



Personal & Group Study Guide: February 13, 2022

Message Series: In Search of a Soulmate (Part One)

Message Title: *Tear Down That Wall*

Series Introduction: Dating was hard enough for single people *before* Covid, social distancing, lockdowns, mask mandates, and the politicization of this pandemic rocked our world. But now, for many single people, it feels all but impossible. Under pressure from their friends and family inside and outside the Church, many single Christians who long to find love are quick to build a wall between their faith in God and their desires for romance and intimacy. The Bible, however, couldn't be clearer: those desires we all experience are from God, and as far as He is concerned, our universal longing for love and commitment is a feature, not a bug.

How can Christians learn to date, relate, and marry in ways that reflect God's design and intention for our lives? By choosing to tear down the walls we build between our faith and our desires, we will see more clearly how to seek, choose, and cherish true love according to the principles of the One who hardwired us for romance.

Today's question: *How Should Christians Satisfy Our Desire for Romance and Intimacy?*

What evidence do we have that the Bible is "romantic"? (ex., Gen. 2:18-24, Song of Songs 4:1-7)

If the Bible makes it clear that God hardwired human beings to desire love, romance, and intimacy, why do you think Christians so often erect a proverbial wall between our faith in God and our desire for romance?

There are two big reasons why that WALL must come down:

- 1. The wall must fall so the Church can once again become a community where unmarried believers can _____ in their _____.**

How do churches, pastors, and married members inadvertently treat single believers like "Minor League Christians", and what effect does this have on the Body of Christ?

The STORY CHURCH

In light of our modern-day obsession with romance and marriage, why is it important to remember that Jesus, the Apostle Paul, and other key biblical figures were single by choice?

But if [single Christians] can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It's better to marry than to burn with lust...if you do marry, you have not sinned...but those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and *I want to spare you this.*

1 Cor. 7:8-9, 28

How does Paul's marriage advice in 1 Corinthians 7 differ from most of what we hear about singleness and marriage in the Church today? Why do you think things have changed so dramatically?

2. **The wall must fall so that unmarried Christians on the dating scene are encouraged and equipped to date, relate, and marry according to their _____, instead of feeling pressured and tempted to date according to the _____.**

What are some of the problems with dating/relating according to the ways of the world?

What are the key biblical principles we can apply to our pursuit of romantic relationships and intimacy?

1. **Your highest purpose and calling is to _____, regardless of your _____.**
2. **Refuse to _____.**
3. **Even in disappointment and despair, _____.**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. - Prov. 3:5