

Finding a Mate  
Nehemiah 10:30

By Dave Urbanski

We took time out this past Sunday to focus on just ONE verse — Nehemiah 10:30.

The people of Jerusalem continued their process of "getting it together" with the Lord and declared, "We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons."

Pastor Scott also brought in a verse from the New Testament, Hebrews 13:4: "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."

Next to beginning an eternal relationship with God here on earth, **Finding a Mate** is the most important decision a Christian can ever make — and Pastor Scott led us through the Lord's plan for making that happen.

First off, we all know marriage and sexuality have been abused and degraded in our world for a long time. Turn on the TV or hop on the Internet, and divorce is like a contagious disease. Premarital and extramarital sex are the norm, not the exception. Not too surprising, is it? After all, our cultural movers and shakers have declared sex nothing more than a biological function to be exploited and used for individual gratification. "Waiting until marriage?" Are you kidding? That's not cool. That's not fun. Get what you can get for yourself while you still have a heartbeat, our world tells us — otherwise you'll be left behind in the dustbin of history.

God's way, as we also know, requires the polar opposite, not only in attitude but also in behavior.

Pastor Scott made it clear: In these evil days we must be COUNTER cultural. That means esteeming and supporting marriage between one man and one woman. That means enjoying the spirituality and mystery and divine specialness of sex within marriage rather than outside of it.

But how do we stand up for counter-cultural, biblical values regarding marriage and sex when so many stand against it?

First of all we must ask for God's guidance and strength, implore him to grant us wisdom and opportunities to take those stands and shine some light for the benefit of those around who actually may be ready to hear the Lord's truth. Second, we must rely on each other — and stand side by side with other believers on the same journey as us. We must support the marriages of other Christians; we must encourage not-yet-married believers to stand firm and battle through temptation. Thirdly we must be compassionate and yet speak truth to everyone.

Many will argue their tendency to trash marriages and engage in sex outside of marriage is "just how I'm wired ... it's just who I am." Pastor Scott said such an argument is actually SPOT ON. Our tendencies to go against God's plan for our lives is nothing less than our universal sin nature pushing its way to the surface. But Pastor Scott also emphasized that the Bible has answers for every argument supporting sinful lifestyles.

So, if you're in the process of finding a mate, determine right now that you'll remain on the Lord's side rather than the world's side. Pray for your future mate RIGHT NOW, as he or she may be trying to find YOU at this very moment. Set your standards in stone beforehand — and place shared spiritual oneness with your mate as the most important factor between you as opposed to mutual attraction and compatibility, which can shift in short order over time. And realize right now that marriage is a lifetime commitment, a lot of work — but the very best engine to fuel your spiritual growth as you join hands with another imperfect human being in the journey of lifelong sanctification.