



Finding the Right One - Part 1

Matthew 22:37-39

In our series on Love, we are continuing today with a very important subject to all of our lives - finding THE ONE.

Remember we established that love starts with God. God is the ultimate lover and we will only be able to love fully when we accept his love in Jesus Christ. *“We love because He first loved us.”* Love is a gift from our loving God, and one of the reasons humans love get so screwed up is that so many people do not see the connection. I don’t want you to miss that.

Last week I talked mainly to those who are married. Today I want to talk to those who may someday get married. One of the most important steps to a great marriage is making sure you married the right person. Today, as we began to look at God’s help in finding the “right one” for our lives, we will especially focus in on finding the ONE.

Now before we get into it, again, let me ask you a couple of questions:

- How many of you are married? Raise your hand up, raise it up high.
- How many of you are not married. Raise them up, raise them up high.
- How many of you are single and if it was God’s will, you would love to meet *the one*? (Raise them up high, raise them up high. Leave it up for a second. Just scan the room. Who knows? You could be eyeballing the one!

- How many of you met and married the one, but now after a few years, you’d like to trade in the one for another one? (do not raise your hand!)

I love whenever someone meets that one. (Girl comes running up, “Oh, you’re not going to believe ... this guy’s perfect. He’s so incredible. He’s oh so... he’s so awesome .. I think I met the one! Look, goose bumps.”)

What’s so funny to me is how fast “the one” can become “the one that drives you crazy.”

Girl meets perfect guy and talks about their first date, “Oh, we went out with my friends and he was just so cute. He was telling these jokes that nobody laughed at, and he was just trying so hard, and during the meal, he did this cute little burp. It just came out of nowhere. It sounded adorable, and then I went to his apartment, and he like, left his socks all over the house. He just needs me. He’s just perfect.”

You see where this is going, don’t you? She marries Mr. Perfect. One year into the marriage, “I’m sick and tired of you. Your jokes are stupid. Nobody thinks you’re funny. You’re embarrassing me all the time. And I’m Sick of you sitting around burping, brrrrrrp, farting all the time, leaving your underwear all over the house.

Isn’t it amazing how fast The One can become *the one that drives you crazy*? How in the world do you know when you’ve found the one?

Well, our key thought for the day is this. Make sure you grab this truth. It is so important. If you are taking notes, write this down. **To really be fulfilled in life, you have to find the one.** (but we need to redefine that) To really be full of joy and meaning and satisfaction, you have to find the one, which raises the question, “How do you know when you’ve found the one?”

Yes, people want to find that special someone to do life with, but you have to acknowledge that people are scared. They’ve been burned. Things haven’t worked out. They are a little more resistant. They are hesitant. They’ve got their walls up. They are still getting married, but they are waiting longer. They are trying things out, testing the water.

There's more reservations, and even though they are doing all these things, there's a lot less success.

I want to tell you that I often feel like one of the luckiest men alive. I have an amazing woman as my life-mate. God has blessed us with a great marriage. We work at it, don't get me wrong.

In fact, I "try" to be a good husband. I have many idiosyncracies, but here's something on my side. TWICE, I sat down with Nina and together we watched "Pride and Prejudice." I have almost seen the entire movie now - I have fallen asleep at differing parts.

I make fun of it because it's the "ultimate chick flick" but there's something in that movie, because what this movie does, is it shows the way relationships used to take place, which are dramatically different than the way relationships take place today.

In the movie there wasn't today's system of dating. Instead, it was courtship. The whole dating thing as we know it today is really something that's only been around less than a hundred years. Before that you cannot find anything that resembles today's system of dating. Things really began to change dramatically, believe it or not, with the invention of the automobile. Quite frankly, before the automobile, you couldn't meet someone that lived thirty miles away unless you were willing to walk or ride on horseback. They didn't have car dates. You know, it was obviously very different.

So, then, in the *Pride and Prejudice* era and before, a family would know another family. You would say, "Yeah, we've known them for years. This is a good boy, or a good girl."

