**Table Talk**

**Sermon Series: Relationship Status – Single or in a Relationship**

**February 16, 2020**

**Introduction (12 min)**

Welcome everyone to your Table Talk small group. Watch the video and share the story below, then open up the discussion with the questions provided.

**Table Talk Video: Relationship Status – Single or in a Relationship**

Alright, time to fess up. Are you an android or an iphone person?

My name is Reggie Phillips, and I am an android user. That shouldn’t be a big deal, but almost all of my friends, family, and co-workers are iphone people. I lovingly remind them the symbol of their affection is the bitten apple. Either it is Eve inviting sin into the world or a hungry Snow White dying at the hands of her evil step mother. They hold in their hands the symbol of evil and temptation.

They lovingly remind me I’m just not cool enough to understand. We might both be right.

A techie friend of mine keeps asking when I want to “upgrade” my very nice Android for an iphone 3 from a decade ago. He laughs. I pretend laugh and explain why Android phones are as superior to iphones as a priceless Rembrandt is to a finger painting.

I digress. I think this was about relationships.

Oh, yes. It is in the midst of silly conversations like that, where we can joke and laugh and still make our point, when I am reminded just how much relationships can shape our lives.

It really is amazing how much we define ourselves by our relationships. It doesn’t matter if it is a superficial relationship with our preferred mobile phone manufacturer or a deep connection to the people we most enjoy spending our time with, we are defined by those relationships.

One of the biggest relationship status questions you will ever face is, “are you single or in a relationship?” The truth is, we are all in relationships. We have families, friends, and coworkers that help shape our lives and every one of those relationships has value! Single or married, God desires to bless you with healthy relationships that enable you to grow and flourish into the person He wants you to be.

- Pastor Reggie Phillips

**Prayer (3 minutes)**

Ask the Lord to help you see the value in your relationships, and as you go through this Bible study, to help you see ways that you can elevate the value of the relationships you are in so people know just how much they mean to you.

**Starting the Discussion (4 minutes)**

1. Is anyone in the group willing to share your most embarrassing childhood Valentine’s Day story?

**Unfolding the Biblical Story (25 minutes)**

**Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-2**

1. When you have serious relationship questions, where do you turn for help?
2. Paul makes it clear that he is sharing his opinion when he encourages believers to remain single. With Paul’s missionary journeys as the context, what might be some good reasons for him to hold this opinion? What is the wisdom in this advice?

**Read Genesis 2:18**

1. Does this verse conflict with Paul’s advice in 1 Corinthians 7:1-2?
2. Is marriage just a concession God made to keep us from being immoral in our behavior?
3. God decreed that it wasn’t good for people to be isolated or alone. What is the value in this statement for everyone, regardless of if they are married or single?

**Read 1 Corinthians 7:5-8**

1. Paul jumps into this part of the passage with a discussion about sex, self-control, and clear communication. Do you think this might be a helpful trio of topics to have clear guideline on, for any relationship status?
2. Why does marriage not automatically resolve the conflict around these three key issues?
3. Paul concludes with a powerful statement that almost gets lost behind his blanket statement about wishing all believers were single. He says that each of us has received a gift from God in the form of the relationships that we participate in, whether marriage or single. How might our attitude towards others change if we approach every relationship with this idea in mind?

**Read 1 Corinthians 7:35**

1. How might clear biblical boundaries in our relationships be freeing and empowering?
2. It is clear that our earthly relationships directly impact our relationship with God, and vice versa. What are some ways that our relationships with people can help us grow in and express our devotion to God?

**Making Scripture Personal (10 minutes)**

1. Do you have a relationship in your life that has become a hindrance to your relationship with God? What steps can you take to correct this?
2. Our most important relationship status is how connected we are to God. Do you need to repent and reengage with God as your primary relationship?
3. If every other relationship should flow out of our relationship with God, what are some trouble spots in your earthly relationships that you need God’s help to change?

**Prayer (3 minutes)**

Father God, you are our primary relationship. You give us life and purpose. You share your character that we might love as you love. Help us to get this right. Whether single, dating, engaged, or married, we want every relationship we have to reflect your glory. May our relationships become a means of grace through which the rest of the world can experience your love and see your Kingdom come into their lives. Thank you for loving us without reserve and may we gracious love others in the same way. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

**Wrapping Up (2 minutes)**

See if anyone has lingering questions or insights to share from your time of study and prayer. Summarize the group discussion as a reminder of what you learned together.

**Scripture Challenge (3 minutes)**

For your scripture challenge this week, work with your group to try and memorize 1 Corinthians 7:35. Meditate on it through the week and trust God will help all your relationships to become a means of grace to reflect His love to the world!