

LIVE A LOVER'S LIFE | 5-1-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

We live with the illusion that a relationship will fill our need for wholeness. When we are single, we struggle to be content. In marriage, the grass seems greener on the other side. In struggles, we fail to realize many of our marriage problems are single problems brought into marriage. So whether we are single or married, the goal is to be whole and live a lover's life. How do we grow in wholeness? What does it mean to live a lover's life?

Philippians 1:9-11, MSG

“So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish & that you will not only love much but love well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.”

BE AT PEACE

How do you flourish by loving much and loving well while you are single? Is this hard to do? Why/why not? Why does it seem like singleness is a problem to solve? If we don't learn to love appropriately in singleness, how can we do so in marriage? Whether single or married, what does it look like to be at peace with your situation?

PROTECT YOUR FUTURE

Your present will become your past which will be present in your future. What is an example of something you regret from a relationship in the past? How does that show up in your relationships now? How does acting on sentimental gush get us into trouble? What are examples of this in Hollywood movies you've seen? Do people tend to think clearly and be cautious with their feelings when they are in love? Why not? How do we have sincere and intelligent love?

BECOME ON PURPOSE

According to Philippians 1:11, how do we live a lover's life? The way we love flows out of our identity. Wholeness is more about who we are than who we find. How can intentionally growing your character help you become a better lover no matter what your relational status is?

CHALLENGE

Complete two of these three challenges this week:

- Make a list of the character attributes you have or want to have. Identify a way that you can sow into your character this week.
- Connect or reconnect with a couple of the friendships that matter most to you and ask how you can be a better friend.
- Wrestle through a conversation with God until you can trust Him with the status of life you are currently in.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, help me to be at peace with where I am in my love life. Help me to protect my future by living purposefully in the present. Help me to intentionally grow my character so I can live a lover's life.

Written by John Grandy, Dalton Campus Pastor