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## No one is perfect

As you enter into day 8 of the 30 day challenge I hope that you truly understand: no one is perfect. If you are born into this world you are born into sin and in a fallen state and therefore you learn imperfection as we live in an imperfect civilization. In fact the ONLY perfect person ever to walk in the flesh is the Lord Jesus Christ. Today as you enter into the 8<sup>th</sup> day I pray you would ponder that every second of the day. Last night as I found myself upset with my son my wife asked me “is it really that important” normally I would have said something like “it is to me” but I thought about her question... was me getting upset about what he was doing really so important? No. The answer is that a lot of times someone looking from the outside in must think “what in the world is wrong with these people”? It is never as bad as we think, we sometimes continue to dwell upon the past and we can't truly see that our spouse or children are making an effort, satan gets it in our heads that no matter what they do it won't be right and we will be angry... why? As you enter into this day 8 please understand, your not perfect, I'm not perfect, no one except for Jesus Christ is perfect.

Should this be so strange? **And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Corinthians Chapter 12 verse 9 KJV)** – the Lord Jesus Christ is perfect, we are imperfect, we are blind, He helps us to see, we are helpless, He is merciful and His grace is abundant. We must pray this day that God would open our eyes for who we truly are, we may not like it, I know I haven't, but when we honestly look at our lives and our situation we will see we are much more blessed, our spouse is much more who we fell in love with, that our situation is not helpless if we would just depend on the Lord Jesus Christ for His strength!

Its amazing when you start to think about it, we are not always fully honest with ourselves about who we are but God knows. God knows the very hairs on our head: **But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. (Luke Chapter 12 verse 7 KJV)**. Knowing that, knowing that God knows the truth, He has seen everything we have said, done, thought, He knows all, He still loves us... Jesus Christ did not come to die for those who think they are perfect, He came to die for us all! **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Luke Chapter 5 verse 32 KJV)**.

## Daily Devotional

by: Pastor Richard Webster ([abcpastor@bellsouth.net](mailto:abcpastor@bellsouth.net))

### One Flesh

***and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.'* (Matthew 19:5,6)**

On April 26, 2003, Aron Lee Ralston was hiking in Utah's Bluejohn Canyon. During the hike, Ralston found himself trapped after an 800 lb bolder shifted, and pinned his right hand to the canyon wall. Ralston had not told anybody of his hiking plans, thus no one would be searching for him. After six days of entrapment and with dehydration setting in, he knew the only way of escape was to amputate his own right hand. Using a dull multi-tool, he was able free himself from a dislodged boulder. When God joins a couple together, they are to become one flesh. In order for a separation to happen, an amputation must take place. Divorce may happen, but every avenue of survival should first be exhausted. I can't even comprehend how difficult of a decision that must have been for Ralston to make, but it should be just as difficult for us to leave the person God has joined us with. Today make a commitment to each other and God that separation will only be an option after every possible means of survival has been explored.

## Food for thought

by: Daniel Higginbotham ([dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com](mailto:dhigginbotham@myemanuel.com))

Over the next 7 days we are going to talk about the role and responsibilities of the family. We are going to discuss some things that are not necessarily what the world wants to hear. We are going to discuss the truth but before we do I need you to examine your own heart, ponder this scripture: **Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (James Chapter 4 verse 4 KJV)** – it is important to know that we may not always be able to easily understand God's purpose and plan but He is ALWAYS right, and anyone who disagrees with His word, His commands, and His law is WRONG. I know how it feels knowing sometimes that we can't understand why God does or doesn't allow things but it is not always for us to understand. Trust instead not in this world but in God, trust in His word, and cry out to Him in prayer as you don't fully understand that the Holy Spirit may give you discernment. To be with this world is to be against God, remember that as we move through this week.

Over the past few years it has become more and more mainstream to say “it doesn't matter who you marry just as long as your happy” and while it sounds good it is absolutely a abomination. Marriage is an institution designed to be shared between ONE MAN and ONE WOMAN and as such we must establish our foundation on this truth. **Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. (Genesis Chapter 2 verse 24 KJV)** - it is important to know several things, first God has called man to leave his family and to “cleave” and become one flesh with his wife. Never anywhere in the Bible is it acceptable for a man and a man to be together, or a woman and a woman together, homosexuality is an abomination to God and regardless of our feelings about the subject God is perfectly clear: **Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. (Leviticus Chapter 18 verse 22 KJV)** – an abomination that is something “that is hated or disgusting” and thus we know that marriage is intended to be between one man and one woman. Once we understand this I need you to know that God DOES NOT hate sinners, God DOES hate sin... sin is sin, all sin is sin before God, it separates us from Him and thus it is vital that we repent of our sins and draw close to God.

Once we have established in our hearts God's definition of marriage being between one man and one woman it is important to look at Genesis 2:24 again **Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.** We are not called to call our mom or dad and pour out all our dirty laundry about our marriage, we are called to “leave” our father and mother, our marriage should be between us and God, no one else. If we must bring an outside party into our marriage it should be a pastor, deacon, or someone who is dedicated to the Lord and will hear BOTH of you and give you a Bible based, scriptural answer. By bringing outside friends and family into a disagreement or hurt we allow the devil to get at us from multiple directions. Bringing ungodly people in to give us advice about how to live a God honoring, Christ centered marriage is a serious problem that has lead to many divorces because of bad advice and the stoking of flames.

