

## Life As It Was Meant To Be

### The person we were meant to be:

- ▶ God intimately created us in his image.
- ▶ Humanity is the pinnacle of God's creation.
- ▶ All human life is sacred, and must be treated with dignity.

### The life we were meant to live:

- ▶ We were created to work with God.
- ▶ We were given stewardship over all creation.

### The marriage we were meant to have:

- ▶ God was/is the creator and sustainer of sex and marriage.
- ▶ Marriage was the completion of a side by side partnership.
- ▶ Marriage was the vehicle for unashamed intimacy.

### How to get it back:

John 10:10, 1 John 1:9, Romans 6:23, Romans 7 & 8

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 7, 2012

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *Life As It Was Meant To Be*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Chris shared this weekend how all humans are created in the image of God, which means all human life is sacred and must be treated with dignity. How could it affect our attitude toward ourselves or toward others if we forget or ignore this truth?

2. Is there a couple you know whose marriage is a good example of the kind of marriage God originally meant for us to have? What characteristics of their marriage do you admire?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Being created in God's image means there is intrinsic value and worth for all humans. In Psalm 8, David wrestles with the implication of this in his own life. What does he conclude about God and our value and worth in this Psalm?

### Psalm 8:1-9

*For the director of music. According to gittith. A psalm of David.*

*O Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
above the heavens.  
[2] From the lips of children and infants  
you have ordained praise  
because of your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.*

*[3] When I consider your heavens,*

*the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
[4] what is man that you are mindful of him,  
the son of man that you care for him?  
[5] You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings  
and crowned him with glory and honor.  
  
[6] You made him ruler over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under his feet:  
[7] all flocks and herds,  
and the beasts of the field,  
[8] the birds of the air,  
and the fish of the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.  
  
[9] O Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth! [NIV]*

How do the following passages help your understanding of your value and worth?

### **Ephesians 2:10**

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. [NIV]

### **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. [19] Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20] you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. [NIV]

### **Luke 12:6-7**

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. [7] Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. [NIV]

Based on what you heard in the sermon and your answers to this question, what would you share with someone who was struggling with low self-esteem or self-worth?

2. This weekend Chris described life as God originally intended it to be. One man who spent a lot of time trying to figure out what life was meant to be was King Solomon. What can you learn about life's meaning and purpose from Solomon's exploits in Ecclesiastes 2:1-11?

### **Ecclesiastes 2:1-11**

I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. [2] "Laughter," I said, "is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?" [3] I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly--my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.

[4] I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. [5] I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. [6] I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. [7] I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. [8] I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well--the delights of the heart of man. [9] I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

[10] I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;  
I refused my heart no pleasure.

My heart took delight in all my work,  
and this was the reward for all my labor.

[11] Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done  
and what I had toiled to achieve,  
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;  
nothing was gained under the sun. [NIV]

How could the points Chris shared this weekend help explain why Solomon couldn't find what he was looking for in all his efforts?

3. This next question is designed to be discussed by same gender groups. If your group is coed, please divide your group into men and women before discussing the appropriate question below. For those who are not married, discussing these questions could be helpful in your preparation for a possible future marriage or providing you with understanding and insights for aiding family or friends who are married.

Chris talked about God's original design for marriage and how challenging it is to live that out. One thing that can help us live according to God's original design is an understanding of what our part is in marriage.

**For Men:** In Ephesians 5:25-30 we see Jesus used as the example for men to follow in loving their wives. What can you learn about a husband's love for his wife from Christ's love for the church in this passage?

### **Ephesians 5:25-30**

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. [28] In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. [29] After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- [30] for we are members of his body. [NIV]

**For Women:** What would it look like for someone to put into action the guidelines listed in Titus 2:3-5?

### **Titus 2:3-5**

Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. [4] Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, [5] to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. [NIV]

## **TAKING IT HOME**

As you think about the value and worth of every person, are there any attitudes you have toward someone or some group of people that you sense need to change?

Prayer Requests:

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