

FOLLOW-UP STUDY 6: A New Perspective & Mission

(Use the portions that fit the life / needs of the new disciple)

Romans 6:3-4 Raised up in baptism to live a NEW LIFE.

--Our new life has a whole new perspective and a whole new mission!

A NEW PERSPECTIVE AND MISSION

2 Corinthians 5:14-19

- All we do is motivated by our love for Jesus
- We are no longer living for ourselves
- We don't see people the same way...from a worldly point of view...they are either lost or saved. Not rich, poor, African American, Hispanic, Caucasian, Asian, educated or not educated, etc.
- We have been given the ministry of reconciliation.
- Evangelism is for everyone, not just people in full time ministry or in leadership.
- You never know who may be open so share with all kinds of people.

1 Corinthians 3:5-8

- Teamwork. We have to work together to be fruitful. Paul planted, Apollos watered, and God gave the increase. (House Church, Bible Talks, Study Groups)
- We all have something to give to help people become disciples.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

- Share your life with people. Invest in a friendship. This is more than just studying together...have fun together, eat together, etc.
- Serve others and make time for them. What are their 'felt needs'? Think of ways to help them.

Matthew 5:14-16 Be an example / **Acts 4:29-31** Pray for boldness / **1 Peter 3:15-16** Show gentleness and respect

Helpful hints: Go out of your way to be friendly and start conversations wherever you go. Collect names and numbers. Pray for them and invite them to church and into a bible study group.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE WITH WORK / ACADEMICS

God expects excellence of disciples in academics and in their jobs/professions. We are to do our best without making it a priority over living out our Christianity. There may not always be an excellent result but there is always to be an excellent effort. This is a God-given responsibility. We are not to be neglectful. We are to work hard and persevere and in so doing, will develop character, discipline, confidence and credibility...not to mention success.

Colossians 3:22-24

- Attitude is more important than aptitude. We are now working to please God, not men and not ourselves. This gives consistent motivation.
- It's no longer all about the money/prestige/power...it's about the example that can draw people to Christ.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE WITH DATING

Marriage and dating relationships are heavily influenced by cultural norms. Dating, as one would commonly understand it today, is a relatively recent phenomenon, developing in America and the West since the 1950's. Before that time, and in many places in the world today, marriage relationships were typically arranged by families or a formal "courting" took place. This was the case in Biblical times as well. Consequently, one will not find the term "dating" anywhere in the Bible. With regards to dating and guy-girl relationships, many of us may come out of the world with bad experiences or low expectations and with sinful and unwise practices. The Bible offers some very important principles and viewpoints on guy-girl relationships that draw right boundaries and set us on a path for building successful friendships and dating relationships. Don't date for worldly reasons...insecurity (needing to be with someone to feel loved or special), social pressure, lustfulness, status. Our delight needs to be first in God.

1 Corinthians 7:39

- This is not a suggestion. It is a clear command of God. "...he **must** belong to the Lord". Disciples marry disciples.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

- We are never to be yoked (give our heart & affection) to unbelievers.
- We date to find the one to give our heart and affection to before marriage so it only makes sense that disciples date only disciples!

--Discuss the two general view of "dating" in the church...

- a. Friendly dating: guys and girls going out to encourage one another and to get to know each other with no romantic strings attached and no expectations except friendship...this should happen a lot!
- b. Steady dating: having an exclusive boyfriend or girlfriend...this should happen after taking the time to build a regular friendship and consulting many advisors.

1 Corinthians 10:31-33

Be considerate of one another...don't be a stumbling block...double dates/home before midnight/dress appropriately/go to places and events with Christian atmosphere/etc.

Eph 5:3 / 1 Tim 5:2

- In all guy-girl relationships (dating and non-dating) the standard of purity is very high. Not even a 'hint' of sexual immorality/impurity (alone in homes/inappropriate kissing, touching, etc.)