What's NORMAL today, though, it is real common to send a fifteen-year-old girl out in a car with a seventeen-year-old guy with no accountability, no oversight, parents not speaking into their relationship. It is not uncommon to have kids dating for months before the parents even know.

And as time continues to march on, sooner and sooner couples do married things earlier in a relationship. So that today, what do we have? It is not uncommon to have sex after one or two dates. And, on the search for *the one*, people go through partner after partner, doing married things, although unmarried. And then when breaking up, it's like we're practicing divorce, preparing for later on. Couples living together without any sort of

commitment, "Yeah, I'm committed to you, sort of," but not real commitment.

Unwanted pregnancies leading to abortion, terminating the lives of innocent children. Sexually transmitted diseases. Divorces, more than you can ever even imagine. The personal pain?

Biblically speaking, you cannot deny that what's NORMAL today in our culture is so far removed from God's principles, it's not even funny.

Bible aside, though, even if you do not believe in God, you have to acknowledge that what we have going on today is not working.

- 80% of couples who live together will break up.
- 1 in 5 women who lived together will have an affair. (worse for men)
- Couples who practiced living together before marriage are twice as likely to divorce as non-cohabitating couples.
- *In America, less than HALF of couples getting married will stay married for 15 years.*

So we have a choice. "Well, everybody's doing it this way, and this is just the way it is. And you know, it's not that bad." If you travel the same road as everyone else, you are going to end up at the same destination.

While we are doing this series, I'm trying to be real honest with you. And I'm taking you on a journey that is very different than this world has to offer. Without apology. Because the road the world is going down leads to a place that damages the majority of lives. Is that what you want?

Let me make an analogy. Let's pretend that we live in a world that has this forecast for bear attacks.

Forecast: There is a 50% chance that your children are going to be mauled and killed by a bear at the bus stop before they graduate from High School. 50%. Half of children waiting at bus stops will be mauled and killed.

Parent, what are you going to do? Are you going to send them out to the bus stop each day? I doubt it! Not with those stats. Kiss them goodbye and say, "Be sure to run fast?" No, no, no, you're going to do something different to get them to school, because the stats are against them.

Listen, if you want a different outcome, you *have* to travel down a different route. If you travel the same road as everyone else, you are going to end up at the same destination.

Could it be that God has a higher, better plan than the world has to offer for his people?

In the next two weeks, I'm going to show you God's route to a different, a better destination for your love life.

And I know that some of you are going to be looking at me like a cow looking at a new gate, going, "Huh?" That's not NORMAL! I know. I know. But I also know the outcome of Normal, and you do too.

And God's plan, I have to tell you up front, is for genuine, serious Christians. *"I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to bless you, to give you a hope and a future."* God has all kinds of blessings planned for our lives, including in our love life and in our relationships, but you'll never experience them as a nominal, superficial Christian.

The fact is, God doesn't have two plans. He does not have one plan to find the right person for the person who just wants to find the right person with no real connection to God. And another plan for the serious Christian. He just doesn't work that way.

Remember our key thought. Remember how important this is. *To really be fulfilled in life, you have to find The One.* So, what I'm going to do today is, I want to build a foundation upon which we will build on next week. We will start with what I will call, "The spiritual side of relationships,"

The Two

Matthew 22:37-39. A Pharisee, a religious teacher of the law, was trying to trap Jesus, and he asked Him this provocative question, *"Of all of the commandments, what is the most important?"* Jesus replied, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind."* This is the what? Say it out loud, *"This is the first and the greatest commandment,"* and the what? Say it out loud. *"And the second is like it."* And what is it? *To love your neighbor as yourself."*

"Gotta find the one. Without the one, won't be happy. Gotta find the one. Gotta find the one. Gotta find the one."

Just one time, it would be incredible to see a Godly man meet a Godly woman, and the guy comes running in, going, "You're not going to believe this. Oh, my gosh. She's incredible. She loves Jesus. She is awesome. She looks good, and smells good, too." "You're not going to believe this. You're not going to believe this, but I think this girl may just be The TWO. " She may just be the two.

