

## FINDING THE RIGHT ONE - PT. 2



### Romans 12:1-2

Well, welcome to our series entitled "PS I Love You" as we are looking at God's principles to take our relationships the distance. I pray that today God will speak to you in a really awesome way.

Let's review our key principle from last week. Those of you that remember -- "**To really be fulfilled in life, you have to find the 'ONE'.**" You have to find The One. Who is the One? The One is Jesus. Jesus is the One. If you want your Makers help in your relationships, you have to make Jesus your One; otherwise, even if you're a Christian, you can do it your way, or the world's way... but you'll also have to accept the consequences of that. And if you choose the "Normal" path (i.e., video (sexting) you reduce your chances for sure.

[You can take the "normal" path, and obviously many do (some or most of you will). And there is the possibility that things will work out all right, in the sense that you may find someone whom you love and that works out. It does happen. But realize, it's just a fact, that along the way you run the much higher risk of things like being a single parent, multiple divorces, unwanted pregnancies, abortions, STDs, being cheated on, cheating on your spouse, being left, and multiple heartaches.]

Today, though, we are going to talk about finding "The Two" – God's way. (If God has blessed you with a spouse, your spouse is the Two.) Again, the first step in Finding the Right Two is to Make Jesus your One.

**Second, you have to establish a HIGHER STANDARD.**

Look at scripture. **I Corinthians 3:18-19**, *Stop deceiving yourselves, If you think you are wise by what? Say it out loud, this world's standards*, If you think you know it all and you are doing what everybody else does, following the customs and the patterns of this world,

maybe today, we are going to talk about something that a lot of people would say, "*That's foolish!*" Bingo! From the world's perspectives, God's standards are foolish, **but God's results always exceed the standards of this world.** So, if you are tempted to say, "Dave, that's kind of foolish compared to the way that I have been raised, or the way everyone I know lives," that's exactly the point. Today, I will give you some *foolish thoughts*, very different from thinking the way the world does. **What we want is a HIGHER STANDARD.** We will not follow the standards of this world.

*...you need to become a fool to be truly wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God...* (NLT)

Three areas you need a Higher Standard. If you are taking notes, let's dive into them aggressively.

### I. WHO I'LL SEE

The first area is this: "**I will have a higher standard on WHO I WILL SEE**, who I will date, who I will spend time with. The bottom line will not be "what does she/he look like," although I will argue all day long that appropriate attraction is a good thing, yet it is not the bottom line.

As a Christ follower, if you are a fully devoted follower of Christ, we will have a higher standard on WHO we will see.

Scripture says it this way, **2 Corinthians 6:14** *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?* (NIV)

Now, what in the world does that word "*yoked*" mean? Well, a yoke was a piece of wood kind of like with two humps, and you could join two animals together so they could plow a field. In the Old Testament, there is a verse that says, "*Do not yoke together an ox and a donkey.*" Why? It would be cruel to both of them. They

are too different. One was known as a clean animal; one was unclean. One is bigger; one is smaller. They are going to try to go in different directions. They will not work well together. It would be cruel to BOTH animals. The point is, in marriage, it would be cruel to join a Christ follower with a non-Christian follower, so God says, “Don’t do it”.

Now, you may say, “Pastor Dave, that verse doesn’t seem to refer to marriage or dating?? You know what, you are right. It doesn’t. It goes *way beyond marriage*. In fact this principle should be applied by us believers in any area where we become “yoked” or “bound in a committed way” with another person who does not share your faith or values. (and there’s nothing more committed than marriage).

Let me give you an example from my past. In 1972-3 I was a UConn student living on campus up in Storrs. I did my freshman year in a branch campus and came as a Sophomore. When I got there I was assigned to a dorm room in Lancaster Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Now only after I moved in did I discover that many people on campus called my dorm floor the 44<sup>th</sup> floor. Reason? Because it was a drug capital of the campus.

I was assigned a roommate, a Junior. He was a pharmacy major. Well, one day I came back to the dorm and in our little refrigerator I opened the little tiny freezer to get some ice, and there were this little “dot” candies. (show picture – does anyone remember these?) Well, that’s what I thought they were. They weren’t mine, but I thought, eating a few wouldn’t be so bad, – and here is where you need to learn it’s never good to eat or take other people’s things – fortunately I didn’t. Because when my roomie got back I said, “Hey are those your candies in the freezer?” He looked at me strangely and said “Did you eat any of them? “No” “Because those are hits of LSD.” “And you NEVER take more than one.” Well, I learned that my roommate was an acid dealer on campus. Down the hall was a pot dealer. They were all pharmacy majors too! Scary. It was quite a year.

