

Purity – Week 2 “Jesus: hero of my love story”

- 1) Review: Last week we learned that we are a TREASURE! We have value far deeper than what the mirror reflects.
 - We learned that pure means free from anything that weakens or pollutes – untainted.
 - God wants to be our first love. He wants to complete us. He wants to be in the center of all of our other loves (power of 3).
 - We learned to see ourselves as Jesus sees us, so that we don't have to seek love and acceptance in anyone else.
 - Last week's words to remember: “Don't settle for ordinary because you are extraordinary.”
- 2) Address question 2c and 8a. (self-esteem and changing physical appearance for a guy)
- 3) Homework: Take a few minutes to list the character/hero from your favorite love story and tell me why you chose him. What makes him so desirable? How did he show that he loved his “beloved”?
 - Wasn't it fun talking about those traits? Talking about that guy? There's something about true love that makes us feel good.
 - We want to watch it in movies, read it in books, hear about it from others. Mostly, we want to **BE** the love story.
- 4) What is it about these guys we listed that make us want to be in their stories? Why do we long to find what they've found...have what they have? Why do we want to have meaningful relationships and intimacy? (Emma story)
 - Before we were created, God existed in perfect relationship with Himself (Trinity). *John 17:10 “All I have is yours and all you have is mine.” Gen 1:1-2, John 1:1-2.*
 - Love only exists now because it first existed in them. **1 John 4:16....** “God is love”. **Vs. 19** says “We love because He first loved us.”
 - God said in **Gen. 1:26**, “Let us create them in OUR image, in OUR likeness.” **We are relational at the core because we are made to be**

just like Him. He **IS** relationship defined. (question 8d. Why do we feel like we need to be wanted?)

- When you have longings to be involved in love and/or romance, **embrace them!** You're perfectly normal. It's how you were made. If wanting to be in a meaningful relationship is normal for God, it's normal for you. It's in your nature.

5) How I got here: Read Twilight and couldn't "shake it"Looked at my own circumstances and they didn't measure up.....Started telling myself, "it isn't real. The fairy tales, the guy on the white horse coming to save the day, it doesn't exist."

- Started asking God "Why can't I stop thinking about this story? Why is it consuming me? God's answer to me was very plain...."You can't stop thinking about it because it's OUR story." I love you the way Edward loves Bella.
- God was all of these wonderful things before Edward or Prince Charming was ever thought of. He invented romance. We didn't make it up. It has a source.....God.
- It was His idea and He is the **BEST** at giving it.

6) We're talking about this specific kind of love (romantic love) because this is the time in your life when it is awakened in you.

- For the first time, you desire it. You start to seek it. You don't just want to read about it, you want to be in your own love story.
- It's part of the reason why you spend so much time on your hair, makeup and clothes. (Tell story of it being the reason I went to church as a teenager)
- Here's the bottom line about love stories (real or made up)....they are ALL just reflections of the bigger love story that is playing out. They mirror it.
- God is the first and best hero. He's the **original** and, unlike all the rest, **He's real.**
- He has NO weak spots. All earthy heroes/lovers let us down at some point. They all disappoint. He won't. **1 Corinthians 13:7-8** "It (love)

always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

- That sounds a lot like the description list of our heroes earlier.
- 7) Let’s look at some examples from Scripture of how the heroes of our love stories are patterned after the original.
- **Sees her as a treasure/something beautiful** – God says of Israel in **Zech 2:8** *“...whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye.”* **Isaiah 62:5** *“..as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”* **Psalms 45:11** *“The king is enthralled with your beauty; honor him, for he is your Lord.”*
 - **Protects her. Stands in harm’s way for her** – **Psalms 61:8** *“you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.”* **Psalms 121: 5-8** *“ The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night. The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”*
 - **Stays with her all night and sings her a lullaby** – **Psalms 121:3** *“...He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.”* **Psalms 4:8** *“I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”* **Zeph. 3:17** *“He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”*
 - **When she does something dumb, he can’t stay mad at her** - **Hosea 14:5** *“I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.”*
 - **He is faithful to her** – **1 Cor. 1:9** *“God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.”*
 - **Wants her to experience all that life has to offer** – **John 10:10** *“...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*
 - **Would rather die than be without her** – Jesus died on the cross so He wouldn’t have to be separated from you for eternity.
 - **Loves her forever** – **Jeremiah 31:3** *“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”*

