That means issue was in the home. And they asked for a king before his time because God was already preparing a king for him and his name was David, but Saul had to come before David because Samuel's home was messed up.

So, understand how it works! That's why I said I am speaking to those who have put the Kingdom first, who truly from their hearts pray and mean the Lord's prayer, "Thy Name, Thy Kingdom, Thy will, here am I," that's Apostle Paul, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" God says, "Stay single." "Good for me, Lord, whatever You say, Your desire is my command." "Hosea, I have to teach Israel a lesson." "Good, Lord, should I go preach?" "No, you get

married. Your marriage will be a lesson.” “Whom should I marry?” “A prostitute.” “It is well with my soul, Lord.” “Why should I marry a prostitute?” “Because Israel is a prostitute and I am married to her. So, your life is My lesson.” “It is well with my soul.”

That’s what we are talking about surrender, lordship, okay. “Whether you are married or whether you are single, we have Kingdom and the Kingdom rules over the affairs of men,” Daniel will say. I believe Daniel was single; Elijah was single; Daniel’s three friends must have been single.

So, whatever state you are in now, that is the lordship, what does the Bible say about it,

1 Corinthians 7:24

24 Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.

Wherever you are, stay there, don’t jump into anything, Just stay where you are. And if you are married, if you read the same chapter, even if your spouse is unbelieving, God doesn’t allow you to leave unless the unbelieving spouse goes, God says, “Let them go, you are free.” So, please understand. And verse 24 says the same thing. Receive direction from God, do not move either way until you hear. Why? It is because your marriage is more important to God than it is to you. What does the Kingdom marriage mean? *Isaiah 8:18* signifies it best.

Isaiah 8:18

18 Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel From the Lord of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion.

He doesn’t talk about his wife because they are one. Not Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah, it’s one, they are not two. “Hear O Israel, the Lord thy God is one.” “Hear O Israel, Father is here, Son is here, the Holy Spirit is here,” they never say that, they are one, they speak in one voice. And Isaiah says,

“Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel...”

That’s what God is saying. What is a God’s family on earth? It’s a sign and a wonder to the nations. A husband and wife have become one and the children they are bringing up in the fear of the Lord, they are a sign and a wonder to the world. That’s the Kingdom marriage! So, all those who are single, if you don’t have the gift of celibacy, say, “Lord, I am willing to wait. I want a Kingdom marriage.” Get your premises right, and if you are already married, understand the purpose and say, “Lord, I surrender my marriage for the Kingdom purpose, and I surrender, change me, Lord.” Don’t say, “Lord, change my spouse, then I will become better.” No! “Change me Lord, and I surrender my children into Your hand every day, change them Lord. Lord, we want to be a sign and a wonder for You. It’s not about us, it’s about You, it’s about Your purpose.” And you need to believe, okay.

Matthew 23:19— the power of surrender.

19 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift?

There is a powerful truth over here. Imagine this is an altar, this entire carpeted area—that’s why we put the carpet, it’s up to you, after service, before you go, you want to come near and surrender each Sunday, you can do it—what happens is, the altar sanctifies the gift. It doesn’t matter what all you were and what all you have done, at the act of surrender, it is not you who sanctify the altar, the altar sanctifies the gift. That is the power of surrender. The power of surrender is the altar. When you surrender to Christ for Christ’s purposes, you are sanctified by the altar; set apart and then God starts working. Remember, we looked yesterday, you are set apart, when you come to the altar and surrender your marriage, your marriage is set apart and God starts working on it. But He cannot work on it unless you have surrendered it. When you surrender your children, doesn’t matter what they are now, where they are now, when, by an act of faith, you surrender your children every day on the altar, the altar sanctifies them; it is not the child sanctifies the altar, it is not the gift that sanctifies the altar.

Let me give you the example: do you see this, the offering bag? You had that money in your pocket, and it was dirty. Maybe you earned it in the right way, but it was not the same currency, we don’t know whichever way it has come to your pocket, but the minute you put it into the offering bag, it becomes holy because this made it holy. Your money now is sanctified. What sanctified it? Your very act of surrendering. This is like an altar into which you surrendered your money. This makes it holy. Now it is set apart, it is not like the rest of the money in your pocket. The Bible says, “When the part becomes holy, the rest becomes holy.” When you have given what is due to God, the rest of your salary becomes holy. Lot of people do not have enough in their lives, because what belongs to God, they

keep it and therefore, the rest of their money never becomes holy. So, understand how this works. Why do we say ‘Surrender, surrender, surrender...?’ It’s because what the altar does to you! Even if it’s in your house, you go on your knees and surrender your life to God, you are set apart. That’s why the Bible says in Romans 12:1, “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.” Daily offer it, you know what, you are constantly being sanctified without you knowing by your very act. And then there are of course many things that need to follow.

