

City Church Network - Tuesday Fellowship

October 22 and 29, 2019

Being family: Understanding single and married roles in ministry

facilitated by Sarah Cearley (cell: 334-462-6334; email: sarahinca1213@gmail.com)

Bible passages examined:

- Genesis 2:18-25 (creation of woman)
- I Timothy 3:2-7 (Godly leaders must be above reproach)
- Romans 14 (avoiding making rules for others to follow; maintaining a clean conscience)

Thoughts and ideas shared:

- Biblical basis for relationships between men and women
 - Woman was created because it is not good for man to be alone.
 - The Biblical word for “helpmeet” is “ezer,” which is used in the Bible to point to help that is *outside* or *beyond* the one being helped.
 - Sarah’s definition for “ezer”: *ally*
- A form of intimacy between non-married men and women is both possible and helpful.
- How do marriage and singleness teach us about our relationship with Jesus?
 - Family love (acceptance and belonging)
 - Devotion to another; single people have the benefit of single-minded devotion to Christ
- Healthy roles for a married couple to a single woman:
 - Husband = brother (in Christ) to the single woman
 - Wife = best friend to the single woman
- It is dangerous to overemphasize cultural norms at the expense of Biblical norms for relating to one another.
- How should we navigate awkward situations? How should we create helpful rules? Talk openly with one another.
- It is especially important for married couples to establish clear and transparent norms, rules, and barriers for their own marriage for which they are on the same page and which are clear to those outside the marriage.
- Keep all of our relating to one another outside of marriage in the light and transparent.
- Be above reproach.
- Do not bind another person’s conscience with your own opinions.
- Promote and uphold the reputation of Jesus rather than my personal reputation.
- Aim for love, peace, discretion, prudence, boldness, and honor in relationships.

