**FOUR BASIC NEEDS OF EVERY PERSON AND SPOUSE – Session 3b**

(The Need for Identity) – Part 2

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To those women who are married I want to ask, **do you remember the time and place your husband proposed to you?**

In our country some of us men have a hard time proposing to our future bride. Why? What if she says no? Marriages are not usually arranged by parents, and a woman is not forced to marry a husband. So, there is a risk involved in proposing marriage.

Ladies, have you considered what it would be like if you were the one who had to do the proposing?

In our study of Ruth, we’ve been watching a beautiful love story unfold. She was a widow led by God to the fields of Boaz. He graciously accepted her and gave her all she was in material need of.

Since Boaz was an unmarried near relative of Ruth’s former husband, he could act as a Kinsman Redeemer for Ruth and her widowed mother-in-law. He could buy back the land that once belonged to Naomi’s husband and give it back to Naomi’s family. He could also marry the widow of a deceased Israelite brother and raise up a son who would carry on the family name and inheritance in Israel. (Lev. 25:25, Duet. 25:5-6)

Naomi was aware Boaz could act as a Kinsman Redeemer and give them hope and a new identity.

**1. How could Ruth receive a new identity and begin to live out of that new identity?**

1) By marriage to Boaz – Ruth 3:1

 What did Naomi tell Ruth? What did Ruth need to do?

 2) Before we are born again, our identity is in Adam. However, he infected the whole

 human race with sin (Rom. 5:12, 15b-17, Rom. 3:9-18,23). Mankind’s identity as

 the image bearer of God was marred by guilt and shame.

 Where can we find a new identity and live out of that new identity? – Rom. 7:4

**2. What did Ruth need to do to receive a new identity?**

1)Naomi told Ruth how to **prepare** to propose to Boaz. – Ruth 3:2b – 4

 **Wash** herself – take a bath

 **Anoint** herself with perfume

 **Change** her clothes

 2) Likewise, we need to **come** to Jesus and **ask Him** to be our personal Redeemer

 and Savior. – Rom. 10:13, John 6:37, 7:37-38, Matt. 11:28-29

 We must be **washed** from our guilt and shame. – Titus 3:5

 2) We need **a change of clothes** (spiritually)**.** Why? – Isaiah 64:6

 When Jesus redeems us from our guilt and shame, we are **clothed** in the robes of

 His righteousness. – 2 Cor. 5:21

 To bear the image of God as God intends, we must be **anointed** and **filled** by the

 Holy Spirit. - 2 Cor. 1:21-22, Gal. 5:22-23

**3. Ruth went to where Boaz was threshing grain. – 3:6**

Dr. J. Vernon McGee says:

 “The threshing floors were located on top of a hill to catch the wind to blow away the

 chaff. “This was done at night. When the wind died down, they held a great feast. At

 this season of the year all the families came and camped around the threshing floor.

 After the feast the men would sleep around the grain. They would put their heads

 towards the grain and their feet would stick out like spokes away from the grain pile.”

 What did Naomi tell Ruth to do? - Ruth 3:8 – 9a

 How did Boaz respond?

**4. Ruth asks Boaz to be her Kinsman Redeemer. – 3:9b**

 1) She humbled herself and asks him to be her Redeemer.

 What must we do to receive salvation? - Romans 10:9-13

 2) She said, **“Spread your wings** over your servant, for you are a redeemer”. What is

 she saying to Boaz?

 In Ruth 2:12 Boaz recognized Ruth was trusting in Israel’s God and found refuge

 (safety & protection) **“under the wings of God.”**

 Ruth uses the same word picture to convey she wants him to be her husband, her

 protector, and provider.

 He could **change her identity** from being “Ruth the Moabite”, widow and foreigner,

 to “Ruth, the wife of Boaz.”

 a) What did Ruth’s former husband’s name “Mahlon” mean?

 b) What does Boaz’s name mean?

 Why do you think one of the huge pillars (supports) supporting Solomon’s temple

 was named “Boaz”? (1 Kings 7:15)

3) Marriage is to be a place of rest and protection for a wife.