So, whichever way you go, singleness or marriage, the visible sign which you actually know, you need to know, one thing is theory, another thing is the understanding in the practical—the proof of the pudding is in the eating. You can watch as many videos of puddings you want, it never satisfies your tummy. So what is the proof? The proof is Colossians 3 and verse 15.

Colossians 3:15

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

That is the thing. You will know when you have peace. It may take you hundred times to keep on coming and falling before God in your home or in church, one day the peace of God takes over your heart, you are not bothered anymore, you know God is in control. Now the peace of God rules your heart. What does that mean? The government that is upon His shoulder has also entered into your life, now He is ruling, He is reigning. What is the visible sign of the reign of Jesus Christ in a person’s life? It is peace. Nothing has changed outside, everything is in turmoil, but you have peace. That means He has entered into the scene and peace comes. That’s what Jesus was trying to teach them – there is a storm; the waves are high; the water has entered into the boat; the boat is sinking; He just stands up and says, “Peace,” and everything is still. And you will know suddenly you are still – has everything changed? No, but the storm has stopped blowing in your mind and in your hearts, the reign of Jesus Christ has practically come into your life, whether you are married or whether you are single, Jesus has entered into that home, that life and says, “I take over!” All you have to do is, listen and do what He tells you.

So, surrender – if you are married, He will renew and restore for His glory; if you are single, ask for two gifts: the gift of charisma; of being single and second, married and single both have to ask for the other gift which is also the most needed gift of the Holy Spirit in the Church – the fear of the Lord. Without the fear of the Lord, your marriage will not work according to God’s ways. Christian marriages do not work the way God intended it; it is not because you don’t have money, it is not because you don’t have houses, it’s not because you don’t have vehicles, it’s not because you don’t have provisions, it’s because you don’t have the fear of the Lord. That’s what the first thing Paul says, “*Submit to one another in the fear of the Lord.*” So, remember the Holy Spirit is our Guide and our Teacher and this is what the Word of God says,

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. ¹⁰But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. ¹¹ Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Now you can put it in the secular realm also. Have you noticed that many Hindu marriages, many Muslim marriages, many marriages of other religions work out very well? Because it’s a yoke between two people, their objectives are very simple and they function very well. Our marriages are not simple, our marriages are complex because the objective is the Kingdom of God—not every Christian marriage, I am talking about genuine, surrendered marriage. Into that what happens is, a third strand comes, it is the Spirit of God, and if you have seen a cord with three strands, you will see that two strands are actually intertwined against the middle one, that is Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God comes into that marriage and that three-fold cord is very difficult to break. It looks like one but it is three. That’s what the Bible is talking about.

So, when you look at Hindu homes, they are very happy, which is fine, they should be happy and many Christian marriages are also just like them and just like the others and they are very happy. But if you look at their objective, their objective for all these marriages is the same – I want to get married; I want to have a house; I want to have children; I want to have a car; I want to go shopping; I want my children to study well; I want them to grow up; I want them to get good jobs; I want them to get married. It’s just a simple cycle, there is no purpose there, all the purposes are earthbound. There is no divine eternal purpose in their marriage at all, and people who are content with that are content with that! Our marriages are not like that. If you are only satisfied with that, marry whoever you want, it will work and God won’t intervene in your marriage, He will say, “Go your way.”

So, we are not talking about other marriages, other marriages are happy, they can be happy but it's limited by earth. You look into any marriage, even check your own minds – what are your expectations? You want to get married to nice good-looking boy, good-looking girl, then he needs to have money, or we need to make money, we need to have a house of our own, we need to buy a four-wheeler, when we have a children, they need to go to good schools and they need to get jobs and after their jobs, we need to get them married and then we need to have grandchildren. What is the difference between you and them? Nothing! Everything is the same. Same cycle. While the women in the Old Covenant, starting with Eve, is all groaning to bring forth the son because they know it is connected with the Messiah. Their marriages are completely different because they all know there is a promise given that the Seed of the woman will crush satan, so they are all groaning in the Old Testament because it is connected with the Kingdom.

In the New Covenant, the Kingdom has already come. Now what it is? The Kingdom has to be established through our lives and through our marriages, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy Name, Thy will, Thy glory, Thy power, Thy praise." So, Isaiah says, "I and my children are a sign and a wonder." Purpose is different. So, you have to choose your purpose, God won't push you, I will, God won't. God has not changed, that's why the devil is after the unity in a Christian marriage.

