

Bridgeway Community Church
 Campus Pastor Dave Heiliger
 Series: God's Got Your Number
 July 03, 2022

God's Got Your Number

Two

INTRODUCTION

"God is a God who is very intentional, and he pays attention to detail matter to Him."

"For God, the uses of numbers in the Bible isn't simply about counting...there is also a spiritual significance to why he uses numbers."

- We're going to look where the number 2 is in the Bible.
- We're going to talk about what's true about the number 2 in the Bible.
- We're going to share what we can do with the the number 2 in our own lives.

Where is the number 2? #2 IS ALL THRU Scripture

One scholar reports that #2 is used over 700 times in the Bible.
 Another says the #2 is used over 1000 times in the Bible.

DIVIDED by 2:

1. Things are divided by 2 for comparing & contrasting and pairing.

- Night Day
- Darkness Light
- Good Evil
- Heaven Earth
- Physical Spiritual
- Flesh Spirit
- Old Test/Cov New Test/Cov
- Sheep Goats
- Tree of Life Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil

2. In the Bible there is the dividing into 2's as pairs of things & people.

Things:

- 2 houses of Israel
- 2 golden candle sticks
- 2 olive branches
- 2 tablets for the 10 Commandments
- 2 leavened loaves of bread
- 2 cherubim that guard the ark
- 2 good spies
- 2 of every kind of creature in the ark
- 2 parts to the Great Commandment
- 2 thieves on the cross
- 2 witnesses in the end times

People:

- Samson & Delilah
- Hagar & Ishmael
- Moses & Aaron
- David & Goliath
- Mary & Joseph
- Adam & Eve
- Cain & Abel
- Abraham & Sara
- Isaac & Rebecca
- Jacob & Esau
- Jonathan & David
- Ruth & Naomi
- Elijah & Elisha
- Paul & Barnabus or Paul & Silas or Paul & Timothy
- Annanias & Saphira
- Priscilla & Aquila
- Mary & Martha

DEPLOYED in 2s

Mark 6:7-13 NIV

Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out **two by two** and gave them authority over impure spirits.⁸ These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Luke 10:1-4 NIV

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them **two by two** ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

Jesus sent them out in pairs because ministry is hard! Anything worth anything is difficult and doing ministry alone is difficult. Jesus gave them specific instructions in Luke 10:1-24.

“I think one of the reasons that God deploys in twos, in team work, and believes in team work is because not only do we need encouragement in ministry, but we need accountability in ministry.”

DESIRED by 2

For gathering together in unity to invite the presence of God into worship and situations.

Matthew 18:19-20 NIV

[Jesus speaking] Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask (God) for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

“When two or more gather together in God’s name, something special happens. God is always present, but he pays special attention and special focus when things that are desired by two people, three people, a gathering of his church, when we come together, open our hearts, open our mouths, come to the great God, something special happens.”

DETERMINED by 2

For substantiation of testimony and the making of decisions.

Deuteronomy 17:6 NIV

(For someone in ancient Judaism who was accused of doing evil in the sight of the Lord) On the testimony of two or three witnesses a person is to be put to death, but no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

1 Timothy 5:19 NIV

Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

WHAT'S TRUE ABOUT THE NUMBER 2? (in the Bible)

1. 2 ARE BETTER THAN 1

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NIV

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. ¹⁰If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹¹Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹²Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

| | | |
|-------------|--|---------|
| For WORK | (Accomplish more) | - v. 9 |
| For WALKING | (Go farther. Go through life) | - v. 10 |
| For WARMTH | (More comfortable and enjoyable) | - v. 11 |
| For WAR | (Safer) "You need a good 2 to watch your 6." | - v. 12 |

"We're talking here about family and friendship, even the church. If you're feeling alone and you don't have another 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 to add to your 1, I want to encourage you to get involved in some life groups here. I want to encourage you to check out our men's ministry, our women's ministry. If you're a student in middle or high school, get involved in our student ministries."

Bridgeway's Care ministry: care@bridgeway.cc

2. 2 CAN BECOME 1

This is about marriage:

Genesis 2:18, 24 NIV

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him"...That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Ephesians 5:31 NIV

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.

One is the new two. In marriage: $1+1=1$. Marriage is a union that makes oneness.

The marriage ceremony commences the oneness or union. There's an exchange of vows are made in holy matrimony.

In marriage sex consummates the oneness or union. Making love is not only a picture of oneness, but it's part of the process and practice of oneness—which God only intends for marriage.

The marriage sharing grows & keeps the oneness or union. The sharing of time, the sharing of space, the sharing of stuff, the sharing of experience, the sharing of hopes and dreams, of hurts and pains, the sharing of thoughts, the sharing of life.

