

Life Group Lesson – 6/27/10

Introduction

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” – **Philippians 2:3-4**

We preached a couple of weeks ago from this text, but as you start your meetings, but I’m wondering what might be different about our relationships if we applied this teaching to creating and maintaining intimacy and romance in them?

When it comes to taking care of the needs of our spouse, how many of us operate with “no strings attached?”

As I read this, I don’t think Paul is calling for a martyr’s mentality. We can’t deny our own interests, but we do need to put the interests of others ahead of our own. What would happen if we did that in our marriages? What if we found greater joy in taking care of her/him than in them taking care of us? Do we trust God to take care of us, even if our spouse doesn’t to our satisfaction? This position allows us to love unconditionally, and that’s the best place to be.

As we have run away from legalism over the years, I’m afraid that many have taken that freedom to also run away from the teaching “be holy, as I am holy.” Doing that leads us to seeing just how close we can get to the edge without going over.

In the following text, Paul provides a different standard for us to live by. And while a lot of this passage deals explicitly with sexual behavior, some of it applies to all of our lives.

I Corinthians 6:12-20

1. How do you use v.12 in your daily walk – everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial?
2. If we took seriously Paul’s idea that our bodies are members of Christ himself, how would we treat them differently?
3. Paul concludes this section by telling us that we are not our own. By looking at the way we live, who owns us?