Because, if you're taking notes, never ever forget, Jesus is the "ONE," and your spouse is the "Two." Jesus is the One. *To really be fulfilled in life, you have to find the ONE.* Jesus is the One, and your spouse is the Two.

If you're taking notes, write this down. Pursuing marriage more than pursuing God is idolatry. (repeat) Pursuing marriage more than pursuing God is idolatry. Let's just let it get real uncomfortable. That applies for those who are married and for those who are not married.

Pursuing anything above God is idolatry. Look at scripture and let it speak to you. **Exodus 34:14,** "Do not," what? Say it out loud. *"Do not worship any other gods, for the Lord, who's name is jealous is,"* what kind of god? *"He is a jealous God."*

Let me talk for just a moment to those who are married. You can fool people for a while and make them think that your marriage is okay, but deep down, there comes a time when you might say, "You know what, I know that we are not where we are supposed to be."

Anytime your marriage is not where it is supposed to be, chances are likely that you are looking for your spouse to meet some need that only God can meet.

How does the line of thinking go? "I gotta find that one person to make me happy. Gotta find the one ... ooohh, ho ooh. I found the one. Oooohhh. Goose bumps! Oh, now every love song on the radio makes sense." (laugh) "I think this is the one that's going to make me happy."

So we get married, and then one day, "Ohhh, I'm not happy ... Your fault!" "You're not meeting my needs." What just happened? We tried to make our spouse *the One* when Jesus wants to be the One. Okay?

What's the bottom line? The bottom line is, today's philosophy of relationships is far beneath God's standards. Okay, "We're going to get married. We're going to be great. We're gonna be happy. And what I'm going to do, I'm going to meet you halfway, fifty/fifty. Okay? I'm going to bring my part. You bring your part. Fifty/fifty, and we're going to live by the Golden Rule, which is, help me out -- **"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."** Did you know that is the words of Jesus, and the standard is for brother/sister relationships to do unto others as we would have them do unto you? Did you know that God's standard for marriage is higher than that? It is not fifty/fifty.

God's standard for marriage could be explained this way: It is not do unto your spouse as you would have them do unto you. That's fifty/fifty. It is do unto your spouse as *Jesus* has done unto you. That's a hundred percent, holding nothing back. The Bible says I am to love and serve my wife as Christ loved and served the church. It's not fifty/fifty. That's laying my life down. That's giving all of it under the banner of Jesus.

Let's re-visit **Exodus 34:14**. Let's look at it from the New Living Translation. The scripture says, **Exodus 34:14** *You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is passionate about his relationship with you.*

"He is a God who is passionate." What is He passionate about? He is passionate about **His relationship with you.**

- *What excites the heart of God?* You.
- *What is He passionate about?* His relationship with you.
- *What does He want to be in your life?* He wants to be Number One, and until He is Number One, your Number Two will never work out the way it should.

Let me kind of tell you just a little bit about my story. Before I met Jesus in college I was taking the "NORMAL" road. The world's plan for relationships. I had no clue about Christ at this time in my life, and I was ready for the NORMAL college life. In fact, it was the early 70s, the time of hippies, flower power, free love, the sexual revolution. In those days many girls stopped wearing bras and I had no problem with that!

And that probably have described my life except that two things happened. First, I met Nina. Now even though this was the time of the sexual revolution (free love, free sex), unlike today, not everyone had bought into that philosophy. Today, almost everyone in the culture has, but then it was still not the case. Nina, unlike me, had moral convictions. She was not a Christian either, but she still retained a Christian view of love, sex and marriage. We started dating in our senior year of high school, and when college came, she went one to one campus and I went to another.

Then the second thing happened. During our college years, we both met Jesus Christ and became followers. I found out that Jesus was real and He totally changed my life, completely. Nina's too.