Proverbs 18:22

²²He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.

Like I said, initiative is with God, He brings a woman to a man. Therefore, when God writes, He writes from that perspective – "***He who finds a wife finds a good thing...***" So, how do you read this spiritually? Meaning -- I am married already, you who are not married, you are dependent on God's favor to find the right mate and if you don't find the right mate, you call it checkmate. If I tell you to raise your hands up, most of you are unmarried and you can have a good start, and those who are married—I don't think there is anybody here whose wife or a husband is not a believer—He can renew and restore. So, all of you have hope whether you are married or single, everybody has hope, and your God is for you and God is for your marriage and God is for your children. He is for you because it is not your idea, it is His idea; I didn't institute it, He did. So, sit there with hope and with expectation because there is one institution God is for on earth – you know what it is? It is for the home, because God is a family man. And Paul says, "*For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named...*" At the end what you are going to have is, a home and a family. That's why I always tell people love your home, it doesn't matter what it looks like today, love it.

Proverbs 19:14

¹⁴Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.

What can fathers give you? Money, houses, inheritance, they can leave you an inheritance, but a prudent wife is from the Lord. Fathers can't give you prudent wife, only God can, because fathers are limited, they will check all the things but he can still go wrong, but God never goes wrong. The question is - do you want a prudent mate?

Proverbs 31:10-12

¹⁰Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

What's a prudent wife? She is virtuous, her worth cannot be calculated.

¹¹The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.

All men, think about a wife whom you can trust with your heart, why?

¹²She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Let us put it the other way, you find a husband whom you can trust with your heart, who will never do you evil, only good. Let us put it both ways. What is the biggest issue in the marriage? Trust! What is the biggest issue in relationship? Trust! And that's the issue in marriage, that's what happens after the fall, Adam doesn't trust Eve; Eve doesn't trust Adam, both are blaming each other, and they are in competition, instead of dominating earth, they started dominating each other and women power begins in Genesis 4 – "I have brought a son with the Lord's favor. I didn't need you Adam, without you I got one." Gone, finish, from there trouble begins. By the time it goes to next generation, one brother tells the other brother, "I also don't need you, you go to hell," but he went to hell, his brother went to heaven.

Now let me explain to you what it means – a prudent wife is a wise wife. It works in every relationship, any working relationship you look, there is a head. When a wife submits to the lordship of her husband, then he knows he can

trust her, then he will ask her and listen to her counsel, otherwise he will not. If the inspector in the police station doesn't trust the sub-inspector, he will treat him like an employee and not as a trusted colleague. Trust is important if you need to receive counsel. That's how it works. The husband should be seeking the counsel of the wife but he will listen to the counsel only if he can trust her and he will trust her only if she is submitted to the lordship and when the lordship is not there, he will not listen to her counsel. That's how it works with God too –“Lord, why don't You speak to me?” He says, “Because I don't trust you, you surrender to My lordship and I will speak to you, I don't give opinion.”“This is the opinion of the court,” no, it is a judgment. We had a five-four ruling in the US Supreme Court, and four of them against five, so the court ruling came in favor of five, but the four others wrote their opinion, but their opinion is not a judgment, it's just an opinion, it has no validity in law. Some lower courts can pick up on that opinion and make a judgment which will be again corrected in the supreme court but those four wrote judgments which are only considered as opinion, the five-majority ruling is the judgment and the nation goes by the majority ruling which is the judgment. You want opinions? God doesn't give opinions because it's not a five-four majority in Heaven, it is 1:3, 3:1, the Three are always One, there is no disagreement. We need to be surrendered to the lordship of Jesus Christ and in the home, according to God's order, there has to be surrender: first, one another to the fear of the Lord, and after that the Bible says, “Wives, submit to your husband in all things as unto the Lord,” then he can safely seek your counsel. That's a prudent wife.

Ephesians 5:22

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Now, why do we start with the wife? It is because God started with the wife. See, whenever He talks about submission, God always goes to two and not to one. That's how He works. I can't change God's order because most of the people sitting in the church are women, let me speak to the men, but God says, “I spoke to the women first, you better speak to them first.” So, I have to agree to the lordship of Jesus Christ and not change Scripture, because in my Bible, 22 comes before 24, I don't know how it is written in your Bible.

In the entire Old Covenant and New Covenant there are many holy women, one woman is named by name...

Peter 3:5-6

⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God...

How did they trust in God? By submitting to their husbands, not that their husbands were perfect, actually, many of them were more than imperfect.

