

# Torrey 1997 Let Your Love Flow

By Bob Anderson

Thank you very much. I am hoping that by tomorrow morning I'll sound like Barry White because that will allow you to sleep. And if you like his music, it's been an honor for me to be asked to be with you today. Having had three children and with my son here as a senior. We have had kids go here for 12 years at an average of eighteen thousand dollars a year. That's dollars. And at the end, after I finish drinking this, I'm going to put this cup down here as an offering, and that's to help me continue to pay Biola for my children to attend here.

I hope that you're here today, not just because you have to be. I know I read the thing. You have to go to eight of these sessions. And so, like, if we go long, does this count for two? I don't know. But I hope that you're here for the reason of seeing what God can do for you. I know that I have prayed diligently about this and I am thankful that I can actually speak today.

Last night I couldn't speak at all. I spoke at a meeting last night and literally screamed into a microphone. I could barely hear me. And so I'm glad that God has helped me with that. I had had planned and intended on bringing a certain message to you this morning that I had worked on over the course of two or three months. But over the last week, God had just been speaking to me that I need to talk about something different than I had planned.

So on the same line, but it's it's a little different. And so I want to share with you today what I was going to share with you is how to have a passion for your future mate and your family. But

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as I really thought about it before, you can have a passion for your future mate and for your family. You really need to have a passion for what God is going to do in your personal life. You have to learn to have an agape love for yourself, understand what God has for you as an individual so that you can become the right person for the right person that God has for you.

That is such a critical thing. I want to begin by reading a few verses out of the Book of Ecclesiastes in Chapter three, which says this the first eight verses of Ecclesiastes three. There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to uproot. A time to kill. And a time to heal. A time to tear down. And a time to build. A time to weep. And a time to laugh. A time to mourn. And a time to dance. A time to scatter stones. And a time to gather them. A time to embrace and a time to refrain. A time to search and a time to give up. A time to keep. And a time to throw away. A time to tear. And a time to mend. A time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace. Everything in life has a season. It has a time, a time to be single, a time to be married. Most of you in this room today are single and singleness has a season and it has a purpose. How many of you can honestly tell me right now you are committed to stay single until you die. Let me see your hands.

One person lied right over here. OK, but how many of you in this room are married right now? Let me see your hands. A few and everybody else is jealous or. Or they feel sorry for you. One of the two things now most of you are single and your single life right now as a college student, some of you will be married before you're out of college. Some of you will be married by the time you're twenty five. Some of you married by the time you're fifty. And then there are a few

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that may have what they would like to call the gift of singleness. It's a gift nobody wants, but most of us are not called to live our entire lives. The singles, only a portion of it, thank God. You say all of us have a season of singleness and the length of the season, the time of the season and the number of seasons vary from person to person.

I have dear friends who've got married, had wonderful marriages and a mate died. They were single again for a while and then they remarried. I have other friends who've been married, went through painful divorces. Were single and have remarried. They were single again for a season. We never know what those seasons are going to bring. And the challenge is this for you students right now, don't look on this season of being single and having no good purposes right now.

You have your whole life basically there. You're making plans for your future. Rather than spending all your time making plans for your future. You need to make sure that you make plans for your eternity by being right with God every moment of every day you live. And it is so hard to do that as a pastor and a teacher and a counselor. It is incredibly difficult to discipline oneself to be honest with God and before God and and totally with him every day of your life.

It's a difficult challenge because we're all Carnel, we're all people and we all have desires except the time that you have right now, these days, these weeks, these months, these years, look for opportunities of growth. Every day that you live, they can be prosperous, can be exciting. And certainly your college time should be an adventure. And when you get out of college, it'll be a great adventure.

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Hebrews 13 twenty one says the God of peace is working in us. That which is, well, pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. What that means is whoever you are, God is working in you if you let him. Now, here you are today. College students at Biola University.

A majority of you grew up in a home with Christian parents. You went to church, you went to youth group and now you're at college. Now, I don't want you to raise your hands, but I like you to think how many of you, when it comes around on Sunday, your greatest desire is to make sure that alarm is set. You go take a shower, you get ready and you go to worship God in a church at the chapel. You might go to church and stay for a college class or for some other Bible teaching class. But your greatest desire when you have an opportunity to be in God's house, you are there. You see a majority of young people who grow up in Christian homes when they move away to college, they quit going to church. At least they don't go regularly.