 Where can a husband find that strength? Eph. 6:10, 2 Tim. 2:1

 1 Cor. 16:13-14 – “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, **be strong**. Let all that

 you do be done with love.”

 Men, if you are married, is your wife finding rest in her marriage to you?

**5. What was Boaz’s response to Ruth’s marriage proposal?** – Ruth 3:10-13

 What was the legal obstacle in the way? – v. 12

 What did Boaz do to assure Ruth?

 1) He spoke to her – v. 13

 How does God assure us when we are fearful and worried?

 2) He told her to “lie down until morning” – v. 13b

 She needed to rest in His promise he would do the work of redeeming her.

 Our redemption from sin and shame depends entirely upon the Lord Jesus, once we

 trust Him to be our personal Savior. (Rom. 10:13, Hebrews 7:25, 9:11-14)

 3) He gave her a gift as a guarantee. – v. 15

 Who does God give to believers to guarantee He will complete our redemption?

 (Cmp. Eph. 1:13-14)

 What did Naomi do to assure Ruth? – Ruth 3:18

**6. What did Boaz do? -** Ruth 4:1-10, 13a

 Who did Ruth become – v13a? She received a new identity of being one with Boaz.

**7. How can we receive a new identity in Christ and begin living out of that identity?**

 When a person calls upon the Lord Jesus to be their Savior they are born again. The

 Holy Spirit places (baptizes) them into Jesus Christ. We are crucified with Him and

 raised with Him to live a new life out of our new identity and reign victoriously in life

 through Jesus. (Rom. 6:3-6)

 2 Cor. 5:17 – “If anyone is in Christ, he (she) is a new creation; the old (identity from

 Adam) has gone, the new (identity in Christ) has come.”

 Col. 3:3 - “For you have died (to the old way of life and your old identity) and your

 life is hidden with Christ in God.”

 We are to live out of our new identity of being in Christ and bear His image in this

 world. (Cmp. Col. 3:5-23)

**8. How does God want us to view our spouse and ourselves as a result of being a**

 **child of God and in Jesus Christ?**  (For a more exhaustive list see “The Bell”)

 1) I am (we are) a saint (saints) (Eph. 1:1). – “holy and set apart to God”.

 2) I am (we are) a royal priest(s) - (I Peter 2:9) with complete access to God.

 3) I am (we are) a holy temple that God resides in (I Cor. 3:16).

 4) I am (we are) a part of Christ’s body (the universal church here on earth.

 – Eph. 1:22, 23

 5) I am (we are) the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-14).

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 6) I am (we are) Christ’s ambassador here on earth (2 Cor. 5:20).

 7) I am (we are) a beautiful work of art, a masterpiece (Eph. 2:10).

 8) I am (we are) totally safe and secure in Christ (Col. 3:3).

God wants us to embrace our identity in Christ of being an image bearer of God to

 display His love, grace, and glory.

**9. How can we encourage our spouse to embrace their identity in Christ?**

 1) Pray they will embrace their new identity given at salvation.

 2) When they struggle with negative thinking, encourage them to renew their minds

 with these unchanging truths from Scripture and declare their new identity in

 Christ.

 3) Treat them the way God treats them - (Heb. 12:2, Rom. 10:11)

 If you are shaming your spouse in some way – Stop shaming and start blessing

 them with your words. – (1 Peter 3:8-9)

 4) If they have failed and brought shame upon themselves, reaffirm the truth of God’s

 forgiveness and your forgiveness to them.

**THE BELL**I KNOW WHO I AM
I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord(1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price(1 Cor. 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ  (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt.5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ(1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation ( Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil.3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God(2 Cor.5 :17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God(Rom.8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor.1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit  (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship(Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected  (Phil. 1: 5)

I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child(Eph 1:5)
Believers, lets

ring out

who we
are!
 **Keep this bell ringing...pass it on:)**
 **"The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you
and give you peace."
Numbers 6:24-26**