

“Where’s Prince Charming?”

(Part 2)

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Chapel Pointe
January 23, 2011

I. Introduction

A. Every girl’s search for Prince Charming

1. Little girls dreaming of becoming a princess
2. Carolyn and the “Diana” exhibit
 - a. She’s not here this morning...Whitneyville Bible
 - b. I was the only guy there
3. Each woman has an image of her Prince Charming
4. Dreams of that special day
5. *“Some day my prince will come...”*

B. How do all the fairy tales end?

1. They get married
 - a. *“And they lived happily ever after”*
2. Or do they?
3. The coming fairy tale wedding of Prince William and Kate
4. I remember the fairy tale wedding of Prince Charles and Diana in 1981
 - a. What happened to Prince Charming?
 - b. They certainly didn’t live happily ever after
 - c. Diana kissed a prince...and he turned into a frog

C. The wedding day

1. Prior to wedding
 - a. Saw all of his strengths
2. After the wedding
 - a. Begins to notice all of his weaknesses
3. The things that attracted you to him
 - a. Now begin to annoy you
4. What ever happened to Prince Charming?

D. Dr. Julianna Slattery's book,

1. *"Finding the hero in your husband"*
2. Understanding a crucial difference
 - a. Little girls want to grow up to be a princess
 - b. Little boys want to grow up to be a hero
 1. GI Joe
 2. Aaron Rogers, Jay Cutler, Mark Sanchez or Big Ben Roethlisberger
3. Little boys don't really grow up....we just get bigger
4. Your husband wants to be your hero

E. Today, understanding your Prince Charming

II. Text

A. God's design for marriage in Ephesians 5

1. The closing verse.....Ephesians 5:33

(33) However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband

2. The book, “Love and Respect”
3. Why didn’t God tell wives to love their husbands?
 - a. Women by nature will love their husbands
 - b. Don’t need to be told to
4. But....God has to order men to love their wives
 - a. And elsewhere he had to define for men what love is
 - b. The wife’s haunting concern
 1. “Does he love me as much as I love him?”
 - c. When we miss things
 1. Carolyn’s birthday
5. We see things differently
 - a. Pink glasses vs. blue glasses
 - b. “I have nothing to wear” means she has nothing new
 1. “I have nothing to wear” means he has nothing clean
6. Today....Understanding your man
7. Next week....Understanding your woman.... “The List”
8. Then.... “The Dreaded Affair”
9. Last week.... “The Hierarchy of Marriage” I Peter 3:1-2

(1) Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe (obey) the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, (2) when they see the purity and reverence (respect) of your lives.

10. Also brings up “respect” in verse 2

B. The importance of respect

1. Song by Aretha Franklin in the late 1960’s

- a. **R-E-S-P-E-C-T**
 - b. A woman wanted a little “respect” when she got home
 - c. A theme song for the women’s liberation movement
2. But...written and first sung by Otis Redding on August 15, 1965
- a. A cry from a man’s deepest soul saying that respect is what he needed and he’s “got to have it.”
3. She wants to be treated like a princess...He wants to be respected like a hero

III. Things you should know about your Prince Charming

1. Above all else...he wants your respect

- a. Respect does something to the soul of a man. God made him that way
- b. Why men join the military
 - 1. The military respects honor and loyalty
 - 2. Not only do men want to serve, but they are also willing to die in combat to save their comrades. There is something in many men, placed there by God to fight and die for honor, to fight and die for women, children, and their buddies.
- c. When a man doesn’t get respect?
 - 1. Men don’t know how to deal with the fact that they aren’t respected, and they can’t put a voice to their feelings. The husbands think, “Well, if that’s the way she feels, there’s nothing I can do. If I have to earn her respect and I’m that bad as a person, then I guess I’ll just forget it.”

2. You won’t be able to turn him into one of the girls

- a. Women who try to change their men
- b. After the first year of marriage

He’ll know his wife loves him but may feel she neither likes him nor admires him for who he is as a human being. If the pattern is like most, she may spend her

energy seeking to help change him by her loving criticism and complaints, which eventually feel like contempt to him.

- c. Your husband will never respond like your girlfriends

3. *Private and public appreciation will encourage him to excellence*

- a. Brag about him to your friends
- b. Greeting cards
 - 1. All mushy
 - 2. The one he'll keep?
- c. The one that tells him how much you respect him for what he does for the family

4. *He wants to be your protector*

I Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel”

- a. The sinking of the Titanic
 - 1. Filling the lifeboats
 - 2. *“Women and children first”*
 - 3. Honor, duty, loyalty respect
- b. The military
- c. Jim Hutes told of his experiences during the Vietnam War.
 - 1. He said that the Vietcong would wound an American soldier, knowing his buddies would seek to rescue him. Vietcong snipers would then seek to kill those who came out to try to drag the wounded soldier back to safety. He would often hear the heart cry of a GI: “I have to go. I have to help Joe. I can’t leave him there. I’ve got to go. He’s my friend.”
- d. Funeral for a cop in Livonia
 - 1. One husband wrote: “Only men who serve in such a capacity (military, firefighter, police officers) can understand the bonds that are formed and the loyalty you feel for one another.”