And you need to have a passion for God so that he can change you. Because if you don't let God run your life, how are you ever going to be able to be part of another person's life? God wants you to be right with him. Our conscience gives us the ability to discern between right and wrong. But without the Holy Spirit enablement, we are truly powerless to do what is right.

There was a missionary named Ludwig Nomenon and he had an experience that proved this truth. When he began his work in Southeast Asia, a village chief gave him two years to learn the customs and convinced them that he had a message worth hearing. The end of that time, he was asked how Christianity differed in its moral rules from the traditions of the Bartok tribes. We

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know what is right, said the tribal leader, for we too have laws that we say we must not steal or take our neighbor's wives or tell lies. That's true, the missionary answered.

But my master supplies the power needed to keep these laws. The chief was startled. Can you really teach my people to live better? He inquired. No, I can't. But if they receive Jesus Christ, God will give them the strength to do what is right, being permitted to remain another six months. Nomenson preached the Gospel and taught the villagers how the Holy Spirit works in the believers life. At the end of that time, the chief said, You may stay longer. Your religion is better than ours, for your God walks with man and gives them the strength to do the good things he requires. Philippians to Thirteen says, for it is God who is at work in you both to Will and to work for His good pleasure. God is working in you and helping you to want to do His will. Now, if you are sitting here today, wonderful college students in what I consider one of the great Christian learning opportunities in our world, or I wouldn't bother.

So my children here because there's a lot of choices. But this school challenges you in many different ways. And if you're sitting here and you in your heart do not have a desire and a want to read the word of God, you do not have a passionate desire to be in God's house and worship. Whenever you have the chance, then you need to listen carefully, because you have got to realize that God wants to work in you so that you can do his good pleasure, not necessarily your own. And he wants to help you do that. But you have to let him he can transform your season of singleness, whether it be for six more months. And maybe you're sitting here today and you're engaged and you're looking forward to a wedding next May or June or maybe over Christmas. You're still single. You still have a season of singleness. You can do things. And he wants to

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transform this time of your life into an exciting spiritual adventure. Let me share with you five purposes.

That I believe for being single five purposes, for being single, No one to establish Jesus as your first love Mark 12 30 says, and you shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength. This takes time. It doesn't happen overnight and maybe not even over a year. God wants a love relationship with you through his son. It's just like your relationships you have with people. You see guys and girls. They want to have relationships. But before you have relationships, you need friendships. I have done marriage counseling with literally hundreds well well over a thousand different couples. And what I have found to be true of almost all couples experiencing marriage difficulties is that they were never truly friends. Now I have a little theory on friendship and relationships, and that is this. It takes about takes about, oh, 40 hours to develop a friendship, and that's 40 hours.

And this is between a man and a woman that 40 hours need to be spread out over about three months where you're going to see somebody three or four hours during the week, either a couple of times for two hours or once for three or four. And you're going to do this with no physical contact at all, because once you have physical contact, whether it just be holding hands, you now have a relationship.

Now, you girls may not understand that, but these poor guys, as soon as you hold their hand, as soon as you brush against them, they go nuts and they can't help it. They can't help it. And if they don't go nuts, guys, if this happens to you and you have no tingles, please go see the health

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people because you've got a problem. And see what happens is once you have physical contact, then you have a relationship. So many people, Christians, non-Christians, as a matter, they think they have to suck each other's lungs out on the first date. And that is not really the truth.

And you don't have to you don't have to test that that fast. Here's my little rule for the difference between friendship and a relationship. A friendship ends and a relationship begins when you will do something with a member of the opposite sex that you will not do with a member of the same sex. For instance, if you girls go to the mall and you're hanging out a bunch of friends, you're walking around looking at stuff in the mall, do you hold hands while you're walking around the mall? I don't think so. If you guys go out and play golf and in between holes, you hold hands walking down the fairway. I don't think so because you're building a friendship. OK, but if you go to the beach I like here's a here's a pretty big guy. What's your name right there? Nathan, Nathan and I, we could go to the beach. First of all, I wouldn't wear a bathing suit because if I did all right, my body has not seen Sun for like thirteen years.

