



The Right Person Myth

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What we do is we take a topic and we talk about it for three, four or five weeks, and so this is the beginning of a discussion on *The New Rules of Love, Sex and Dating*, and I say that because this is an introduction. So, at the end of tonight if you go, *Yeah, but what about, what about, what about*, just remember this is the introduction. In fact, it reminds me of my talk with my boys. I have three kids; my two oldest are boys, eighteen and seventeen right now. I remember when we were kind of gearing up for the talk—remember when your dad had like “the talk?” Or maybe if you are a dad, you had the talk. My dad is awesome, but the talk was kind of lame. That’s okay, because it’s always lame.

So I thought, *I’m not going to be that dad*. You know, the nervous, *Oh son, I need to tell you about . . .* And he’s looking at me like, *I already know*. Because we already knew by that time, because dads put it off for so long. You know—*Son, since you’re going to go get your driver’s license, there’s something we need to talk about*—kind of thing. So, with each of my boys, literally, I sat them down when the time came, and I went too early, I’ll just tell you up front. We started too early. I said, *You know, usually dads have a talk. We’re not going to have a talk; today we begin a discussion, and we’re going to talk about it for years. We’re just going to talk and talk and talk and talk about this subject. Because every two or three years, this changes with you, as you get older.*

So anyway, tonight is the beginning, not of a sermon; tonight is the beginning of a discussion. And I want to tell you why I chose to do this series—because somebody said, *You know, Andy, maybe not at Buckhead, but at all of our other churches, 60 percent of the people are married. Why are you going to spend four weeks talking just to single people?* Here’s the reason. The reason is this: because I want you to have great relationships—those of you who are single. And you get to get it right the first time, and that’s a really big deal to me. For some of you, you’ve decided marriage is never, because you’ve never seen a good one, and I’m hoping in the next few weeks to make you want to get married. And for some of you who decided you’re going to wait until you’re forty, I want you to maybe back up and maybe get married earlier, maybe thirty.

And I want to cast a vision for something that our society does a lousy job of, honestly. For some of you who have just been in one bad relationship after another after another and you’ve decided there are only bad relationships, they all go the same place and all end up the same way, I want to help you understand that’s not really the case. And I want to give you hope that this can work and you don’t have to buy into what culture tells us about relationships. I’m not against culture, and we’ll talk about that a little bit later, but unfortunately as I listen to people and talk to people, I just walk away going, *Whoa*. In fact, in my job as a pastor I’m sort of like a walking conscience. You know, people walk up to me and confess things. I’m like, *Why are you telling this? Oh pastor, I’m so sorry*. I’m like, *Well, I didn’t know until now, okay?*