



Sermon Spotlight

Who Am I?

We are more than the sum of our parts. But we can still identify, strengthen, and encourage the parts. Who Am I? is a series of messages rooted in the wisdom of Proverbs and inspired by people of the Old Testament.

These messages which begin on Feb. 19th will examine the good and bad, wise and foolish, righteous and unrighteous qualities and character traits that we find in our lives. We'll discover who we are and who we are meant to be.

Messages

2.19 – I Am Wisdom

2.26 – I Am Courageous

“I’d rather have one God idea than a thousand good ideas.

Let me say it again: get in the presence of God. Those new ideas are discovered in the context of prayer and fasting and nowhere else. Good ideas are good, but God ideas change the course of history.” – Mark Batterson

I Don't Love My Wife...

...the way Christ loves the church.

Don't you just hate those controversial titles that sound absolutely shocking and horrible and then you go to see what it's all about and it's nothing? I sure do, but I usually pay attention anyway. Why? The same reason writers write them. It's a good hook, an easy way to draw in a reader. We want to know what's behind the statement and in the end we are often disappointed because there was nothing to it (which is probably why the shock value is added in the first place). But the thing about my statement above is that it should be shocking even with the rest of the statement. We like to show ourselves grace by saying that we aren't perfect and God doesn't *really* expect us to actually be able to do these things He commands in Scripture. We're wrong when we do that. God gives us grace and helps us to show grace to others, but He also expects us to grow, to mature, and to transform into the likeness of His son.

And for husbands, that means sacrificing of ourselves so that we can provide for, take care of, and even better our wives. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself." Ephesians 5:25-28

Our leadership at home can have a tremendous impact on the well being of our spouses. Unfortunately, far too often I expect my wife to be available for my needs and wishes. I expect her to give up of her own desires and to sacrifice of herself so that I can have more time for fun, better food, freedom for work and for projects, and rest. This dynamic has a negative impact on her spiritual development. Although every person is responsible for their own faith, husbands are responsible to provide for the spiritual development of their wives. This means that you consider her needs, her growth, her holiness, her transformation into the likeness of Christ and you make adjustments to your schedule and your priorities. Not because Valentine's Day is coming, but because Christ set the example and we are called to follow.

I need to also say this: Despite my shortcomings, when my wife loves, supports, encourages, and even follows my leading during these times, I am a better father, husband, and friend because of her.

Read more thoughts at www.nscrrichmond.org/blog

Notice: the church's e-mail addresses have changed from ".com" to ".org"

Food Pantry @ 6:30PM, Thursday 2.16 ❖ Spaghetti supper @ 5PM & Movie @ 6 PM, Sunday 2.26

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