And and I'm not skinny just in case you're blind. And and you could see me out there in a bathing suit and you'd say, oh, Moby Dick, the great white whale just washed up on shore and I wouldn't want you to think that of me. So Nathan and I, we could go out there, we could build sand castles, we could go body surfing, we could pick up a girl and throw her in the water. But Nathan and I will not hold hands and skip waves ain't going to happen, am I correct?

Thank you, Nathan. You're a good guy. All right. Now, you see, to build a relationship with a member of the opposite sex with a member of the same sex takes time to build a relationship

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with God takes time. The moment you become a Christian, he gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit. Within you. He is your savior. He is there for you at all cost at all times. But you must build that relationship.

As has been announced. I've been married to my wife for over twenty eight years and we love each other more now than we did when we got married. And our love for each other grows constantly because we get to know each other. My wife and I've never had an argument. Twenty eight years. Pretty amazing. And you know how that happened because we made it. That's truth, actually. And the reason is this. Before we got married, we made a decision. I would make all the big decisions and she would make all the small decisions. And so far we've never had a big decision. So we don't argue just just how it works out.

Now, you need to develop a relationship with God and it don't worry about it. If it hasn't happened and you're not as close to God as you want to be first. Chapter 13 forces, four through four through eight, talk about the characteristics of love that God places in your heart when you truly walk with him and the whole thing is it sort of scares me to do this because I have a problem with this. I'm going to read it anyway. And I want you when I say my name, I want you to think your name in in First Corinthians 13. It says Bob is patient, Bob is kind. Bob does not envy. Bob does not boast. Bob is not proud. Bob is not rude. Bob does not seek his own way, is not easily angered. Bob does not hold a grudge. Bob does not delight in evil. Bob rejoices with the truth. Bob always protects Bob always trusts Bob always hopes. Bob always perseveres. Bob never fails. Those statements are not all true.



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Unfortunately, because I'm a man and I fail. My God and I fail my wife and I fail my kids and I fail my friends. They're all true most of the time. But as we live our lives, nobody is sin free.

And that's what we have to continue. You see, your God desires and intimate relationship with you think of that he desires to know you more intimately than anybody on this Earth ever can, and he wants you to love him more than any other person on Earth.

Matthew. 10:37 He loves his mother or father. We can also add or wife or children is more than me, is not worthy of me. Jesus must be No. One in your life. Easy to say, easy to hear, tough to practice. You heard that preached for a long time. But it's something that we have to live out. It's something that we have to understand. Jesus must be number one. Something is wrong when a human relationship is more important to you than your relationship with your savior. But how often it is true that the wife or husband or girlfriend or boyfriend or fiance is more important to you than is God? That breaks the first commandment. And the reality is then that that person becomes a God to you. The problem is that human relationships are not as fulfilling when God is not our first love. When you make God your first love, your human relationships will become far more meaningful. And through loving him, you will learn to love other people.

The Lord must be number one. Jesus must be the love of your life. He must be the center of your life. Get things right with him vertically, and then you will get things right with others on this planet. Many people's lives are in confusion because their relationship with their maker is not right. Is your relationship with your maker right? Today? Many people in here, the relationship, your relationship, your maker is not right. I know it and you know it, but I don't know who you are. And you need if you're if your relationship with your maker is not right, you need to confess

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that to him. You don't have to tell anybody else. You don't have to tell me. You don't have to tell the world. We're not going to have a hand raising altar call at the end of the thing. There's a private thing between you and God. But some of the most important decisions you make the theme for this week that they gave me was passion, passion.

Tomorrow I'm going to be talking about passion for others. The title, it's not black or white, it's Jesus. It doesn't matter what a person looks like, what their mental capacity is, what their race, how brilliant. None of that the whole focus must be Jesus on Friday morning when most of you have already gone home. But I hope not. I will be talking to you. How to have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ is a critical thing to learn how to have an intimate walk with God, because as we just stated, he wants that. And as a single adult right now, as a student unattached to a married person, not you're not married, you have more time to develop a relationship with God, more time to develop a firm foundation. I would encourage you to use it and take it and make room for it. Make sure that Jesus is your first love.

Point number two, God uses this time of singleness in your life to develop Christ like character so that you may be able to fulfill his will. His character is stated in Galatians five, twenty two and twenty three. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Spiritual characteristics in singleness. One of the things is it's the best time in your life to give God your undivided attention.