- Our worldly notions of dating should not be imported into God's kingdom; Get advice from those who did it right!

A NEW PERSPECTIVE WITH MARRIAGE

God's word and power provide us with everything we need for a happy, godly, fulfilling life in every area (2 Tim 3:17; 2 Peter 1:3; John 10:10). The area of marriage is crucial, and if a marriage is not going well, serious spiritual problems will also be present. Marriage is a vital area of discipling. All marriages need counseling. Christian marriage is one arena in which disciples will dramatically outshine the many worldly examples surrounding them. Our marriage must be the first place we practice our Christianity. A great marriage draws others to Jesus!

Genesis 2:24; Proverbs 18:22

Marriage meets our deepest needs. Your husband or wife should be your closest friend.

Matthew 19:9 Marriage is for a lifetime.

Communication

Eph 4:29 Build up with your words; do not tear each other down! (Proverbs 12:18, 18:21)

James 1:19 Be quick to listen (Proverbs 18:13)

Col 3:13 / Eph 4:26 Deal with resentment or bitterness. Do not bury them.

Proverbs 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel. Be partners in planning. Set up a regular planning time to work together on scheduling, finances, household needs, etc.

What God Expects

Col 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7 Husbands should NEVER be harsh. Husbands must serve their wives, being considerate. Husbands should do their share of housework, cleaning, taking care of the children...

1 Peter 3:5-6 Wives must learn submission. Wives are not to nag or be bossy. (Proverbs 21:19; 25:24; 27:15)

Eph 5:22-33 The husband has been called by God to be the spiritual leader for his family.

Romance

1 Cor 7:5 do not deprive one another

1 Cor 13:4-8 Do not forget to love like the Bible describes. This is the best way for romance. Remember the special touches: cards, flowers, present, surprises, etc.

NEW PERSPECTIVE WITH PARENTS / PARENTING

The family is the most basic unit of a society. To understand the desperate plight our society is in, you need only to look at the desperation of the average family. In stark contrast to family in the world, with their narrow outlook, poor communication, brewing resentments, undisciplined children and decaying marriages, the Christ centered family is a breath of fresh air and a ray of hope. The family following God's word is a happy, communicative, warm, loving, committed and fruitful family. Family is the forum he has chosen for character development in his most precious gift to parents...their children.

Fathers: **Eph 6:4** Fathers should lead their family spiritually and are commanded to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. You cannot leave this up to others, including your wife (though, of course, she is responsible too). Fathers are primarily responsible. They are to embrace this duty and diligently work at it.

Mothers: **Titus 2:3-5** Young women should be taught to love their children. Love requires caring for them. This is something that can and must be learned. Women who learn it will cause God's word to be respected and honored.

Proverbs 29:15 A child left on his own without spiritual training and discipline is a disgrace to his mother. Mothers cannot ignore the Bible's teaching on firm discipline and correction for her children, nor can she leave it solely to the father.

Children: **Eph 6:1-3** Learning to obey and honor your father and your mother. Following in their spiritual wisdom gives children a long and fulfilling life.

Love, Time and Affection

1 Cor 13:4-8

- Loving our children means dealing with them in a kind, patient, respectful way.
- We should not deal with them out of frustration; we should not be easily angered with them; we should keep no records of wrongs.
- Our children need our love, time and affection to grow up to be secure and healthy.
- We must prioritize our schedules to make sure we are able to provide our children this kind of relationship with us.

Discipline

Proverbs 23:13-14 It is unloving not to discipline your child. Discipline is training.

Col 3:21 Encouragement and consistency is necessary.

Proverbs 22:15, 29:15, 17, 19, 21 God commands discipline.

Proverbs 22:6 Areas of training: respect toward authority; speech & openness; affection, manners, tidiness, moodiness, etc.

The new life is a big change. Don't be overwhelmed. Be excited about living your future God's way. It brings success and fulfillment to all areas of life. God is looking for progress as we strive for perfection!