

Who's Your #2?

Last week: Our neighbors are broken people who may hurt us, or oppress us

1 Peter 2:18

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

-Do we trust ourselves to the one who judges justly?

-When our hearts are undisciplined it is easy to let our love evaporate when His sun rises on the evil, especially the one doing evil to us

-Being people in need of mercy ourselves, how can we then refuse to extend it to our neighbor who is unjust toward us?

Last week is a natural segue into this week where we will look at a neighbor a little closer to home: our #2

Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

When you look at Christianity from the worlds perspective we're a bit strange.

God 1st

Others 2nd

Self Last

The world says: How can you love others until you love yourself first

BUT: value can only be established outside of oneself

Ex. Gold cannot make itself valuable but humans attribute value to it based on its scarcity

Ex. A Babe Ruth trading card cannot make itself valuable but its value depends on what someone is willing to pay for it

When you have a worldview that is absent of God the only place value can be established is by the opinions of others

Our cultures worldview:

Self 1st

Others 2nd

When people realize their value is established by the opinions of others they are either

Pleased with their value based on others kind opinions

Feel unimportant or possibly even worthless

Both lead to a desire to either hold on to, change or try to escape the opinions of others

Only when we recognize our value comes ONLY from God can we be free to love others beyond ourselves because the opinion of the people we love only has a fraction of an impact on our value.

God should be every persons #1 because he's the only one who can establish TRUE value absent of opinion

The question after that is: who's your #2?

Your Future #2

Who's the person in your life that

1. you impart the most value to?
2. imparts the most value in you?

3 Different Life stages / circumstances pertaining to our #2's

- Single & Aware (or maybe even Fishing?)
Paul would call it: 'Single and Burning with Passion'
1 Corinthians 7:6-9
- Married
- Single & Settled

Single & Aware

You have an image of what your future #2 looks like

Girls: the knight in shining armor who swoops in and sweeps you off your feet, long walks and talks...

Guys: she's probably drop dead gorgeous and all the other guys will be jealous of you for being with her...

Or maybe it looks something like this...

Genesis 29:1-10

Jacob quickly falls in love with Rachel

v11-20

Love your #2 whether you know who they are or not by...

loving your #1 first, ALWAYS!

guarding your heart

It's pretty easy to pursue your future #2

Kelly and I- on and off, visiting her family when we were "taking a break"

v20-30

Jacob served Laban an extra 7 years for Rachel after he was tricked

It's easy to think he had to wait 14 years for Rachel but he only had to wait 7 years and 7 days

He served out the second 7 years while married to both

He pursued Rachel even after they had been married

Your #2

Married:

Pursue your spouse. It doesn't matter how long you've been married.

We live in such an achievement based society.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

How many kids do you want to have?

Where do you want to live?

It's easy to have that perspective when transitioning from dating to married life.

Some of us can't identify when the pursuit stopped but we can recognize that we don't act like we did when we dated.

What does pursuit really look like?

1 word: giving freely

Surprise visits

Flowers

Staying longer than I should

Matthew 10:8 Jesus is sending out the disciples

... "you received without paying; give without pay."

What would it look like to give that way? To put God 1st, our #2 second, others 3rd and ourself last?

If our value is established by our #1 we can love our #2 because we do not expect in return

1 Peter 3:1-7 (don't forget the 'likewise')

Likewise, wives...

Respectful and pure conduct - respect

Likewise, husbands...

Understanding - love

Understanding: senior superlative

BUT. -Kelly going into labor with Judah

Men: build up your wife with non sexual affection

Women: encourage your husband with words of affirmation

Want your #2 to change? Take some advice from Gandhi

"Be the change you wish to see..."

Before Kelly and I started dating we were best friends and happened to be in the same youth group.

Your Way or My Way?

Your #2

Single & Settled:

You are some of the most valuable people to the church

You have loved and lost and have learned what it means to be a bride of Christ

So who's your #2?

Who is it that God has called you to impart value into?

-friend

-young single person in the church as a mentor

-family member

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Priorities

God 1st

Others 2nd

Self Last

Our Value is established in us through God

Otherwise we can quickly become our #1 or #2

Our spouse should always be our #2, before all others!