Our oldest son graduated from Biola last May and he had an opportunity to sign a teaching contract and start teaching in Hacienda Heights. And yet he had an opportunity to take his

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second semester in the summer, which means he wouldn't get back until the end of September, which may cost him a teaching job, but he could take his second semester with Wickliffe in Papua New Guinea to do a student teaching. And he said, Dad, I really I'm going to do this. I want to do this because he said, if I don't do it now, I may never be able to do it again.

Men and women, you can do stuff now that you'll never be able to do again as a single adult. Once you're married, you are limited in many capacities. And so my son did it and he came back, but he was offered a teaching contract while he was in Papua New Guinea and they hired a full time sub and that support his class. And when he came back about a month ago, he moved in and now he's teaching over here a few miles away. God provided it even though he was willing to give it up. And the reason he did, he learned so much. He learned teaching techniques, but he learned have a love for the people of Papua New Guinea. You learn to have a love for the missionaries of Wickliffe. He would have never been able to do that had he had a wife. He wouldn't be able to do that if he waited three more years. It was now or never.

Men and women, you're presented opportunities to serve God, to worship God and to do things now you'll never have again. As long as you live never again. As long as you live after you get out of Biola, will you be forced to come to a meeting like this? That's probably OK. But you see, I'm glad you're here because nobody's here under duress. You could figure ways out of it if you were smart, if you were smart. And and I'm glad that you're here. But you as a single person have these incredible opportunities. What are some of these personal characteristics that God wants to mold into your life? Well, one of them is, is confidence. When you decide to walk with God and

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let him fulfill you, you will have confidence because it will when you are right with God, it increases your self-worth.

There's a term tossed around a lot. Self-esteem, self-esteem, biblically is hogwash. It's self worth. How much do you work? How much value do you place on your self esteem is probably not the greatest word there really thought about. I've researched it and so I really never use that term. I use the word self-worth and God values you so much. He sent your son. How much do you value yourself? Do you have the confidence that you can do whatever God wants you to do? It doesn't matter what he wants you to do or what she wants you to do, what does God want you to do? And if you have confidence in God, you will have the confidence to do what is right. And then there's communication. Everybody needs to develop skills and communication. You need to be willing to walk up and talk to somebody.

I have fun because of my size. I'm somewhat intimidating to a lot of people. And I'm old and I'm I have platinum blond hair and all these different things. But when I go places, I literally try to talk. If I have a voice today, it was different out there. I didn't talk to anybody when I was one around because I try to say my voice, but I have my voice. I will literally talk to everybody I meet. I have met so many interesting people. By just walking up and saying hi, some of them rather stunned, someone look at me and run and, you know, that's OK, but it's just sort of fun to talk to people, communicate. The more you talk to people, the better you're going to get at it. Some people are going to shut you down, some will shy you on and some of them, you'll get the joys of your life by talking to someone that you meet only once in your lifetime, talking to people on airplanes.

It's just been a great, incredible learning experience. First of all, they can't go anywhere, especially if they're by the window and you talk to them about anything. And if you can get them to ask you a question, then you've got them trapped because they asked. And so now you get to talk and to communicate. Another characteristic God wants you to have his commitment and commitment requires discipline. Commitment to anything is incredibly difficult. It doesn't matter what you want to be committed to.

It's difficult. I will admit to you that as a pastor, as a Christian, as a teacher, as a leader, to spend time every day in the word of God is a very tough discipline because it's the easiest thing to put on the sideline, because it's always there. And I know that the one that gave it to me will forgive me if I skip out, if I sincerely ask for it. When I started realizing the excuses I was making, I realized that he knew I wasn't sincere. And so I have a personal time that I have with God alone. It's when I'm all alone and I am all alone for one hour every day. My wife doesn't see me study, my kids don't see me study, nobody does. I do it in the privacy of my office. It is the only time I can possibly steal the time and God is teaching me things. And that is the place where he spoke to me this week to sit down and write this message for you instead of the one I had prepared.

He also wants you to have consecration as a tremendous character quality. This is separation under God, and singleness is an excellent time to learn to develop these qualities in your life. And then you can take them into your marriage. You see, our marriages in the Christian world need some more of God's character, Christ's character in them, patience and tolerance and

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forgiveness and unselfishness and less pride. The reason marriages fail is because two people are filled with self, self, self.