- 8) God gave you the desire to have someone in your life that will treat you all the ways we just talked about. He gave you every desire, including the desire for intimacy, fully intending to be the one to satisfy them for you.
- **You were made for Him and for His pleasure.** He made you because He wanted to. (remember He was already in a perfect relationship before we were created)
 - It gives Him great pleasure to lavish all His love on you.
 - It gives Him even greater pleasure, complete pleasure, for you to receive it and delight in it. **Psalm 37:4** *“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.”*
 - God’s love is for everyone. Dating, single, married, widowed, divorced. You don’t have to miss out on anything!
- 9) ALL of His love is available to you and me. All levels of it:
- Potter/Clay
 - Shepherd/Sheep
 - Master/Servant
 - Father/Child
 - Friend
 - Lover – This is the most intimate kind of love given. It is closest to His heart. What He wants most from us is our hearts – **Isaiah 29:13** *“The Lord says: ‘These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.’”*
 - Would God say, “I will love you with all of my love.....but if it’s romantic love that you desire, I’m sorry. I just can’t give that to you. You’ll have to satisfy that with someone else.”? NO WAY
 - His name is the Great I AM. He couldn’t call Himself that if He couldn’t be everything you need Him to be.
 - **Psalm 34:10** says *“The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.”* Romance and intimacy are very good things!
- 10) You don’t go from strangers to lovers in a day. How do you get there?
- Spend time together. Talk.

- Wed. night quiet time is a great way to get to know Him.
- Begin to notice similarities between other stories and your own with Him. Praise Him. Adore Him for it. Delight in it.

11) Knowing all of God's "flavors" of love improves every relationship we're in. He fills the holes other people leave in us. **Exodus 15:26** *"I am the Lord who heals you."*

- Where they fall short, He picks up the slack.

12) What does any of this have to do with sexual purity? **EVERYTHING!!**

- Why did we tell you to love Jesus before you ever love a boy and receive love from Him before you ever receive love from a boy?
- That relationship sets the standard for all others. (It can protect you from abuse because you will recognize that Jesus doesn't treat you the way your abuser does)
- If you're satisfied with what He offers, you're not going to be compelled to find satisfaction from a guy.
- You decrease the chance you will weaken or pollute the love you're saving for your husband.
- It improves your other relationships because you don't put too much pressure on people. (address question 1a – why do I get so annoyed with guys I try to have a relationship with?) We put too much pressure on people to be everything we need them to be. Only one can handle that kind of pressure....Jesus.

13) "The rush of new love is fantastic, but love realized is even better."

Stephanie Meyer

- I always thought the phrase "Dreams really do come true" was lame. That's what all the fairy tales tell us. But in reality, not all dreams come true.
- If your dream is to turn a handsome, wealthy, smart guy's head. To be pursued by him. To feel sought after. To be treasured and cherished. To know him and have him know you. To be in love.....that dream DOES come true. It IS true right now.
- **Hosea 2:16,19-20** *"In that day, declares the Lord, you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master'.....I will betroth you to*

me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion; I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord.” **Isaiah 54:5** *“For your Maker is your husband – the Lord Almighty is his name.”*

- Realize it. Delight in it and he'll give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

- He won't force you to love him. It has to be your choice or He doesn't want it. He just invites you to love Him. **Hosea 2:13-15** *“Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards....she will sing as in the days of her youth.”*
- Who could turn down that offer? Sweet words, presents, a reason to sing again?

14) **1 John 4:18** *“Perfect love casts out all fear”*

- You don't have to be afraid that his love for me is going to take away from his love for you.
- You don't have to be afraid he'll leave, find you suddenly unattractive, etc.

15) **Rev. 19:11-16** *“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True.....His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns.....The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean...On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”– the guy on the white horse DOES exist!!!! And He's absolutely in love with you.*

16) Pray **Eph. 3:16-18** *“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses all knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”*

17) Brief description of week 3.