Now I was “yoked” with my roommate and it was pretty unequal, but it was no big deal. You see, I shared the same room but I was not committed to him. I stayed out of his life and he stayed out of mine.

Now if at the end of the year my roommate said, “Next year let’s rent an apartment together and we’ll live off campus? That would be worse. Now we would both be paying rent on the same place. Now when the cops came, I am responsible even more.

If you go into business with a non-believer, watch out. You are “binding” yourself to someone who most likely at some point is going to have different values than you do about business practices. But now you’re stuck.

So no, this verse is not about marriage *specifically*, but I’ll tell you, if the principle applies to who you chose to pay rent with, it DEFINITELY applies to the person you are going to make a covenant to live with forever! And because of that you need a higher standard on who you will see.

“But Why?” You may ask, “when things are so good on the front side of marriage, even though he/she is not a believer. I still love him!”

On the other side of marriage, let me promise you, you will have more conflict than you could ever imagine because you have two entirely different world-views. The Christ follower will have one perspective on money, on disciplining children, on philosophies of raising children, on how we spend our time. What you will find is, it is cruel to have two people joined together with entirely different world views.

But you say, “Oh, but she’s so good looking and kisses so good.” “Oh, he’s got like a six pack and a tight toochy toochy, he makes me laugh” you know, and all this kind of stuff.

Listen, when your kid gets sick and you are on the way to the emergency room, it doesn’t matter what kind of six pack he has. If he can’t petition God with faith by prayer, you don’t have anything effective at that moment. You want someone who is pursuing the ONE, seeking God with all of their heart.

Now, you say, “Okay, that’s just more of that preacher talk.” No, no, this isn’t preacher-talk, this is Christ-follower talk. You cannot blend into this world and look like everyone else and be a fully devoted follower of Christ. If you want normal, blend-in, cultural Christianity then don’t worry about the spiritual temperature of your dates.

## A Higher standard on who we will SEE.

In every single way, God wants you with someone who's *hot*. Nina is hot. But hot in every way – she's hot and passionate for the things of the Kingdom of God.

## II. WHAT I'LL DO

Thought number two, "I will have a higher standard on what I will DO," or for some of you, "what I won't do."

A lot of times when I talk about relationships, I often am hardest on the men? Anybody ever noticed that? But Girls, here is something for you, okay. You're going out and you've got this little tight stuff on. *Everything is hanging out*. Walking around, "Praise Jesus," But then you're whining, "How come I only attract the wrong kind of guys? They're only interested in one thing." **Ladies, if you are always attracting the wrong kind of guys, maybe you are fishing with the wrong kind of bait.** Oohhh. (Sorry about that.) Maybe God wants you to have a higher standard of what you are going to DO and what you are not going to do.

Scripture, **1 Peter 1:14-15** *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you what? lived in ignorance.* That's where so many people are today. They just don't know any better. It's like, "I was just raised this way, just like everybody else. I've never given it a thought. I've never looked at it that way." Here's the good news. Maybe today, God will change the way we think.

The scripture goes on to say this, verse 15, *"but just as he who called you is holy, so be,"* what? *"Be holy,"* in how much of your life? *"In all you do."* Do you think that would include your relationships? Absolutely. Absolutely. What does holy mean? It comes from the Greek word "hagios." It means pure. Be pure. Be morally blameless. Be set apart. Be different in all that you do.

If you want something that you have never had, you have to do something you've never done. You've got to take a different road to get to a different destination. **You will decide ahead of time there are certain things that I will**

**not do to get a boy or girlfriend or a spouse.** (even if you went down the other road in the past).

Now, what will your standard be? The world's standards, your standards. Where will you set them? That's between you and God, but let me give you some Biblical guidance that may sound *wonderfully foolish*.

We need to choose a radical standard and say, "You know what, there are certain things I'm not going to do until I'm married," and it would translate into your life this way, if you are taking notes. **"I will wait until marriage to share the intimate blessings of marriage."** I will wait until I am married to share the intimate blessings of marriage.

**Hebrews 13:4** tells us, *"Marriage should be honored by,"* how many? Would you share it out loud? *"Marriage should be honored by,"* say it again. By how many? *"By all," and the marriage bed should be kept what?* It should be kept *Pure*.

If marriage should be honored by *all*, does that mean that people who are married should honor marriage? Yes or no? The answer is ... If marriage should be honored by all, does that mean people who are not married should honor marriage? The answer is ...

*"I will wait until marriage to share the intimate blessings of marriage.* That's a different way to think about it.