...also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands...

See, you cannot have submission and disobedience, submission leads to obedience, in the Lord.

... ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

That's why I said that lordship, trust, all goes together. Find me a woman who doesn't come under the lordship of her husband and doesn't trust him – she always lives in suspicion, fear, doubt, anxiety, worry. And God says, “That's not My plan for you. My Kingdom rules by peace, joy and righteousness.”

So, now let me speak to the daughters of Sarah, if there are any. Who are you? Daughters of Rachel or daughters of Sarah? What did Sarah call him? “Lord.” I know you laugh, that's why your marriage is also a laughter, it's a joke. I asked last time—go to *Genesis 18*—when did Sarah call him ‘lord’?

Genesis 18:12

¹² Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?”

When did she call her husband ‘lord’? At the age of 90. It took God 90 years before Sarah would submit to the lordship of her husband. Then God visited and said, “Now I will touch your womb because your son, this son is for Kingdom purpose, I could not do it till now because you had not submitted to the lordship of your husband.” I am telling you children, if you do not submit to the lordship as God has appointed you, you may have a happy marriage, a good marriage, loving marriage, but you will not have a Kingdom marriage. It is impossible because if it didn't work with Sarah, it will not work with you and me. So, you can choose what marriage you want. It took 90 years! By then she is dead in her womb, her husband is an old man, it is irrelevant to God what the condition of your marriage is, you may have written it off but the minute lordship comes in, God intervenes and the resurrection power flows in and your marriage changes and the Kingdom purpose starts flowing through that marriage because God has become

the Lord of that marriage, of that home now. These are truths! You cannot skirt it, you cannot go over it, these are truths in the Word of God.

And I know women have issue with it because of the abuse that has taken place but you cannot hide under that abuse because your marriage is not that. You can't look at what is happening in the world and change your behavior, but he says, "I am not of the world, I will not be confirmed to the world, instead I will be renewed in the mind. Yes, when I am married, it was the good will of God, but you know what, with God's grace and power of the Holy Spirit, I will change my marriage from good to the perfect will of God." And He can do it, otherwise you will have Ishmael; Ishmael will grow, Ishmael will be blessed but you will not birth Isaac, Isaac will not come. Isaac is of God, by God, for God; Ishmael is not His, he is of the world, by the world, for the world. He is big, he will be blessed, he will have lots of money, he will get good jobs, he will make lots of money, all that, but he will never be counted by God because God says, "My covenant is with Isaac, not with Ishmael."

Get these pictures as true because they are true. So, when we come to that, why is it so? Don't look at the world, put the world aside and all those ideas of the world aside—why does God says to the women 'Submit'? You see, it's because of the position. Like I said, in the Trinity, Father is God; Son is God; Spirit is God; they are equal, but the Father is the Head. If you do not have the head, leading becomes difficult and it is very difficult for the leader to lead if the followers don't submit. Are you getting the pictures? If the followers don't submit, it is very difficult for the leader to lead. So, what does the Son do? When the Son comes to the earth—He was exactly the way in Heaven too—He says, "Father, behold I have come to do Your will. You know what, You are God, I am God, I submit to Your leadership, Your headship in everything, all the way to the Cross. Whatever You say is law for Me." Is He equal? Yes. Otherwise, you cannot lead. And what does headship mean? Men have a completely wonky idea what headship means, that's where the problem comes.

1 Corinthians 11:3

³ But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

All men, listen carefully, though you have a head, your actual head is Christ. Meaning, you get your cue, your leading, from Christ. You are a praying man; you are a man who has learnt to hear from God. Why is it so important for the man to hear from God? Because without hearing you cannot lead, because you are not the head, He is the head. Because if you lead without hearing, it becomes often a dictatorship, it becomes tyranny. The breakdown of patriarchy happened not because the position was not wrong and the leading was not wrong but because they stopped hearing, then it became tyranny, it became dictatorship. When you hear from God and lead, then God's order comes. So, what does headship have to do with? The headship has to do with responsibility. Do you know who plucked the fruit? Eve. Who ate the fruit? Eve. Who gave the fruit to Adam? Eve. Whom did God come to? Adam. He didn't call, "Eve, where are you?" No, He calls, "Adam, Adam, where are you?" He doesn't ask the first two-three questions to Eve, only third question to Eve. "Where are you, Adam?" Doesn't God know who did it? Of course, He knows it, then why did He ask Adam? Because he is responsible. You are responsible for your home.

