



If I Were You

Proverbs 14:8; 22:3; 14:15

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

February 4, 2018

Bottom Line: Prepare to Commit!

Introduction:

Are you the person you are looking for is looking for?

It's not so much about finding the right person as it is about **becoming** the right person, but becoming the right person is a giant step toward finding the right person and the right person finding you!

Every Saturday, single people all over the country make promises to other single people they are unable and unprepared to keep – wedding vows.

They are sincere. Their intentions are good. But they aren't prepared.

They assume something they know not to be the case in any other arena of life:

Promises are no substitutes for **preparation**.

When it comes to marriage, **commitment is overrated**.

Solomon addresses this head-on. He says the paths we choose trump the promises we make.

Proverbs 14:8 (NIV84), "The wisdom of the **prudent** is to give thought to their **ways**, but the folly of fools is deception."

Proverbs 22:3 (NIV84), "A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple **keep going** and suffer for it."

Proverbs 14:15 (NIV84), “A simple man **believes** anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his **steps**.”

The **paths** people choose trump the commitments they make.

The **past** is a better indicator than a **promise**.

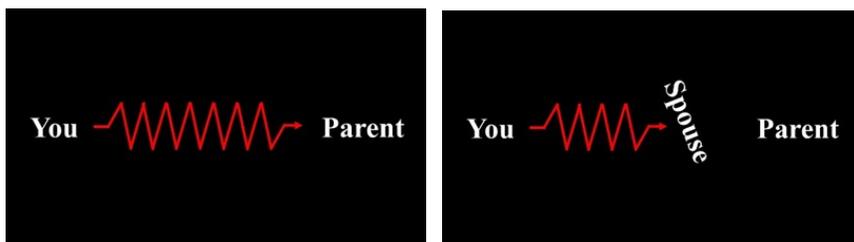
Instead of looking for someone to commit your life to ...

Commit **now** to become someone who can keep commitments later.

1. This begins by listening every Sunday and doing the stuff we talk about: forgive, confess, take responsibility for your life, and seek God’s will.
2. Confront your past. Don’t ignore or deny it. Get Biblical counseling.

<http://www.southbaychurchli.org/counseling>

3. Ladies: Don’t dress like a commodity or put up with being treated like one.



4. Men: Memorize Part 2 of this series.
5. Get out of debt.
6. Break your bad habits.
7. Men: Memorize Part 2 of this series. (Repeated on purpose.)
8. Postpone the physical component of your dating relationships.
9. Do not live together before marriage.
10. Non-Christians: Don’t date a Christian unless you plan to become one.
11. Christians: Don’t date non-Christians.
12. Get involved in your local church.

Conclusion:

If you don’t want your marriage to be like the majority of marriages, don’t date like the majority of daters. You will not be in the majority now, but you won’t be in the majority later, either.

Instead ...

Become the person that the person you are looking for is looking for.

Take these years and prepare. Prepare to commit, so when you do commit you will be in a position to keep your commitment.

Then, you will have become the person that the person you are looking for is looking for.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Proverbs 14:8 or 22:3 or 14:15.**
- Commit now to become someone who can keep commitments later.**
- Join us next Sunday for a special mini-concert and message from Pastor Corey & Pamela Pettway.**

NEXT WEEK

