

LOVE WINS – LIFE Group Study Guide

Love DTR – Ruth 2-3

Pastor Miles McPherson – March 13, 2016



Where do we get our guidelines for romantic relationships today? If we try to learn about them from movies, songs, or TV, then we're getting an "anything goes" picture of how to succeed. In this past Sunday's sermon, Pastor Miles' challenged the current cultural view of relationships by going to the story of Ruth in the Bible. In today's study, we'll continue the theme that he launched by wrestling through some critical issues of purity in relationships.

Opening Discussion:

1. What has had the biggest influence in your spiritual growth over the past year?

To those who are single, Pastor Miles stated that before you try to attract a man (*speaking to women; or guys trying to attract a woman*), become the person that God wants you to be. Here are a couple of priority questions that he posed:

- Are you seeking God?
- When you get up in the morning, are you in the Word?

We will attract the kind of people we are, and if we're not walking with God, we'll attract people who aren't walking with God and will regret that relationship later! So make it a priority to grow close to Jesus and become like him, then wait for God to bring you the right person.

Digging Deeper:

Let's check out what the Bible has to say about sex...

→ **Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20**

2. Why does Paul give such a strong warning about sexual immorality?
3. What is sexual immorality? **(See notes at end for more information)*
4. Why should we honor God by what we do with our body?

Lust: the desire to please yourself and fulfill your own desires at the expense of someone else

Love: the desire to bless and serve someone else without the concern of what you'll get out of it

5. Do you agree with the above definitions? How much of our culture's definition of "love" is really "lust?"

→ **Read 1 Cor 7:1-5**

6. What is Paul's solution to sexual temptation?

Note how Paul begins this section. Since we don't have the letter from the church at Corinth with the questions they raise, we can only assume that they were asking about what is okay and not okay when it comes to sexual relationships. That's a very relevant question today as well; Pastor Miles said that he's often asked, "*How far is too far?*" It's also possible that some were advocating abstaining from sex inside of marriage as a way to become more spiritual – and Paul debunks that idea by essentially telling married people to fulfill each other's sexual desires and in so doing they would foil Satan's scheme to lead them into sin.

7. If you're single with no marriage prospects on the horizon, how do you remain sexually pure and "honor God with your body?"

If time allows, here are some other passages to look at and discuss:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- 1 Corinthians 6:13-17
- 2 Timothy 2:22

Applying it to My Life:

8. What is one step you can take (that you're not doing now) to move closer to God and become who he wants you to be?

Take it Home:

1. Take an inventory of purity in your life:
 - If you're married, are you being faithful to your spouse? With your eyes? With your thoughts? In your interactions with other people? Are you emotionally attached with another person besides your spouse?
 - When was the last time you looked at pornography?
 - What boundaries have you set in your life to keep you from falling into sexual sin?
2. Confess any sexual sin in your life, thanking God for his forgiveness, and asking for his strength to walk in purity from this point forward
3. Make a plan to walk in purity – check out the Rock ministry resources below and get involved!

Resources for victory in the area of relational and sexual purity:

1. For Men Only: Rock Church ministry for men, helping you overcome struggles with pornography and sexual sins - <http://www.sdrock.com/ministries/mens/fmomain/>
2. For Women Only: Rock Church ministry for women, helping you overcome struggles with pornography and sexual sins - <http://www.sdrock.com/ministries/womens/beatuyforashes/>

NOTE:

Sexual Immorality: any sexual activity outside of a marriage relationship between a man and a woman. God's commands in this area are *not* meant to limit our enjoyment of life, but rather they are to protect us from harm and to provide what is best for us.

*"All extramarital sex is wrong in itself, simply because the body is not meant for sexual immorality and those who commit sexual sins sin against their own bodies (1 Cor 6:13, 18). Sexual intercourse is a unique kind of body language that the Creator has designed to express and seal that special, exclusive, life-long relationship between a man and a woman which the Bible labels "marriage."*¹

¹ Walter A. Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort, Tyndale Bible Dictionary, Tyndale reference library (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001), 1182.