So, men, be responsible. Whether you like it or not, you are responsible. The entire mess in Afghanistan, who is responsible? Biden, it's his decision, he is responsible. The others only obeyed order, he is responsible. So, whoever makes the decision is responsible, whoever is head is responsible. That's how it works in the government too. Some sub-ordinates may have made the mistake, but when the question comes, it goes to the head and the head has to look around and see who made the mistake. They don't go checking for sub-ordinates, they ask the head. Where did they get all these principles from?

Numbers 30:2-5 is the principle.

² If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

³ "Or if a woman makes a vow to the Lord, and binds herself by some agreement while in her father's house in her youth, ⁴ and her father hears her vow and the agreement by which she has bound herself, and her father holds his peace, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement with which she has bound herself shall stand.

⁵ But if her father overrules her on the day that he hears, then none of her vows nor her agreements by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the Lord will release her, because her father overruled her.

Understand the principle? Difference. Unmarried girls, you made a decision, your father said 'No,' your decision doesn't stand. Men make a decision, your decision stands, God will hold you accountable for what you said but you make a decision and your father says 'No,' your decision does not stand. That's the principle.

⁶ "If indeed she takes a husband, while bound by her vows or by a rash utterance from her lips by which she bound herself, ⁷and her husband hears it, and makes no response to her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand, and her agreements by which she bound herself shall stand. ⁸But if her husband overrules her on the day that he hears it, he shall make void her vow which she took and what she uttered with her lips, by which she bound herself, and the Lord will release her.

What is this? This is the question of responsibility. So, understand where God is coming from. This is how it works. So, when He talks about headship, He says, "I will hold him responsible." Eve took the fruit and gave it to Adam and Adam held his peace. He is now fallen together with her because he held his peace. On the other hand, he could have overruled her and said, "No, I am not a partaker of this. God says, "You are free." Maybe she would have also been free because her husband has overruled. This is the principle on which it works.

So, when God says, "Wives, submit to your husbands," He is saying, "If you don't submit to your husband, and he keeps quiet because he wants peace in the house and you take on this decision, I tell you, I will hold him accountable for every decision you have made and where he kept quiet." So, submit to your father, submit to your husband. Are you getting it? This is the principle on which the Kingdom of God works. These are principles, these don't change. That's why I said, think Kingdom! Because I am talking about Kingdom; I am not talking about the world. When we get these fundamentals, we will understand why God asks certain things from certain people – from men, He asks certain things; from women, He asks certain things, because that is how the Kingdom is framed. Where you don't have a kingdom, which is based on rules, laws, commands, all you have is chaos. So, to man God says, "You better learn to come under the headship of Christ so that you don't be judged for tyranny," and He tells to the wives, "You better come under the headship of your husband, be a prudent wife, be a virtuous wife." That's what He says. The first law of marriage is in *Genesis 2:24*—marriage, it is universal.

Genesis 2:24

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

When God is saying this, He is not saying it to Adam and Eve, then Paul would not have used it in the book of Ephesians, He is saying to all men. Why? Because Adam had nobody to leave, Eve had nobody to leave, so it's not for Adam and Eve. It's for all of us. It's the first law of marriage. I think it was Derek Prince who said, "Whenever you read 'therefore,' in the Bible, you should ask, 'Why is it there for?'" What is that 'there for,' the purpose? For the sake of the Kingdom. When you come to the New Covenant, "Therefore, for the sake of the Kingdom, to bring the praise and glory to the King and not to say for the world, but for the glory of the King and the Kingdom, a man shall leave. The first thing is - leave. What does leave mean? Go back and listen to yesterday's message. Leave means separate. The first one is to leave; there are rules, rules of separation. Second is, cleave - that is fellowship, there are rules of fellowship and the third – they shall become one, it is intimacy, or communion, there are rules of communion.

We are going to have communion in a very short while, technically, do you know who takes communion? Those who have left and cleaved to the Lord, and become one with Him and the body of Christ becomes one with Him and one with each other over this Table. This is the third part of the rule, not the first one. Why are we all here? Because you have left, you are separated from the world—at least in the body, mind I don't know. Are you separated from the world in your body, in your mind? There is a leaving and there is a cleaving, and there is this unity, this communion, this intimacy which takes place, and the first thing is separation.

Let me see what I wrote early at 3 in the morning – Intimacy needs fellowship; fellowship needs separation; separation demands truth; and truth has fallen in the marketplace. Let's go backward – what are you separated from and what are you separated unto? By truth – the truth shall set you free, we are talking about liberty. What happens with truth is, once the truth hits you, you have to make a decision and your decision will decide what you are separated from and to whom you are separated. That's why Jesus says, "The Word of God will sanctify you." What does it mean? Set you apart. And it is constantly setting us apart, setting us apart, which should lead to greater fellowship and if greater fellowship is not happening according to the rules of the Book because all fellowship is not fellowship and then, it leads to intimacy. When intimacy happens and prayer takes place, things start happening in the spiritual realm. That is communion. And that's how God leads His people.

