

SINGLENESS AND DATING

Andrew Hancock Grad Group

March 27, 2011

I Just Haven't Met You Yet by Michael Buble

I'm not surprised
Not everything lasts
I've broken my heart so many times
I stopped keeping track.
Talk myself in,
I talk myself out.
I get all worked up
Then I let myself down.

I tried so very hard not to lose it
I came up with a million excuses
I thought I thought of every possibility

And I know someday that it'll all turn out
You'll make me work so we can work to work it out
And I promise you kid that I'll give so much more than I get
I just haven't met you yet

I might have to wait
I'll never give up
I guess it's half timing
And the other half's luck
Wherever you are
Whenever it's right
You'll come out of nowhere and into my life

And I know that we can be so amazing
And baby your love is gonna change me
And now I can see every possibility

And somehow I know that it'll all turn out
And you'll make me work so we can work to work it out
And I promise you kid I'll give so much more than I get
I just haven't met you yet

They say all's fair
In love and war
But I won't need to fight it
We'll get it by it

We'll be united

And I know that we can be so amazing
And being in your life is gonna change me
And now I can see every single possibility

Group Questions:

1. What did you find fun, funny, cheesy, interesting about the video?
2. What are the positives of the video, that is, what in its message is in line with the Bible?
3. What was not in line with the Bible?

So, how do we think rightly about singleness and dating? What does the Bible say about it? Well, nothing... yet everything!!

BACK TO THE BEGINNING

God made everything good—the first thing that was not good was that man was alone, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. So God created a helper.

Adam's response, “Whoh baby, bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh. Wow. Awesome. She is perfect. Thanks God.”

Marriage is God's regular intention for us so we should date with an eye toward marriage.

That men and women are different is not a curse or a product of sin. God made it this way.

To call woman a “Helper” is to emphasize not her weakness but her strength. It is a position of dignity given by God himself. *Ezer* (helper) is used of God, Ps 121 “My help comes from the Lord.”

The woman was made out of the rib of man: not out of his head to rule him, or out of his feet to be trampled on, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved.

Adam's lordship was to take the form of nurture and protection. Adam was called to servant-lordship.

Marriage—**commitment** “Leave Mother and Father and be united to wife” Gn 2:24; **intimacy** “be united”, **interdependence**—a team, unit (use gifts, serve the world, raise godly children).

PROBLEMS!!

Marriage/relationships were meant to be harmonious, but they are very difficult. Reason is Genesis 3, sin.

Sin is the rejection of God's authority, a denial of God's goodness and truth. The first effect of this is alienation: the man could no longer be in fellowship with God, nor could the man and the woman enjoy their previous fellowship with one another.

Sin twists the commitment of marriage into selfishness...

...the perfect intimacy into shame...

...the perfect teamwork into conflict.

God's curse for the woman, "Your desire will be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (Gn 3:16)

Desire—to control and possess. This curse on the woman is alive today—check out counter magazines. In dating and relationships—instead of waiting on God to provide their need for a companion, women are tempted to manipulate a man into a dating relationship and once they are dating, capture him for marriage. Instead of finding satisfaction in God, they seek happiness in man.

Rule—dominate, domineer, be toiling in his work (work the thorns). Men have lost the natural ability to easily exercise servant leadership. Instead, outward focus is not on the needs of the woman, but on work. Adam now ignores Eve under the crushing weight of his work. In dating this manifests itself as men desire to dominate the relationship, control, and start to focus more on their jobs/school/whatever else than on the needs of the woman.

IDOLS AND THE CROSS

When we get off the path, we look to other things to satisfy—Idolatry.

Men:

Idol of Success—making winning ultimate. This is why we are pansies and don't ask women out, because we have made not failing an idol. Fear of rejection.

Idol of Pleasure—this is why we sleep with women before marriage or manipulate them physically. This is why we practice sex with ourselves—we want the pleasure without the responsibility or relationship. We have made feeling good an idol.

Idol of Prestige—This is why we only want the somkin' hot women or the successful women and forget about looking at the beauty of a woman following after God. We worship looking good in the eyes of the world by who we are with.

Women:

Idol of beauty—being overly preoccupied with looks. "If I only looked like her, then I would get the perfect guy."

Idol of falling in love—being overly preoccupied with being in the perfect romance. "If I only had a romance like the one in _____ movie" or "if I only had the type of dating

relationship that she has with that guy.”

Idol of image—judging character, beauty, and self-image on the world’s standards and not on God’s standards. God sees you as his prized creation, perfect in his sight, beautiful inside and out because he made you, his child and precious daughter and will love you unconditionally.

Truth is that idols never satisfy, but always demand increasingly more, giving our lives burden after burden and nothing of lasting value.

But, because of the love of Christ, we do not have to live in this idolatry!