As you enter into day 8 of the 30 day challenge I pray you would realize first and most

importantly the Bible must be the final authority on all matters of faith, practice, and living in your life. You must study, pray, and trust in God's leadership in all matters. God's word covers all questions in life and is sufficient to answer anything you may need to know. We must understand that God is ALWAYS right and we are ONLY right when we TRUST in HIS WORD! We are ALWAYS WRONG when we disagree with God's word, we may not understand it but we must accept it as correct even when the world hates it and cannot understand. Lastly we must surround our marriage not with ravenous wolves who claim to be friends who will give us ungodly advice and lead us astray in our times of need but we must surround our marriages with Christ honoring brothers and sisters who will never tell us to surrender or walk away. We must leave our family out of our marriage and our problems because I guarantee you it will cause more hurt than healing.

Remember as you enter into this day to put away any outside source of guidance that is not Christ honoring. Put away anything that is a stumbling block in your marriage and trust in the Lord to help you "leave" your parents and become one flesh with your spouse!

## Meet the family

As we heard the powerful testimony from brother Jason and sister Kim last week we will start with a new family over the next few days and I pray that you would consider your own testimony. Has God given you and your spouse a powerful testimony? Has God brought you through pain, suffering, valleys, and darkness to where you are now? Are you still fighting the good fight? Are you still suffering? Never forget that the transition in becoming a God fearing, Christ centered family is a life long journey in which you will have trips and falls but you must trust in the Lord to pick you back up! Let Him put the pieces back together! Trust in the Lord and always walk by faith, never by sight: **(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (2 Corinthians Chapter 5 verse 7 KJV).**

## Prayer Suggestions

Today before you pray I would like you to understand the beautiful promise the Lord gives us about our prayer: **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (Matthew Chapter 7 verse 7-8 KJV)** – today God is giving you the opportunity to demonstrate His power and grace... while you take it? Bow your head, humble yourself before Him, open your heart and your mouth in prayer!

### Today pray for:

- Pray for your spouse that God would touch their heart and open their eyes to His plan for your family
- Pray that God would touch your heart and open your eyes to the short comings, allowing you to honestly address the problems in your own walk
- Pray that God would give you strength to continue to forgive your spouse and all those who have hurt you
- Pray that God would touch your children and give you the strength to be the God fearing obedient to His guidance
- Pray that God would touch your marriage and begin to restore a happiness that you may have lost long ago

## About

The My Emanuel 30 day challenge came about through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and we pray that God would be glorified and praised as a direct result of this program. It is the deepest desire of all those involved with this program that the healing grace of Jesus Christ would be abundantly felt throughout the families with a member participating in the challenge. The program is a direct result of the power of the Lord and a demonstration of His wisdom and foresight in bringing both the paths of Pastor Richard Webster, myself, and all those who have helped with the program together in a way to use us and our individual talents to profess the wonderful Good News of His salvation and wonderful grace, mercy, and abundant love.

Throughout our lives we have seen and directly felt the chaos and tragedy caused in the destruction of divorce. In interacting with brothers and sisters from all walks of life we have seen again and again the damage caused by the wedge the enemy drives in between a man and wife. It has been our greatest displeasure to see the tragedy, pain, suffering, and grief caused by the life altering decision in which so many couples make out of anger only to realize later that not only was it not what they wanted but so far from what they needed they couldn't even remember what they were separating for. It is our desire for all couples to understand the truth, God desires marriage to be a life long commitment and made us for this exact purpose: **Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. (Genesis Chapter 2 verse 24 KJV)** – to become one flesh as we will examine later on through the program is a physical alteration that to reverse would be a mutilation and a physical destruction of ones own flesh and is the furthest thing from God's desire for any family. It is our dearest hope that God will reveal His glory and that Jesus Christ will pour out His grace upon all those who participate in this program regardless of the purpose. The truth is that Jesus Christ is not “a hope” He is the ONLY HOPE and the only way for families to make it through the stress and destruction of today's society is through keeping Him always at the center.

Pastor Richard Webster is the Pastor of Adairsville Baptist Church in Adairsville, Georgia. Brother Richard has been a powerful influence in my own walk with the Lord and I pray that as God has used this brother for His glory and has shared much wisdom to me through him that you would pay special attention to the message God has blessed this brother to share. Pastor Webster is both a husband, a father, a brother, a son, a friend, and a pastor who is determined to serve the Lord and bring glory and honor to our Savior. I pray that you would understand that this brother has seen first hand the destruction of divorce, the pain and suffering that comes at the hands of the evil of the enemy as satan tries to relentlessly destroy families. Know that the daily devotionals are the ultimate inspiration of Jesus Christ and may the Lord be seen through every word.

It feels strange even now trying to write about myself, my name is Daniel Higginbotham and simply put I am a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is my desire and hope that the Lord God Jehovah would make His presence known and that you would feel the Holy Spirit interacting and interceding in your life. I thank God for this opportunity and I will pray for you and your family over this next 30 days that God would reveal the beautiful truth to you as He has me: **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (John Chapter 8 verse 36 KJV).**