You see, I cannot lower the bar even for myself. When I speak this message, may be thousand people hear and one may take it, but the message is for that one because the Word of God says very clearly that the eyes of the Lord are ranging back and forth looking for one person whose heart is stayed on Him, not on the hundred who are not interested in Him. From the pulpit, the servant of God cannot bring the bar down and what has happened to Christendom is, the bar was brought down for the sake of the people and what we have is chaos. God says, "Keep the bar over there because I set the bar over there, you don't lower it," and that's where the bar starts. You need to understand how God leads; whether you are single or whether you are married there is a way in which God leads because we all want guidance, right? "Oh, guide me, Lord, lead me."

Let me tell you there are two kinds of guidance. The first guidance is general that applies to all Christians everywhere; the second guidance is specific. The specific guidance is something God gives a certain child in a certain situation; it doesn't apply to others. The truth is that, we need both. I need general guidance; I need specific guidance. What is general guidance? It is the Word of God. The problem is this—let me tell you the problem of unanswered prayers—if you do not go by the general guidance, you have no right to expect specific guidance. You know, so many people are stuck in a rut because you do not go by the general guidance, so you cannot be given specific guidance.

So, if you reject the general guidance of marriage, you cannot expect specific guidance of marriage. Are you getting the picture? What is the general guidance of marriage? *2 Corinthians 6:14*, everybody knows it by heart. What is that? ***"Do not be unequally yoked together with an unbeliever."*** That's a general guidance. Meaning, if you are thinking about marrying an unbeliever, don't expect, "Lord, which one?" He will say, "Pick anyone, it makes no difference to Me."

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

We walk on our feet and we walk on the path. Now it's not talking about today, it's talking about the old days when they held a lantern. How much light did they give? Only little, one step as you move, light progress. That's all how God will give you. "Lord, give me light for 2022." He says, "You are still in 2021." It provides light for the feet and the path; it may not show distant future but it will show enough for each day. The general first. Once you have learned to walk by the general light of God, your ears will be tuned to the specific. "Lord, I will not marry an unbeliever." "Good, child." "Lord, when I marry, I want to be equally yoked, You know I am Pentecostal, You know I am baptized in the Holy Spirit, You know I speak in tongues, You know Lord I have been in the Kingdom for so long. Father, I want a man who can lead me spiritually." God says, "I get it, will you wait? It's difficult to find such men today, so... wait."

2 Corinthians 6:14

¹⁴Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

So, what is marriage? It's a yoke. Now, let's go to Matthew 11, because this is the problem with the believers.

Matthew 11:29-30

²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

The problem is that you are already yoked to Jesus. Jesus, the great Ox; you, the young cow, are walking together and you bring a donkey along. What does a donkey do? So, you make a choice – do I go with him, or do I go with Him? In every case, almost 99.99% where I have seen a Christian marrying a non-Christian, they have compromised, because that's the only way your marriage will survive. They compromise, their children grow as unbelievers. You know why? Because you were already yoked to the King – marriage is a yoke, but remember if you are a believer and a child of God, you are already yoked to Christ Jesus, you got a yoke of Christ on you, and when you are bringing somebody in, remember it's a three-stranded cord. Who will be the third person? Will that third person go around Christ? Allow Christ to rule his/her life or not? You will have to compromise, otherwise your marriage will not survive, and if you refuse to compromise, your marriage breaks up. Remember yesterdays' verse?

Jeremiah 28:13

¹³ "Go and tell Hananiah, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "You have broken the yokes of wood, but you have made in their place yokes of iron."'"

We are leaving the historical context, we are just looking at the principle, okay.

You were a believer; you were happy with the Lord; you enjoyed the church; you enjoyed the fellowship of the believers; and it was a yoke of wood. And then, you tripped, you married an unbeliever. For a season everything seems to be okay, and after that yoke of wood was broken and then you have a yoke of iron, you are in slavery in your marriage. You go ask anybody who has married that way, it is true! You broke the yoke of wood and you put on a yoke of iron. That's why we keep telling – DO NOT DO IT! The consequences in the long run will be unbearable, eternally too, because they give in to their emotions and their feelings, and break the yoke of wood. And they will always post their pictures how happy they are, and their happiness is always connected with things: we have a good job, we have a good house... What does that have to do with the Kingdom? Do you know why you have a good job? Do you know why you have so much money? Because you compromised. It's a price of compromise.

