



## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

October 6, 2024

Pastor Michael Dees

### Sermon Discussion Guide

Series: Following Jesus into Relationships

Sermon: Maintain healthy relationships with members of the opposite sex by committing to:

#### Recap the Highlights:

1. **Honor** the **Image** of God in them. - Matthew 22:20-21
  - a. Image speaks to **Essence** - who I am is not reducible to a set of physical or emotional attributes but is anchored to the very nature of God resulting in immutable and inherent value.
  - b. Image speaks to **Ownership** - I belong to God, first and foremost, and was created for His glory and pleasure not my own.
  - c. Image speaks to **Utility** - My purpose is found in the One whose image I was created in, not in the image I or others attempt to create for me.

**To take the image of God in someone else, distort it, and use it for my own pleasure and purpose is IDOLATRY.**

2. **Fulfill** your responsibility to them as **Family** first - Ephesians 2:19-21
  - a. Guard the **Heart** of your family - Proverbs 4:23
  - b. Guard the **Body** of your family - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

#### 4 Areas to consider in my relationships with the opposite sex:

- **Time** - How much time am I spending with them?
- **Talk** - What is my communication like with them?
- **Touch** - Is our physical relationship appropriate?
- **Thought** - Is my thought life concerning them holy?

#### Now Dig Deeper:

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this message?
2. Talk about what it means for God to have ownership over all of us and how we should honor that in itself.
3. Can you think of a relationship from your past where you may not have thought like this? (We all probably have one.) Where my relationship with another person was all about me and not as considerate of them as it could have been? What did you learn from that?
4. What are a few ways that you can better align yourself with this sermon?
5. Talk about times when it is hard to accommodate this teaching and ways that we can all do better to show respect and honor to others and our families as a whole.
6. Would anyone like to share a boundary that they have in place with their marriage?

#### Respond & Pray:

- Pray individually or as a group and ask the Holy Spirit to truly reveal ways for you to grow to be more like Christ as it pertains to how you interact with those of the opposite sex.