Colossians 3:12–17 (ESV)

“12 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Christ has saved us in his GRACE and enables us to love and forgive—God’s work is for us—his electing love and Christ’s atoning work—and God’s work is in us—his peace rules in our hearts.

Christian love involves our response to God’s grace: putting on godly virtues, forgiving one another, and offering each other the sacrificial love we have received from Jesus Christ.

READ Psalm 16

This is a very personal hymn of joy that focuses on the goodness of the Lord. The personal pronoun “my” is used over a dozen times (my trust, my goodness, my cup, etc.). David’s joy (vv. 9, 11) is expressed in words like “delight” (vv. 3, 6), “pleasant” and “pleasure” (vv. 6, 11), and “glad” (v. 9). David finds his delight only in the Lord and confesses that everything good in his life has come from God. This psalm may have been written shortly after the Lord gave His gracious covenant to David and assured him of an enduring throne (2 Sam. 7). That covenant was eventually fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of David (Luke 1:32–33). The style of David’s response to the covenant (2 Sam. 7:18–29) matches that of Psalm 16, a combination of joy, praise to God, humility, and submission to the divine will. This is also a Messianic psalm, used in Acts 2:25–28 and Acts 13:35 to explain that Christ’s resurrection was foretold in the Old Testament. As he praised God for His grace and goodness, **David presented three descriptions of the Lord and I have listed principles that apply to singleness and dating today:**

I. God is the Lord of Life (vv. 1–8)

“Preserve me” (“Keep me safe,” NIV) doesn’t suggest that David was in trouble or danger, as in Psalms 9 and 13. It simply means that he needed God’s constant care and oversight so that he might honor the Lord and enjoy all the good things that only God could give him. God alone is good (Matt. 19:17), and apart from Him, we have nothing good.

A good relationship (vv. 1–2). The Lord is our highest good and greatest treasure (73:25, 28), the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). To know Him through Jesus Christ is the highest privilege in life...God meets us with “the blessing of good things” (21:3, NASB), and His goodness follows us until we reach the Father’s house (23:6). When Jesus Christ is your Savior (refuge) and Lord, you experience God’s goodness even in the midst of trials. Our relationship to ourselves, our circumstances, other people, and the future depends on our relationship to the Lord...*Our Christian brothers and sisters—in dating, goodness in relationships comes from God!*

A good companionship (vv. 3–4). We don’t live the Christian life alone, because we’re part of a great spiritual family and need each other...The saints are those who trust God and obey His covenant, those who are set apart for the Lord. They take seriously God’s command, “Be holy, for I am holy” (Lev. 19:2; 20:7–8, 26; 21:8). Israel was a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6; Deut. 7:6) and a holy nation, just as the church is today (1 Peter 2:9). David called them “the majestic ones” (NASB), a word that carries the meaning of excellence, nobility, and glory. In spite of our faults and failures, believers are God’s elite, His nobility on earth. We must all love one another and use our God-given abilities and resources to minister to the family of God (Gal. 6:1–10). Like David, we must not compromise with those who disobey the Lord and worship idols (money, success, fame, relationships, etc.) but should seek to lead them to Jesus Christ, the source of all that is good and lasting. Multiplied gods only bring multiplied sorrows. David didn’t even want to speak the names of the false gods of those in Israel who forsook the covenant (Ex. 23:13; Josh. 23:7). *In singleness and dating, Let’s treat one another as excellent, holy, worthy of honor, one who bears God’s image—in relationships as singles and in dating and marriage!*

A good stewardship (vv. 5–6). After Israel conquered the Promised Land, each tribe except Levi was assigned a special inheritance (Josh. 13–21). Because they served in the sanctuary and ate of the holy sacrifices, the priests and Levites had the Lord as their special inheritance (Num. 18:20–32; Deut. 10:8–9; 14:27–29; Josh. 13:14, 23), and David saw himself in that privileged position. “The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and my cup” (v. 5, NASB). If Jesus is the Lord of our lives, then the possessions we have and the circumstances we are in and the relationships we have represent the inheritance He gives us. The measuring lines marked off the inheritance of the tribes, clans and families in Israel, and then each individual lot was marked with a “landmark” that was not to be moved (Deut. 19:14; 27:17; Prov. 15:25; 22:28; 23:10–11). David rejoiced that God had caused the lines of his inheritance to fall in pleasant places, and that he had a “delightful inheritance” (NIV). He wanted to be a good steward of all that the Lord had given him.

In singleness and dating, Let’s be good stewards of the relationships God has given us.