That's why I say, nothing that you hear today will make sense unless you have obeyed the first rule – that is the rule of separation. If you have not left the world for Christ, nothing you heard today will remain in your head, it will go by the time you got out. Separation is the first thing, that's what salvation is – I am separated from the world, separated unto God. All the other teachings are only for separated people. Those who heard Peter's word: "Be separate from this perverse generation, receive that Word and die to that world in baptism," they received doctrine; others received sayings. So, you need to ask yourselves: what do I believe? You are not what you look like—all of you look very good—you are how you think.

Do you know you can believe in something even when you don't know what it is named? Do you know, all those who are hearing me – there are many communists who are listening, many feminists who are listening, many humanists who are listening, many socialists who are listening. How did you become that? By what you watched and what you heard, there are ideas permeating, you are not what you look like; you are how you think. There are militant feminist sitting here; there are violent socialist sitting over here; there are lot of broad-minded humanists sitting over here; that is why you don't have convictions according to the Kingdom because your mind has been manipulated by all you watched through the day and all you have read and heard. You are not how you look; you are how you think. What is a Kingdom person? A Kingdom person is he who has surrendered his mind to the lordship of the Word of God—this is the truth, nothing but the truth, so, save me, help me, O God. I will stick to this, I will live by this, I will die by this. That is Lordship!

I always hear—I don't even get offended— "I don't agree with pastor James." You don't have to agree with me, my question is: do you agree with this (Bible)? Ask Doctor Richard, every message we give you, at least we take 50-75 references so that your faith will not rest on my wisdom, it will rest on the Word of God. We do not give you premise without backing it up with the Word of God because it is not my word, it is His Word. I too will live and be judged by the same Word, not just you. That's why the Word of God says, "My Word is a double-edged sword," not a single edged sword that the pastor uses to cut the heads of the congregation. No! First, his head is cut off. You have to ask yourselves, "Where do I stand, O Lord?" because there are rules. Go back to the past few Sundays and listen to the rules of separation and so many people are not yet separated. I am not saying about being physically separated, I am talking about being separated in your mind. In your mind you are absolutely separated and you will be consistently working on separating your mind that you do not think like the world, and automatically it will start having its effect in the choices you make; not only that, it will start making effect in the fellowship you make. Let me give you simple example, simple old-fashioned example, to girls and boys: when the world touches the young boy, it touches his hair first; when the world touches the young girl, it touches her dress first. So, all surrendered girls, before you pick a boy, you don't know him well; look at his hair, if his hair is up and going around, don't choose him because he is already in the world. And all boys who is looking for a girl, don't look her on Sundays, try to see how she is dressed from Monday to Friday, and if she is not modest, don't pick her because the world has already touched her.

And I can give you scriptures after scriptures for that because that is what a Nazarene was – his hair showed him his separation. Only visible sign in Israel anybody knew there was a man separate unto God, they looked at his head. The New Covenant teaches you that men need to have short hair. They all had short hair. So, if a man grew hair, it was not a fashion, he was separated unto God. Today, people who grow their hair are not separated unto God, they are separated unto the world. Know them, mark them and say – I see an outward sign, I don't know your heart, God looks at the heart; man looks at the outside, I am a man, I see your outside, "Thank You, Lord!" save me from

trouble. And man, the other way, Peter, Paul will all say, "Sisters, women, dress with modesty, with shame-facedness and sobriety." Fashion will change, modesty never changes, because it is the hallmark of the God in you. Because even though there was no man outside the garden, God covered the man and the woman and send them out. Mark, mark these things those who are young and unmarried. Don't go into step 2, look carefully! Because only after separation comes fellowship and so much of fellowship is so carnal and so shallow because it is impossible to have a deep fellowship with people because they are not separated. So, what do we do? We have to talk about the weather, about the food, about the clothes and old experience, that's all, because if you go into deeper things, it goes over your head and God wants to talk deep things to you because the Bible says, "*Deep calls unto deep.*"

What's the level of your fellowship? Now, if you are not separated, and you don't have deep fellowship, where does oneness come from? For he who is joined to the Lord is one in the spirit with Him. Where is the answer to prayer? The world is reeling under problems, it's going to hell in baskets, who are going to pray like Mosses and stand in the gap and say, "Lord, stop the wrath." He was one with God, separated from Egypt, all of Egypt and separated from the rest of Israel too, stood there alone, fellowship with God, one with God and God listened to him and stopped the wrath, otherwise Israel would have been destroyed. That's what I am talking about – Kingdom marriage! Kingdom-purpose overrules everything else in our life; that's Paul on the road to Damascus – "What will You have me do, Lord?" "It will be told to you." How long do I have to wait, he must have thought, three days, that's it. And the Bible says that Paul testified, "Years and years, King Agrippa, King Felix, I have not been unfaithful to that vision. I have run on that vision all my life, never ever looked back."