## III. WHAT WE WILL EXPECT

A higher standard on who we will SEE, on what we will DO, and thought number three, on what we will EXPECT. **Ephesians 3:20**, *"Now, to him who is able to do immeasurably,"* what? Say it out loud. *"Immeasurably more than,"* what? Say it out loud, *"than we can ask or imagine."* Now, to the God who can do more than you can dream up on our pathetic list of twenty-two things we want in a spouse, God will look at little lists we put together and say, "Can't you dream bigger than that? You don't know how much I know and how much I want to give you."

- I want to speak to the girls again for just a second. *Good girls who date bad guys.* Sometimes, I just want to shake you and say, “Wake up! Don’t you know you’re more valuable than that?” Good girls who date bad guys, and all seven hundred of the people that love you say, “He’s no good! Stay away from him.” And you say, “*You don’t know him like I do. I love him. He’ll be different with me. I can fix him. I can change him.*” To you I say Smoke something else, girl, you can’t change him. You are a Christ follower. You are a special creation of God. Expect more of God. Expect more for yourself. God wants someone who will lay down his life to serve you. So why would you settle for a *fixer-upper*?
- Others say, “*Well, you know, you know, I’ve been waiting for a while and God’s not brought anybody. So now I’m going to the clubs to meet someone*” Oh, that’s a good place to look for someone seeking number One?
- “*Even though it’s not perfect, even though he’s not a believer I’m going to stay with or live with him/her.*” If you don’t get out of a wrong relationship, how in the world can you expect God bring you into a right one?
- Those who are married. “*God can never save our marriage. I’m sick of this person...*” How big of an insult could you ever say to God that He’s not big enough to save your marriage?  
You show me any two people. I don’t care what they’ve done, where they’ve been, how bad you are hurt. Show me two people submitted to the power of God, and I will show you a marriage that God can and will heal.
- “*Okay, well, you know, we’re tingly wingly, and we’re not going all the way, so we’re just going to kind of get loose on the edges and kind of do some stuff.*” You compromise on the standards of God, you lose the blessings in results of God in your life.
- “*Oh, I’ve messed up. I’ve done too many bad things. I just, I blew it too big. I’m unworthy of a good relationship.*” What an insult that is to the God who can make you new in a

moment! He is a God who makes all things new.

**Don’t settle for what everyone else is settling for!** Never settle for less than God’s best. *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

## CONCLUSION

With everything in us, we seek the One. If He blesses us with the Two, we will unite and serve Him better together than we could apart, but we never compromise on the standards of God. Foolishness to this world, wisdom to the One who created the world.

All, let’s pray. Bow your head. “*God, we ask that in Your holy presence, You would change the way we think by the power of Your Word and Your Spirit.*”

Be honest. Have you slipped beneath the standard of God in your marriage? Now, you could easily point your finger at your spouse and say, “Well, you’re not doing this.” Now, we are not talking about your spouse. It’s between you and God at this moment. Have you slipped?

Those of you that are not married, have you, just like the rest of the world, settled for a standard that is less than God’s best? Maybe in a mindset, maybe in who you hang out with, maybe the places you go?

Maybe, what you’re doing? Maybe what you are doing right now. You are with somebody that you know is not God’s best. How can God bring you the right person when you are with the wrong one? You are wasting time and wasting someone else’s life, as well.

If you would look at your life and say, “You know what? I am not following God’s standards,” either in marriage or outside of marriage, “God, forgive me. Transform me. Change me. Make me new.” If that’s your prayer, in marriage, preparing for marriage, or in relationships in general, would you lift up your hands right now? I mean, just lift them up high.

“*God, I ask that in Your holy presence, You would change the way we think. Forgive us,*

*God, for shooting so low, for copying what others do instead of pursuing Your heart and Your ways. God, we thank You that Your ways are higher than our ways, and we commit to follow You. Change the way we think.*

*God, for hurting marriages, we pray for supernatural healing. God, we pray for miracles even now at this moment. Break cold hearts in half. God, may there be repentance and humility, mutual submission and sacrifice. Bring the marriages back to the place of wholeness.*

*God, for those who are seeking the Two, may they seek the One with so much passion ... that you would bring the TWO in your very perfect timing.”*

He is love. He is a relational God who became one of us. Surrendering his own position and coming in the person of Jesus Christ. With no sin nature, God became one of us, lived without sin. Jesus said “if you want to find your life, you must first lose your life, you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.” Jesus didn't call us into a comfortable, cultural Christianity. He called us into a radical commitment to follow Him with everything in us.

It doesn't matter who you are, what you've been, what you've done, he will forgive it, she will fill you with his spirit, if you call on him. Call on the name of Jesus. He makes all things new.

Who is here that wants to do that? To say, "Jesus I come to you today. Forgive me. Save me. Change me. Make me new.” Raise your hands...