Singleness is the time for giving God, your undivided attention molding after his image. And that then enables you to become marriage material. You will then present to your mate yourself. And if you're here today and you're a virgin, I cannot encourage you enough to stay that way until after you are married, not long after you're married, but until after you're married.

My wife and I and by the grace of God, my wife and I were virgins when we got married, but almost not, because eight days before our wedding we'd rented a house. I was living in it. I'd go pick her up at her parents, come over, we decorate it. One day I was standing here, she was about over there. She was bending over and gazed upon her. But and I said, I want I just said to my I want this woman right now. I went over and I picked her up. I took her in a bedroom, put her on the bed, and I rolled her over right on top of me. And I said, Priscilla, let's make love. We're going to get married in eight days. And even if you get pregnant, we'll just tell them it happened on the first night. Nobody will ever know. And she looked into my eyes and she said, I'll know and God will know. I better not say that.

And and so eight days later, we got married, had a nice reception, and I was submissive to God and I was submissive to her and she was submissive to me. And we're going down to our honeymoon place in Santa Cruz. And she's hungry. Me too. But not for food. And so we had to stop and have fun for you guys to dream. And and we stopped and had a salad because we hadn't eaten all day long. And it was great. And God has really blessed us with wonderful kids,

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wonderful friends. But a lot of it had to do with that moment in life when my wife realized that purity was more important than passion.

And when you have that kind of purity, which God gives you a passion for your mate that can't be had in any other way, he fills your heart with love. I admire her more than I admire any person in the world because I know everything about her. I know how she feels, I can read her like a book, I know when to leave her alone. I know when I come and hold her all because she put God first and that moment of time by telling me those few words, she told me, hey, big boy, you have to put God first, too. And I'm glad that that's happened.

Now people have to become marriage material. Develop your relationship with the Lord. First Corinthians, Chapter seven versus thirty two to thirty five. Tell us this. I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs, how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world, how he can please his wife and his interests are divided and unmarried.

Woman or Virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs. Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord, both in body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world, how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way and undivided devotion to the Lord, Paul says. Free from concerns, pleasing your spouse and somehow spouses are very hard to please. You have to work at raising children. The less your family you have to care for, the more you should devote your time to developing your relationship with the Lord. And in this time of your life, when you are single

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and you are a student, you can devote time to the Lord, read the word pray, read good books, listen to tapes of teachers who open the word of God and teach you from the word of God not to just give you some little theory and roll with it.

People need to be sensitive to spiritual things. Society is geared toward physical activity and exercises. God also encourages spiritual development. Build up your body, but build up your spirit. The majority of people have a healthy body, have a waning and skinny spirit, develop your spirit, feed it, nourish it, cultivate it and build it by the word of God, by teaching, by fellowship and by prayer. The four things you need.

The third thing that you can develop as a single is a positive self-worth. You need to in the world we hear about this. You need to love yourself. Well, I like to put it a little different phrase. You need to develop self agape. Now, agape is the kind of godly love he wants us to have. The definition that I use for agape love is wishing and wanting the highest and best for the other, being willing aggressively to work for it and even to die for it. You need to have a self agape. You need to see yourself as God sees you. This is probably one of the most important things that you can instill in any children that God gives you is that they are creations of God and critically important to him. And you you need actually to think highly of yourself as a creation of God, not in a pride, braggadocio way, but in a something as a creation of God. The majority of people don't like themselves exactly the way they are.

But in Genesis one, twenty six and seven, it tells us that we are made in the image of God. A teacher said to a little boy, You're nothing but a rotten kid. And he looked at his teacher and said,



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That's not true. God made me and God doesn't make rotten things. Man was made in the image of God, but man has sinned. And instead of becoming more divine, he has become more human, not better, but worse. And the more you try to make yourself better, the harder time you're going to have. You need to give yourself up and let God make you better. You need to devote yourself completely to him at all times. Man of his own will went away from God. He must, by choice, come back to God, come back to God through Jesus Christ.

Most of you in this room have committed your lives to Jesus Christ and you claim him as your savior. But not all of you walk with God closely. None of us walk with God closely all the time. But we should be there almost all the time. We should be there all the time. But some of you have faded in your walk with God. Some of you have faded in the things I want to encourage you to come back to him. You see, with his power, your problems can become possibilities. You'll get stronger as you go and wherever you go.

