

REAL RELATIONSHIPS

SUNDAY 1 AUGUST 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Bible Passage

1 Corinthians 7:29-35

29 What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; **30** those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; **31** those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

32 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.

33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— **34** and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. **35** I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

MARITAL

SUNDAY 1 AUGUST 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Sermon Notes

Intro: Marrying the right person for the wrong reason

1. Priority in Marriage - Mission
2. Purpose of Marriage – Holiness
3. Power in Marriage – Union with Christ

Conc: Marrying for the right reason even with the wrong person

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the reasons why you got married or wanting to get married? How does this view compare with what Pastor RJ mentioned on the priority and purpose of marriage?
2. How does your union with Christ help you seek marriage in a godly way?
3. How can we, in Grace Church, encourage each other's marriage and singleness to be focused on God?

REAL RELATIONSHIPS

SUNDAY 8 AUGUST 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Bible Passage

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

1 These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, **2** so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. **3** Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **5** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **6** These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. **7** Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8** Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **9** Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

FAMILIAL+ PARENTAL

SUNDAY 8 AUGUST 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Sermon Notes

Intro: Where are the instructions?

1. Parental Responsibility

2. Parenting Recipe

3. A Parent's Prayer

Conclusion: Sticks or Arrows?

Discussion Questions:

1. As a parent, how would you define success for your children? How do you think God would define success for them?
2. What would you say is the hardest part of Christian parenting?
3. How can the Christian community help Christian parents in raising godly children?

REAL RELATIONSHIPS

SUNDAY 15 AUGUST 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Bible Passage

Acts 2:38-47

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” **41** Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The Fellowship of the Believers

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

CHURCH

SUNDAY 15 AUGUST 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Sermon Notes

Introduction: Membership Perks

1. The Church as an Embassy
2. The Church as a Family
3. The Church as a Body

Conclusion: Consider Membership

Discussion Questions:

1. Are you a member of a local church? What does your membership mean to you? What do you believe are the benefits of being a member?
2. What does it mean for you to love and be loved by the church members? How does the body of the church help you with your spiritual maturity?

REAL RELATIONSHIPS

SUNDAY 22 AUGUST 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Bible Passage

1 Peter 2:11-12

Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 3:13-18

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? **14** But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." **15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. **17** For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. **18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

FRIENDSHIPS + COLLEAGUES

SUNDAY 22 AUGUST 2021 | PASTOR RJ

Sermon Notes

Introduction: Free Haircut

1. Worldliness or Holiness

2. Mates or Mission

3. Evangelism or Church

Conclusion: 'I have called you friends'

Discussion Questions:

1. What characteristics are needed to be a good friend? How have you seen this in your own friendships?
2. How do you balance out being good friends with non-Christians and yet not be influenced by their 'worldly' ways?
3. If you have a close non-Christian friend, what do you think would really help them come to faith?

REAL RELATIONSHIPS

SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 2021 | MARCUS WONG

Bible Passage

Romans 13:1-7

Submission to Governing Authorities

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. **2** Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. **3** For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. **4** For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. **5** Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. **7** Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

AUTHORITY

SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 2021 | MARCUS WONG

Sermon Notes

- Submission to governing authorities
- God works through earthly authorities to maintain order in our world
- Q: What if we have an "evil" government?
- Submission to authority is not just about escaping punishment . . . it's a spiritual act.
- When we start choosing what authority to submit to, we become the ultimate authority in our lives.

Application: What submission is . . . and what it isn't.

SELECTIVE SUBMISSION IS NO SUBMISSION AT ALL

Discussion Questions:

1. What things in your life have influenced how you think of and submit to authority? How has God's word transformed your thinking?
2. What disagreements do you have with the governing authorities? Do you disagree out of obedience to God or is there another reason?
3. How could your relationship with authority, including the government, be used to glorify God or build strengthen your gospel witness in society?