



GOD'S 5G FAMILY PLAN

Hey everyone and welcome back to God's 5G Family Plan where we are contending for God's blessing in our families to the 5th generation. When it comes to a clear vision for families, it seems like our world is in complete disarray. No one seems to have a clear picture.

It reminds me of the story of a father who was reading the paper but kept being bothered by his little daughter, Vanessa. Finally, he tore out one of the pages that had a map of the world printed on it. Then, he tore it into even smaller pieces, and gave it to Vanessa saying, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together." After a few minutes, Vanessa returned and handed him the map correctly assembled! Her father was shocked and asked how she had finished it so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper was a picture of Jesus. When I got Jesus in His place, the world came out all right."

Our world is in complete disarray and it can seem so daunting to try to piece it back together. But how many of you would agree that when we put Jesus in His rightful place, everything else comes together? Throughout this series, we've been contending for God to take His proper place in our homes, because when He does, everything will come out all right.

1. What do you think it looks like for God to take His proper place in your life, home, country?

Today we're going to be talking about an area of our walk that the Devil has completely torn to shreds – relationships. As we piece together God's truth, I'm praying we get a download of His plan. So turn to your neighbor and say, "Connect to your Holy Spirit 5G!"

When it comes to relationships, we are living in a time where anything goes. From open relationships, to swinging, polyamorous relationships to the sister wives, it seems like nothing is off limits. But this isn't the first time God's plan has had to withstand cultural attacks. In Paul's day, the city of Corinth was known for its licentiousness with an entire religion built around promiscuity.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul takes off the gloves and writes about everything from marriage, to singleness, abstinence to promiscuity – speaking to their cultural confusion and answering specific questions. Paul is able to cut through all of the noise and boil everything down with tremendous clarity to say, at the end of the day, when all is said and done, we have two options. Out of all the different types of relationships out there, there are only two options for anyone who wants God's blessing. Can you guess what they are? Our two options are celibate singleness or monogamous marriage.

Woah there Leave it to Beaver! What is this, the 50s? Surely those can't be our only two options! Listen! God is perfect love and we were created in His image for perfect love – both with Him and with others. But when we relate to one another in ways that are contrary to His plan we actually destroy our ability to connect and be one.

2. Why do you think God only gives us a couple of options when it comes to relationships? What motivates God to be so uncompromising in this area?

When my wife and I started dating, I gave her simple gifts like flowers or candy. When a couple becomes engaged (Like Braiden and Darcy) there's a greater level of commitment and trust so they exchange special things like rings. Do you think Braiden gives just anybody a ring like the one he got Darcy? Forget about it! In fact, I'm willing to bet she's the only one he's ever given something that special to. But the most personal and precious gift we have to give is ourselves. That is why God calls us to save our most precious gift for the greatest level of commitment – marriage. Because as wonderful as diamonds are, you are worth far more than all the diamonds in the world. So treasure yourself and find someone who will treasure you the way God does.

So our first option is celibate singleness. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul devotes an entire chapter to singles. In 1 Corinthians 7 he writes,

"²⁵ Now let me address the issue of singleness. I must confess, I have no command to give you that comes directly from the Lord. But let me share my thoughts on the matter, as coming from one who has experienced the mercy of the Lord to keep me faithful to Him. ²⁶ Because of the severe pressure we are in, I recommend you remain as you are. ²⁷ If you are married, stay in the marriage. If you are single, don't rush into marriage. ²⁸ But if you do get married, you haven't sinned. It's just that I would want to spare you the problems you'll face with the extra challenges of being married."

Hello somebody! Da Good and Spesho Book says, "But da peopo dat get married goin get problem inside dis world. I ony stay try fo help you guys fo you no suffa."

Braddah Paul saying, "Eh, you guys like get married das yo choice! I ony stay try fo help you guys no suffa!"

See when it comes to singleness, the Church has done a pretty poor job of communicating God's heart and we've been guilty of perpetuating some marriage myths that are simply not Biblical! In fact, outside of Church, the only worse place to be single is at a Filipino family reunion. Eh! What's the matter with you! How come you no 'girlpren'!

Very quickly, I want to demolish 3 Myths about singleness that exist in the Church today.

Myth #1: Singleness = Your Identity

A recent survey by Christian Single showed that at least 40% of singles between the ages of 30-60 felt there is a "presumption that there must be something wrong with them because they are single."

I come against that in the Name of Jesus! Christians can be so nice sometimes, we love to label people and put them in little categories but listen, you are so much more than your marital status. This isn't Facebook! Your value, worth, and dignity come from the fact that you are made in the image of God. You are a child of God and your purpose is to live for the glory of God alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ.

That same survey showed that, "In particular, the disappointment of being single caused them to doubt God has a plan for their lives."

3. What do you find your identity in outside of Jesus? Relationship status, job status, etc.

Which brings me to **Myth #2: Marriage is the only God-ordained lifestyle**

Sadly the Church has fed into another deception that God's preference is always for people to get married! In this same Chapter, Paul writes in verse 8,

"⁸ Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do."

Somebody turn to your neighbor and say, "It's good!"