- e. Men are hardwired by God to die to protect their women and children
 - 1. A sign of his love
 - 2. He may not be able to communicate how he loves her, but it's a sad day when a man knows that he'd die for his wife because he loves her, yet he hears her continually complain that "you don't love me."

5. *His self image is closely tied to his work*

- a. Men take pride in their work
 - 1. Adam in the Garden of Eden
 - 2. Work is a source of respect
 - 3. When a man is out of work....the pain of this recession
- b. Work is a source of enjoyment
 - 1. Why Adam enjoyed working
 - 2. Sin brought sweat and thorns
 - 3. But men go crazy without work
- c. Men identify themselves by their work
 - 1. "What do you do?"
 - 2. When men retire...
 - a. "What did you used to be?"

6. *He needs your encouragement in the pursuit of his dreams*

- a. I know that Carolyn believes in me
 - 1. My dreams for this church
 - 2. Doesn't rub it in when I fail
- b. Your husband needs a cheerleader
- c. Keep asking him about his dreams

1. He may be shy about his dream
 2. But he has one
- d. The importance of having one person who believes in you

7. He wrestles constantly with sexual temptation

a. His sexuality is much different from yours

1. The Song of Solomon
2. Proverbs 5:18-19

(18) May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. (19) A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

b Sex is the single greatest temptation with which most men wrestle

1. Jesus understood that men are visually stimulated (Matthew 5:28)

“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

2. The constant assault on his mind
3. It doesn't take much
4. Women have no idea what goes through their man's brain

c. Men are much more visually tempted

1. When you get out of the shower...when he gets out
2. In two weeks...the greatest affair in history
3. Every man understands the connotation of *“David saw a woman bathing.”* (II Samuel 11:2)
4. “Minute to Win It”

d. Sex should never be used as a bargaining tool

1. I Corinithian 7:3-5

(3) The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. (4) The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. (5) Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

2. Temptation and the danger of deprivation

a. Just as the devil will do everything he can to bring two people together sexually before marriage, he does everything he can to keep them away from each other after marriage

3. Dr. James Dobson... "What every woman wished her husband knew about women"

a. He graphically addressed man's physical need for sex

b. He needs sexual release just as much as you need intimacy

c. The heightened temptation

4. The cold hard truth

"the cold, hard truth is that men are often lured into affairs because they are sexually deprived at home. A man who strays is usually given total blame for his affair, but in many cases he is the victim of temptation that his wife helped bring upon him.

e. Men are vulnerable to fawning women

1. When she starts giving him attention

2. What a man wants to hear

a. "I'm proud of you"

3. What a woman wants to hear

a. "You're the center of my universe"

b. She can't resist a man's undivided attention

f. Men can be aroused simply by looking at someone they don't even know

1. Difficult for women to understand

a. She can't understand that he could be aroused simply by looking at someone he barely knows.

2. This does not mean he loves you any less

3. But it may be difficult for the wife to discuss

a. She may grow uncomfortable, or even hurt and angry. She may instruct him to be silent and to change.

4. If your husband is typical, he has a powerful need that you don't have. Be careful not to shame him, punish him, or deprive him lest he feels dishonored for who he is. If your husband feels you do not respect his struggle, his desire for you, and his maleness, he'll pull back from you.

5. If she is uncomfortable with discussing, she should encourage him to seek out a male accountability partner

g. Let's get off "sex" now

8. He's slow to pick up hints or subtle suggestions

a. Carolyn

b. "Just tell me"

c. It's not because we don't care

d. We don't pick up on subtle hints

e. Please be patient with him

9. He's called to follow the example of Christ

(Ephesians 5:25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

1. The sacrificial love of Jesus

a. Loved the church enough to die for her

b. Jesus loved the church when we were unlovely

Romans 5:8—But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. A husband's sacrificial love

- a. "As Christ sacrificed / loved the church".....v.25
- b. So shall you love your wife
 - 1. Willing to die for her
 - 2. Choose to love her regardless
- c. The marriage vow
 - 1. An oath before God!

3. His responsibility is to present his wife holy and blameless

Ephesians 5

(25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (26) to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, (27) and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

- a. Jesus and his bride...the church
 - 1. She'll look spectacular
 - a. Clean
 - b. Radiant
 - c. Without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish
 - d. But holy and blameless
 - 2. What that cost Christ
- b. Men and their wives
 - 1. Showing off a "holy wife"
 - a. Helping her to flourish
 - 2. Watching Carolyn grow

3. Keep her holy and radiant
4. To live happily ever after