God has the power to do things no one else can do. In nineteen ninety five I had forty four couples come to me for counseling who were already separated or had filed for divorce. I did interviews one with a secular psychiatrist, three secular psychologists, three Christian psychologists and a Christian therapist. And I ask. All eight of them, this question, how many of those forty four couples would you say would be a good number to see back together in a healthy marriage within a year? And their answers ranged from between four to eight. Now, we know that the national average of people that are already separated or have filed for divorce, who go to a counselor for marriage healing is 15 or 16 percent. That's the healing rate. And they looked at me and they said, So what are you going to tell us? Like, you got half of them. And I said, no, I

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didn't get any of them. But I said, by the grace of God today, and this is true of this very moment. Thirty six of those forty four are together. Is that because of me? Absolutely not. All I am as a tool, as a counselor to people, all I am is a tool totally inferior to this. And I point people to what God can do because man can't do it. And thirty six of those marriages are together because of Jesus Christ, because these people said I will do it God's way in some of those thirty six cases, only one of them was willing for a while.

But when the mate who was unwilling saw the incredible changes that God was making in the willing mates heart, they started to come along. And if they came in on a scale of one to 10, their case was a one. Today, all of them are somewhere between a five and a nine, and I never give anybody a ten. Oh, God worked in their lives, men and women. You have to realize that it is only God that will change your life. You can try every every scheme the man comes up with for self betterment. You can listen to Tony Robbins. You can listen to everybody in the world. And not everything they say is evil, but is only God is going to make an effective, lasting change. I cannot encourage you enough to be yourself before him. Psalm eight five says we're made a little lower than God, not than angels. We are God's highest creation. We are only one.

We are the only creation of God that is handcrafted. All others were spoken into being or created some other ways, but God handcrafted from dust and from living flesh, man and woman. That's an interesting thought. I do a whole seminar on this one. By the way, in a marriage seminar, men are created from dirt, women are created from living flesh. It's an interesting contradiction. When you get dirt on you, what you want to do, wash it off.

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Well, why do we want to be together? I haven't quite figured it out yet, but that's how it is. But women, I just want to give you a solid future for the future. When you get married, you're dating and your man tracks dirt into the house. It's just a little of him falling off to worry about it too much because that's how God made him. Now, you are very unique. There is no one else like you in this entire world, no exact copy. You are incredibly special. We tend to degrade ourselves, especially sometimes when we're single. Oh, I'm not in a love relationship. Why doesn't somebody love me? Is there something wrong with me? I must be unlovable. I wish I had the looks that he or she has. I wish I had his physical build. I wish I had her personality. I wish I had the abilities that that person has. But God doesn't want you to be like anybody else. You have qualities and potentials that other people don't, but you don't see them. And why is this? Because you are looking at the bad things or the lack of things in yourself and you're looking at the good things and others. Get your eyes off of others and get your eyes on the God. Learn to begin to have this agape love for yourself and say, God, you made me thank you. Now help me to turn myself into the person you want me to be.

Love is a decision not only to love someone else, but to love yourself, have a godlike love for yourself, realize that God loves you even when someone else does not. Do you love yourself outside of romantic relationships? A relationship can make you feel good about yourself. So begin to care about yourself. Begin to have value of who you are. It's an arrogant attitude versus a healthy one. An arrogant attitude is I'm here, I'm God's gift to whoever wants me. But a healthy attitude is I'm worth something. I like who I am and I am good, but I'm not as good as I should be and I'm going ask God to make me better. The fourth thing is that as a single person, you can develop a ministry of giving and extending.

Philippians two, three and four says do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind, let each one of you regard one another as more important than himself. Do not merely look out for your own person. Interests, but also for the interests of others, no one likes to be looked upon as being self-centered, but let's be honest, each one of us has a strong tendency in this direction. Our biggest problem is that we usually fail to see the faults in ourselves that others can see. And when you're when you're walking through this world, realize that others are watching you. A person wrapped up in himself makes a very small package.

But worse than that, self centeredness is a decidedly unchristian attitude. It stops us from showing love for other people. When we reflect on Jesus example, we can't help but see that Christianity is self-centered and it doesn't mix with who Jesus is. Focus on him. Use your energies to meet other people's needs. Invest your time in caring for others, and it will leave little time for you to worry about your own situation. Don't be self preoccupied. Put yourselves through some hard scrutiny sometimes. Sometimes we take ourselves too seriously. We're much harder on ourselves than we are on others. Get your eyes off yourself. Get them onto Jesus and onto others,

Matthew 20: 26 through 8. Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant.

Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just as the son of man did not come to be served but to serve, to give his life as a ransom. For many to be great, you must serve in giving. You receive your listen. You pray, you encourage other people, you counsel them, you support them, you smile at them, you care about them, and you help them be a healer of the

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wounded. Look for wounded people in your school. There are wounded people. Look for them, encourage them. Because if every one of you would give everybody on this campus would be a receiver, there would be joy and incredible fulfillment in your life and giving develop this fellowship with each other.

Both men and women have casual and close and intimate relationships where you can talk about things that really matter. In order to do that, you must become vulnerable to people, tear down walls of fear and pride and protectiveness and open up and let the real you stand up mix frequently with others where you are because you need people. And I want to guarantee you something. Other people need you. You are very special and they need you desperately. Finally, you need to develop a right attitude toward your time of being single in large, your faith by thanking God for your present situation.

And married people, those of you that are married, must do the very same thing. Thank God for your situation. See, the married people in here that are married are trapped. It is much better to be single and wish you were married than married and wish you were single. And you need to appreciate the time of life that you have. We need to understand that and and and commit to God. Commit yourself to do anything God asks of you.

Are you asking him for guidance? Are you listening when he talks to you? Romans twelve to says to present yourself as a living sacrifice, a living sacrifice, not a dead one. And don't crawl down off the altar once you put yourself on there. It's so easy to put ourselves on the altar, but

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when things don't go right, we pull down and we try to do it ourselves. Live one day at a time. Tomorrow is not here.

You do not need enough strength for tomorrow. You need strength only for today and God will do that. I remember a time when my family was traveling and we've taken some long vacations. We were traveling in Montana and we had to wait for over thirty minutes for this huge herd of sheep to go across the road. And the people were driving this. They were on horseback and as they came through and they were really pushing these sheep, they were driving them hard and the sheep were really bleeding and they were really going fast as they could go.

One of the guys came by and I was just sitting out on side of the car and I I said to him, man, you are really driving these sheep. Where are you driving them? To the slaughterhouse. And he said, no, we're driving them up the hills to new pastures. He says once all the snows melt, we drive them up where there's better pastures because otherwise they will eat the summer pastures down and there will be nothing for them in the winter when they come back.

Men and women in your life as a single person right now, if you are experiencing a trial, a disappointment, a heartache or a. If you are finding it difficult to understand why your pathway may seem constantly dusty and rough, be patient. The great shepherd is merely moving you to a new pasture. Are you ready to be where God wants you to be right now? He has you in a pasture of singleness to develop the person that he wants you to be.

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Precious Lord, I thank you for every man and woman that's here today. And I thank you for their patience and tolerance with my coughing and my voice. Thank you for their attention, Lord. Most of all, I hope that they have heard what your heart taught my heart. I pray, Lord, that if there are people here who have been seeking the wrong things, maybe not even bad things, but have not made you their first love, that today they will commit themselves to you and say, oh God, I will make Jesus my first love. Help them, Lord, to be willing to reach out to other people, to help them be willing to make the changes necessary to become the man and the woman you want them to be so that down the road they will become the husband or the wife. They need your heart, a desire to pray daily for her future husband, that she will pray daily for his protection, that she will pray daily for his purity, that she will pray daily, that he will be a man that seeks after your own heart. And I pray for every man here today that if he does not already do so, that beginning this day he will begin to pray for his future wife, that he will pray for her and her relationship with her dad, that her relationship with her dad, if it is bad, can be healed, and that if is good, it will be better. And the Lord that he will pray that she will be protected and stay pure, that she will choose to go out with guys who will treat her well and not use her so that when the two of them come together, Lord, they will both be ready for each other because they've waited for your call in their lives. Lord, I just pray that you would put your hand on this school, help them never to waver from the truth of the word of God, never to fall to any temptation of compromise, but that they would always stay true, that every teacher would stay true to your word. And that, Lord, every one of us will glorify your name. The express purpose for which you placed us here. Watch over us now. Protect us till we're together again tomorrow. I pray in Jesus name. Amen. Thank you. I will look forward to seeing you tomorrow.