

Looking for a Hollywood Ending? You Might Want to Think Again.

(Thanks to Chip Ingram)

Hour 1:

I. Hollywood (Examples from movies, TV, and music)—Plan B

1. Find the right person
2. Fall in “electric,” “dopey” love (maybe) OR Just “hook up” and call it good
3. Commit your life fully to him/her—they will complete you
4. When it fails, repeat—no big deal
5. Success rate? (Check)
 1. 1970—4.3 million/1996—18.3 million divorces Family Trends Times
 2. # of unmarried people increased over last 30 years—1960, 72% of adults married; 2010, 51% of adults married
 3. Children of divorce impacted into adulthood and affects their perceptions of marriage (if it’s hard, bail out)
 4. People are waiting to marry because they’re not sure if it will work; OR because they are afraid to “settle down” with one person—no more chances to “play the field”
 5. People who live together have a 50% greater chance of divorce
6. Explanation—It’s about mindset (Eph. 4:17-19)
 1. It begins and lives in your mind (17)
 2. Creates a cycle: indulge with a “continual lust for more” (19)
 3. Separates you from a life of God
 4. The fruit is empty: “futility” (17)
 5. Hearts become hard, insensitive (18-19)
 6. We’ve bought in and continue to use this model to the same results—definition of insanity?
 7. Inherit “God’s wrath” (5:6)

Hour 2:

II. God’s plan—Plan A (Eph. 4-5)

1. Become the right person—this ALSO is about mindset (Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:20-24)
 1. Who ARE you in Christ?—the foundation of your identity and significance in the Kingdom
 - a. You are COMPLETELY loved—right now! (Ps. 27:10, Eph. 4:5)
 - b. You are CHOSEN (Eph. 1:11)
 - c. You are ALIVE (Eph. 2:5)
 - d. You are completely ACCEPTED (Rom. 8:1; Heb. 10:3-4, 10, 14)

- e. You are FREE (Ps. 34:4; Rom. 8:2-5?)
- 2. Who are you to BECOME in Christ?—the living out of your identity
 - a. Sacrificed to God (Rom. 12:1-2) and fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22, etc.)
 - b. Expressing your gift(s) (I Cor. 12 & 14, Eph. 4, and I Pt. 4)
 - c. Sexually pure: Eph. 5:3-6; Deut. 27
 - i. Conviction—Different from just believing something is wrong
 - ii. “Game Plan”—If you wait until the “bullets start flying,” you’ve waited too long!
 - 1. Pray for conviction
 - iii. Accountability
- 2. Live a life of God’s love (Eph. 5:2; 1 Jn. 3:11-18, and MORE)
- 3. Put your trust in God
- 4. If/When failure occurs, repeat steps 1-3. What does that look like practically?
 - 1. Humility
 - 2. Confession
 - 3. Repentance
 - 4. Forgiveness
 - 5. Restoration
- b. Where do we go from here? (Eph. 4-5)

Much of this content inspired by Chip Ingram’s series entitled “Love, Sex, and Lasting Relationships,” found in the iTunes Podcasts or here <http://livingontheedge.org/xml/lote.xml> on the Internet. Direct links to four of the main talks are here:

1. Hollywood Endings, Part 1--
https://weekdaypodcast.s3.amazonaws.com/20120821_WEEKDAYPODCAST.mp3.
2. Hollywood Endings, Part 2--
https://weekdaypodcast.s3.amazonaws.com/20120822_WEEKDAYPODCAST.mp3.
3. Sexual Purity in a Sex-Saturated World, Part 1--
https://weekdaypodcast.s3.amazonaws.com/20120829_WEEKDAYPODCAST.mp3.
4. Sexual Purity in a Sex-Saturated World, Part 2--
https://weekdaypodcast.s3.amazonaws.com/20120830_WEEKDAYPODCAST.mp3.
5. The Search for a Godly Spouse, Part 1; Alistair Begg--
<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/radio.aspx?ID={B44AD439-CC30-4777-8367-7831B1E75699}>
6. The Search for a Godly Spouse, Part 2; Alistair Begg--
<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/radio.aspx?ID={2E2C6758-E114-4642-A374-152D3CB2985A}>