A good fellowship (vv. 7–8). David’s personal fellowship with the Lord was his greatest joy. This was when God instructed and counseled David and told him what to do and how to do it. “Night” is plural, suggesting “dark nights” or “night after night” learning from God. The

word “instruct” carries with it the idea of discipline and chastening, for David learned many lessons when God’s loving hand chastened him (Heb. 12:1–12). The Lord at his right hand suggests God as his advocate and defender. (See 73:23; 109:31; 110:5; 121:5; 1 John 2:2; Acts 2:33; 5:31.) With the Lord as his guide and guard, he had nothing to fear; he would not be moved (10:6; 15:5).

In singleness and dating, we do not need to fear rejection, or being alone, or making a bad decision, or whatever because God is our guide and guard...he is with us no matter what for our good. “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who live him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Rom 8:28).

2. God is the Conqueror of Death (vv. 9–10)

But in His death and resurrection, Jesus has conquered death, and through faith in Him we have a “living hope” (1 Peter 1:3ff). When David wrote “My body will rest secure” (v. 9, NASB), he was referring to Messiah and not to himself. Using these verses, Peter proved that Jesus had been raised from the dead, for it’s obvious that David was dead and his body had decayed in his tomb (Acts 2:22–31). But Jesus did not see corruption! When He arose from the dead on the third day, David could face death with a glad heart and soul, and could rest in the grave in hope, knowing that one day, he, too, would have a new glorified body. Paul used this same text to prove the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (Acts 13:26–39).

In singleness and dating, Jesus has the power to conquer our fears and to help us face our struggles. “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest.” (Mt 11:28).

3. God is the Joy of Eternity (v. 11)

But the focal point of heaven is not gates of pearl, streets of gold, or even angels and glorified saints (*husbands/wives/grandma*). The central glory and joy of heaven is Jesus Christ (Rev. 4–5). The path of life that He shows us on earth today will end in even greater life when we enter heaven. Then we shall be in His presence and experience fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore. A foolish caricature of heaven shows white-robed saints with halos and harps, resting on little white clouds; but the Bible gives no such description. In our glorified bodies, we shall be like Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:20–21; 1 John 3:1–3), and we shall worship and serve Him forever. The pleasures of heaven will be far beyond any pleasures we have known here on earth, and as we enjoy the Lord and serve Him, we will not be restricted or encumbered by time, physical weakness, or the consequences of sin.

In singleness and dating, remember that dating and marriage are temporary—being in the presence of God and enjoying him will last forever. But until then, let’s find our satisfaction in him—look to make our lives make much of HIM. Be wrapped up in his word and work.

LET'S GET PRACTICAL

Advice from the women in this group to the women and to the men.

To women:

- Love God with all your heart and be satisfied in Him first. (Deuteronomy 6:5, Luke 10:27, Isaiah 55:2) Can you really love another person as God intends without giving your all to Him first?
- Seek and follow God first, not a relationship. (Matthew 6:33, Psalm 37:4)
- Trust God's plan and timing (Jeremiah 29:11-13). It probably won't look like what you expect, but will be better!!
- God is good whether you are single or in a relationship. (Matthew 7:11, Psalm 31:19) This is hard to keep believing sometimes...many of us have a desire for a husband, but God really isn't trying to deprive us of something good.
- Be confident in the woman God has made you; don't try to be someone else. (Psalm 71:5, Psalm 139:13, 14)

To men:

- We know it's hard for you to ask, but it's also hard for us to wait.
- We want to be pursued. Is too much pressure put on dating? If you want to get to know us better, you can ask us to coffee without fearing that we think it's a lifelong commitment.
- We want to be told we are valued and loved. We really appreciate if you take interest sometimes in what goes on in our lives and how we are doing.
- We don't expect the words to be perfect if you ask us out, just appreciate honesty and clarity. We will respond! Don't follow the world and be easy going. Step up, be forthright. It is greatly appreciated.
- We wonder what you are looking for? Are you really looking for a woman who loves and serves God? Don't be intimidated by that—it is a gift.

Relationships/Dating

- It is good for men and women to try to consider the other person's perspective and communicate. It is easy to get wrapped up in our own ideas and assumptions and act on those.
- Women are called to respect and submit to the leadership of men, but it is easier to submit if our thoughts and opinions are actually considered. (1 Peter 3:1-7 talks about marriage, but some principles of respect and consideration can be applied outside of that too.)
- It is easy for us to let a man lead us when there is something substantial to follow (getting at character, stepping up).

Response time: What hit you? Are you running after an idol? How can you find your satisfaction in God?

Music Response:

Blessed Be Your Name

In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name
Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name
Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord

Your grace is enough

Heaven reaches out to us
Your grace is enough for me
God i see your grace is enough
I'm covered in your love
Your grace is enough for me
For me

You Satisfy

You are the one that can satisfy my hunger
You are the one that can satisfy my thirst
Living in you is the way that I discover
You satisfy, you satisfy

Sources for this talk: *Be Worshipful* by Warren Wiersbe and *Holding Hands, Holding Hearts* by Richard and Sharon Phillips. Some content directly quoted.