We are talking about serious things, absolutely serious things which will matter forever and ever in your life. So, if you are not married, don't get discouraged, He only thinks this is not a good man or a good woman for you, God says, "You are too good for these men, wait for Me, I am coming," or if you are a man who is not married, don't worry, maybe she was not good enough for you because He wants a helper who is comparable, He sets the terms of the marriage. Don't get discouraged and upset and say, "My biological clock is ticking," let it tick, who cares! God is the one who touched 90 years old woman's womb and made it new and touched the 99 years old man and made him alive. Who cares about biology? We have a God who is above biology here. So, don't worry about those things, what matters is, "Lord, I have surrendered to Your will and Your purpose and I want You to come into my life, either single or in marriage, I don't want anything outside that."

Why are we so jealous about these things? Because this is the final promise before the day of the Lord comes, the final promise is He would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children; the hearts of the children to the fathers. Meaning: before Christ comes, there will be one more final move of God to restore the homes and the mothers are not mentioned there because the women have come under the lordship; men have come under the lordship; the children have come under the lordship; and that's the final revival because the basic unit of society is the home and God is the Man of the home for God is a family Man. Don't look to the governments, the governments can't do any of these things, there is only one person who can do it, it is God! And God begins from the individual to the homes. Once the homes are restored, He takes His Bride home. Revival doesn't come from any other place, it comes when men and women, and children in a home come under the power of the Holy Spirit and come under the lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ and say 'NO' to the world. We are in the world, we are not of it, we are completely surrendered, otherwise we be will misfit in the Kingdom that is coming because the Kingdom that is coming will be completely, totally opposite of the world we are living in. So, don't get too comfortable, be very uncomfortable in this world, you will be very comfortable in the Kingdom that is coming. Don't think like the world; think like the Kingdom person. And if you are single, wait; if you are married, wait, and say, "Lord, restore, You are a God of restoration." If you are a widow or a single parent, ask—I was telling yesterday, you look into the Bible, God is there everywhere. Before Abraham would name God 'Jehovah-Jireh,' Hagar, the first single mother in the Bible, would name God as the 'God who sees me,' and God is the God of single mothers. In Jeremiah 3 verse 8, God says, "I gave unfaithful Israel a bill of divorce and send her away," God is a God of divorcee, God is the God of single mothers, God is the God of married, God is the God single because His Son is still single and He is God. So, it doesn't matter what state you are in, just wait and say, "Lord, touch me, restore me and bring me under the lordship, Your lordship, teach me every day, give me a sufficient light for each day for Your Word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path." Teach me one day at a time. Amen!

Closing prayer

Father, this morning, we just come to You, the whole world is broken and they are looking to governments for solutions but solutions do not come from governments, it comes from You, only You. You told on that day to Pilate,

“Those who are on the side of truth, they listen to Me, they hear My voice,” help us to be separated by Your truth even today in our hearts, in our minds, to You, because salvation is of the Lord, only Your right hand can work that work of salvation in our lives, the work of healing and restoration in our lives, rebuild our lives and our homes, individuals and families, only You can do it. And I commit the Church, every person standing here, around the world, broken, bruised by toxic patriarchy, by toxic feminism. Everything out there in the world is toxic because they take what is good and make it evil but You are able to turn it around for our good, Lord, and I pray we will come back to the beginnings, we will be able to say, “No, I am not going that way for it was not so in the beginning.” We will go back to the beginning, how You intended a man to be, how You intended a woman to be, how You intended a marriage to be, How You intended home to be, take us back to that, Lord and restore us so that You can be the part of that home, the Head of that home that You can truly live with us and be comfortable in our homes, that You can say like You said when You passed through Bethany, You had a home where You are comfortable. You would be able to say that about our lives and about our homes, comfortable in our homes. I commit each one into Your hands. Be with us Lord, this nine month, go with us, go before us, do something spectacular in our lives. There are so many waiting, Lord, and You said “Sanctify yourselves for God shall do amazing things into your midst.” Even as the Word of God, and Spirit of God sanctifies us, we leave it rest to You, You will do amazing things in our lives. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, Lord. For in Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us.

Amen!