

Talking together about: dating, marriage, children... and the church

A. While waiting to begin...

1. Read through the scriptures listed below.
2. What picture do they give us of the Christian life and Christian relationships?

B. Scriptures

Matthew 22:37-39, "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."

Romans 12:10, "Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour."

Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

1 Peter 4:9, "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."

Hebrews 13:4, "Let marriage be held in honour among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."

Genesis 1:28, "... Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..."

1 Corinthians 7:28, "... Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles..."


Proverbs 11:14, "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."

C. Questions to discuss

The Lord wants Christian people live our lives *in relation to His church*. He calls us into fellowship with other church members; he gives us church elders and pastors; and together we sit under the preaching of God's Word, we receive the sacraments and we pray.

The Lord intends for the church to be at the heart of our lives; AND for the church to *strengthen every other part of our lives*. That includes every life-situation and relationship in which we find ourselves.

With that in mind...



** When you think about "church" consider: fellowship and friendships; the role of elders and pastors; preaching and other means of grace*

1. How has the church* has helped you (or indeed *not* helped you) to follow Jesus in each of the different life-stages through which you may have lived? *i.e.*

- (i) when unmarried
- (ii) dating & getting married
- (iii) growing a Christian marriage
- (iv) raising children in the faith.

2. How have you sought to help other church members whose life-situations are not like yours? Are there things that you would like to do differently going forwards?

3. What do you think should be the aim of the church (her pastors, and her members) in these things?

Starting next Sunday at 9.30am: 3 weeks on BAPTISM