

**[MESSAGE NOTES]**

**True North: Week 9 — Marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-7, 25-35)**

*Pastoral Note: We are in a several-week span that will be on the topics of sexuality, marriage, singleness, divorce, and other similar topics. We think that this could be an opportunity for older children to engage with important topics of our day, but encourage discernment when bringing younger children to hear the messages during these next few weeks.*

**Message Notes:**

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**[QUICK REVIEW]**

Looking at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

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**[MY STORY]**

Our lives are made up of an intricate web of relationships all around us. These relationships influence us and make us who we are, whether good or bad. ***What has been the most transformative relationship that you have ever had with someone? (God doesn't count!)***

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**[DIGGING DEEPER]**

This stretch of our series *True North* has us diving into topics with the Apostle Paul like sexual immorality and sexuality, marriage, divorce, and even singleness. But underneath all of it is a focus on **relationships**. *How do we relate to one another in the family of God? And, how can we honor God in the midst of the brokenness and beauty of these relationships?*

God says in Genesis 2 that, “*it is not good for man to be alone.*” **Read the following Scriptures. What are the common themes present in these passages?**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

**Romans 14:7**

**1 John 4:7-11**

**Galatians 5:13**

This week in particular Paul gave instructions to the Corinthian church in regards to **marriage**. In Ephesians 5, Paul describes marriage as a mystery that ultimately points to Jesus’ and the Church! The more faithful we are in our marriages, the more Christ is glorified. Our marriages *are* a witness to the goodness of the Gospel! One of the classic wedding texts is found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, a text we will come to in a few months. Though not officially addressing marriage in it, Paul is talking about love, which is indeed at the heart of every *Christian* marriage (and every relationship!). One of my (Samuel) favorite texts to bring when I perform a wedding is from Colossians 3:12-15. Again, not addressing marriage specifically, but a beautiful picture of how we are called to relate to one another in Christ.

**Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and Colossians 3:12-15. List out all of the aspects of how we are called to love and relate to one another in Christ in the space below.**

**If you are married, what are one or two things here in these texts that you can pray and be intentional in modeling in your marriage this week? If unmarried, what are one or two you can model in your everyday relationships?**

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**[WEEKLY READINGS]**

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend’s message.

**1 Corinthians 7**

**Genesis 2**

**Ephesians 5**

**Mark 10**