When Paul says it is 'good' to remain single that word for 'good' is καλός kalos and it means, "Beautiful, excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, suitable, commendable, admirable" Should I go on?

So don't for one-second think being single makes you a second-class citizen in the Kingdom. God says it is a beautiful thing. Let's not forget some of the most notable singles in scripture, Daniel, Jeremiah, Elijah, Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha, John the Baptist, Paul, and oh yea Jesus. So you don't have to be married to matter in the Kingdom of God!

4. Why does the Bible consider singleness a good thing?

Myth #3: The Grass is Greener on the Other Side of the Fence

Another myth perpetuated in the Church is that marriage makes everything better. Our culture tells us that if we find the right person we'll be happy. But Paul himself said that those who marry will have greater challenges. See, marriage wasn't designed to make us happy, it was designed to make us holy. Marriage points us to Jesus. And true contentment can only be found in Him – not in another person. Being alone doesn't equal being lonely. There are many singles who aren't lonely and quite a few married people who are. So remember, the grass is always greener where you water and care for it! So thrive in the season God has you in!

Charles Spurgeon once wrote, "Had any other condition been better for you than the one in which you find yourself, divine love would have placed you there."



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Your singleness may be a waiting season, but it doesn't have to be a wasted season. Discover what God has in store for you right now. Paul continues in his letter to say,

"²⁹ My friends, what I mean is this. The urgency of our times mean that from now on, those who have wives should live as though without them. ³⁰ And those who weep should forget their tears. And those who rejoice will have no time to celebrate. And those who purchase items will have no time to enjoy them. ³¹ We are to live as those who live in the world but are not absorbed by it, for the world as we know it is quickly passing away. ³² Because of this, we need to live as free from anxiety as possible."

What is Paul saying? He's saying, "Time is short! Don't get so absorbed in things that are temporary!" Marriage is wonderful, but it is part of a world that is already on the way out. I spoke on this in my last message – don't let anything of this world detract you from your true destination who is Christ! So Paul isn't saying all the married guys should start living like bachelors again! He's saying, don't become so absorbed in anything that you lose sight of what God is up to! He says, "Those who weep should forget their tears and those who rejoice will have no time to celebrate." In this life we will have good times and bad. But don't live for those moments! Don't let the hurts of this life immobilize you. If you spend all your todays lamenting your yesterdays, you'll spend all your tomorrows lamenting todays. Seek God in the midst of your trials so that at the end of your grief will come gladness. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy will come in the morning promises the Lord – meaning one day God will wipe every tear from our eyes so take heart and press forward. But also, don't let the pleasures of this life distract you. Some people only live for the next pleasure – the next vacation, the next purchase, but Paul is saying, this world is quickly passing away – live in it but don't be absorbed by it. What are you doing with the time you have left?

So whatever stage of life you're in, take these action steps to heart.

First - Discover your true purpose. Don't ask, "Why am I alone?" Ask, "Why am I here?" Go on a journey with our Church to discover your unique God-given purpose. The most fulfilled people in life are the ones who have discovered their purpose and are walking in it.

Next - Start living now! If you're single, don't wait around to start living all-out for Jesus. Paul tells us the season of singleness empowers you to be less distressed, less distracted and more devoted than ever.

Finally - See your faith family as your true family. We all need to reach across the line (married or single, young and old) to include one another and encourage one another in whatever season we're in. If you're married, invite some single people over to hang out. If you're single, find some married to get around. If you're older, there are some young people who would benefit from your wisdom! Young people, look around! You are sitting in a gold-mine of wisdom and experiences right now! Take advantage of the riches God has surrounded you with. Seek it out! Ask questions! Amen?



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In closing, Paul writes,

"For a single man is focused on the things of the Lord and how he may please Him. ³³ But a married man is pulled in two directions, for he is concerned about both the things of God and the things of the world in order to please his wife. ³⁴ And the single woman is focused on the things of the Lord so she can be holy both in body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the things of the world and how she may please her husband. ³⁵ I am trying to help you and make things easier for you and not make things difficult, but so that you would have undistracted devotion, serving the Lord constantly with an undivided heart,"

(1 Corinthians 7:25-35).

Paul lived to give God his undistracted devotion and an undivided heart because in the end, he knew only one thing mattered.

Ernest Hemingway was once challenged to write a story in only six words. Since then, hundreds of thousands of people have shared their life stories in these six-word memoirs. The challenge is to use only six words to sum up your life.

Oprah Winfrey wrote, "Seeking the fullest expression of self."

Author, Deepak Chopra wrote, "Danced in fields of infinite possibilities."

One woman writes, "Still fit into High School Earrings."

If you had only six words to sum up your life, what would they be? One woman wrote, "Abandoned at 5, learning to thrive." Another wrote, "Car totaled, lives spared, forever grateful." But in the end, what is more important? The words you choose for yourself or the words others choose for you? Paul believed that when it comes to your life, there are only six words that truly matter. Only six words that will separate all of humanity. Those words are,

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Are you living your life to hear those words? In the end, they are the only words that will matter. So whatever season we find ourselves in, I pray that we would live to the fullest, right now, so that one day we can stay before Jesus and hear those six words.

5. How does one discover their God-given purpose and live to fulfill it?