Then as I started reading the Bible, and I started learning about God's love and how to love God's way. I read it and I read it some more. What happened is, God started to renew my mind and to change my thinking, and to lead me *want Godliness*. I wasn't going to be a taker, but instead, I was going to be a giver. As I made Him THE ONE, He started to prepare me for the TWO.

Now I wanted and she wanted to do things God's way. We were in love, and very honestly, after three years together it was not easy because our physical attraction was strong, real strong. So we did something radical. I took a leave of absence from college, got a job at Pratt & Whitney, and we got married. It was the second best decision I have ever made.

Here's the point. Jesus had to be the ONE before I was ready for the TWO.

That's why Jesus says in **Matthew 6:33**, **"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and then everything else will be added unto you."** He's got to be the ONE. Without the One, you never find fulfillment and meaning in any area of in your life.

Please Listen:

- The best thing I have in my life is my relationship with Jesus. He's the ONE.
- Right below that is the relationship I have with Nina. She's incredible. We are so blessed.

But we would not have what we have if I was her ONE. God - the One. I am Nina's TWO. She is mine.

And the closer we grow to the ONE, the closer we grow to each other.

Three FIRST STEP'S to find the two.

So, how do you know when you've met the Two? Good question. I wish I had a set formula for you. I don't. Next week I'll share more on this too.

1. But here's what I do know. First, Make sure Jesus is the ONE and you're looking for

THE TWO. The first thing is, that you should have Jesus in common more than anything else. He is the rock upon which your relationship will be built.

2. Secondly, I am just going to say, and this is my opinion, but I stand by it, **you've got to be attracted to the person.** Were not getting so over spiritual here that we forget about attraction. "You know, I just, uh, well you know, he's really godly, but ughhh, you know. Maybe, if I just keep praying. I'll like him. You know, uh, I, I ..."

Seriously, I think God is going to give you someone that you are attracted to. Okay? Jesus is the center and you are drawn to this person. You love being with them.

3. Then you ask the question, and that is this, for me, this was the bottom line. Nina. We are best friends. Jesus was the center. And oh, was I ever attracted. Okay? Then the question, "**Can we serve God better together (married) than we could apart?**" And, if you can serve God better together married then, guys, you save up and pay cash for a ring, get down on your knee, and say to her what Ps 34:3 says, or in your own words, **Psalm 34:3, "Come glorify the Lord with me. Let us exalt His name together."**

CONCLUSION

So, the question for you is this. "**What number is Christ in your life?**" Be really honest. Look at your quiet time, look at your actions, don't lie to yourself. Look at the way you spend your time and quit glossing over generalities. Look at your heart.

For me, so many times in the place of Christ, has been my worldly pursuits or my pathetic search for material gain. Allow the Spirit of God to de-throne anything that is in place of Christ. He wants to be The One. Clues your eyes, bow your heads and let's pray.

As you reflect today, be honest. Those of you that are Christ followers, you have submitted your life to Christ, but you have realized today that there's something in His place. He's not *the One*. Would you be honest enough to say, "Jesus, I want You to change that. You have not been the One. Forgive me and change that today.

Tell him what you've put ahead of him. Give it a name and tell him. It could be several things. Now ask them to forgive you. Tell him thank you.

Now in your own words ask him, any time you put something before him that he would convict you of it and draw you back. You want him to be your one.

"God forgive me for all the idolatry, for all the stupid stuff I put before you. Be are one."

Think back to the verse we talked about earlier. *God is passionate about a relationship with you.* God, the God of the universe, is passionate about his relationship with you. Most people think God is nothing like that. If he is anything, he is uninvolved and distant.

Nothing could be further from the truth. He is a relational God. He is love! So much so that our biggest problem, sin, which separates us from him, he became one of us, so he could die and in doing so remove the penalty for our sin so we can have a relationship with him. A holy God, in the person of Jesus Christ, became a sacrifice for us so we can have a relationship with him.

Some of you, you know you've been searching for something. Something to fill the emptiness. Maybe you've been looking for the right one, and you thought it was a girl or a guy. No. The One is Jesus. If that's you. It's time to say yes to God.