This union is practiced and protected with commitment to work things out instead of walking away...transparency that builds trust, by making apologies and offering forgiveness, loving the other person by choosing what's best for them and for the marriage, by listening to understand...taking turns at giving in instead of digging in, and leveraging individual assets and strengths toward succeeding in accomplishing more together than you could ever do apart.

The primary meaning of the number 2 in Scripture is: UNION.

Secondary meaning is division for comparing, contrasting, pairing and organizing

The meaning of the #1 is UNITY.

Unity is a coming together of still separate people who are undivided and in agreement.

The meaning of the #2 is UNION.

Union is a becoming together of people who are no longer separate, but joined together as one.

Question: What does the #2 means for the everyday Christian?

Answer: **A 2-DO-LIST: THINGS TO DO WITH THE NUMBER 2**

1. BE CAREFUL WHO YOU 2 WITH (Union).

Be careful who you hang out with.

Proverbs 13:20 NIV

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV

Do not be misled; 'Bad company corrupts good character.'

Question: Do the people you hang out with bring out the best in you?

Sometimes we can't choose who we hang out with, but we can choose who is the one doing the influencing.

2. Be careful who you partner with.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 NIV

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?...¹⁵Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

3. Be careful who you are intimate with.

1 Corinthians 6:15-16 NIV

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? ¹⁶Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body?

The context of these verses are that in the city of Corinth at that time, sex outside of marriage, including prostitution, which could be accessed at the temple, was both legal and culturally acceptable. That's why the Apostle Paul made the strong statement: "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial (vs.12) ...Flee sexual immorality." (vs. 18)

1 Corinthians 6:12, 18 NIV

"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything...Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits

are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.

God's way is the BEST way. It's not the only way, not always the easy way, but it is the best way.

God's rules have good reasons. God has the patent of sex so He gets to make the rules about it—and it's designed for union in the context of holy matrimony. God hasn't changed the rules, even though culture has changed its mind. Culture used to say that proper sex was only for married people. That didn't mean that only married people had sex, but that's what was culturally acceptable. Then culture decided that sex is okay if it's safe and sincere. Then culture decided that sex didn't really need to be safe or sincere as long as it is consensual. But God hasn't changed the rules at all. God's intention for sex is that it is still beautiful and protected by marriage.

"I know that in this culture, this Bible stuff just sounds like archaic, it sounds like so out-dated, it sounds so opinionated. Well, God is allowed to have an opinion on this stuff and it's a pretty strong one. Hear my heart and not simply my words and hear God's heart and not simply his words: God's rules are there for good reasons. This oneness is a beautiful thing."

"If you're wanting to have sex, that's fine! Sex is not taboo. Sex is FUBU - For Union By Union."

Bridgeway can help you:

Premarital classes
Performing wedding ceremonies

email us at: info@bridgeway.cc

Google "oxitocin" and research the benefits of this special chemical that the body produces during sex, and the detrimental effects on this production when people have multiple partners and what some call "meaningless sex."

2. BE CONSCIOUS OF YOU ARE 2'D WITH. *union

When we trust Christ as Savior, we are UNITED with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12 NIV

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:17 NIV

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. [In the Holy Spirit]

John 14:20 NIV

[Jesus speaking] ...You will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Question: How does being conscious of our union with Christ affect us?

Answers:

- There's security and safety.
- There's confidence and courage.
- There should be a level of purity.
- There should be a pattern of intimacy—actually being in relationship with Jesus

John 15:5 NIV

[Jesus speaking] I am the vine; you are the branches. If you **remain in me** and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Practice communion in your union with Christ.

Communion defined:

- “the interchange of sharing thoughts or emotions; intimate communication.” ~ dictionary.com
- “the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on the mental or spiritual level.” ~ Oxford Languages

Question: Do you have some family relatives that you are not close to?

Spend time alone with God...Get your Bible out or use your Bible app. Get your journal out. Spend time to clear your mind, pray, talk to God. He wants to hear from you, he wants to be in relationship with you.

CONCLUSION

Everybody wants to be #1. Nobody really wants to be #2.

But it's okay to be #2—especially when God is your #1.

Philippians 2:5-8 NIV

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

- Being #2 doesn't just happen. It takes intentional attention.
- Being #2 means practicing submission to the truths and principles of God found in the Scriptures.
- Being #2 means putting aside my own opinions (which the world would tell me I have every right to have) and embracing the commands of the #1 God.
- Being #2 means not throwing out the meat of God's message because some messenger has messed it up. There is not a dismissal or ignoring or canceling of the message because the messenger is a jerk.
- Being #2 means pushing away my own—or even other's desires—for me to be #1.
- Being #2 means putting the spotlight on God where it is deserved, and deflecting it from myself. It means following God's call no matter what.

Let's make sure God is never #2—that He is always #1—and there are no #2's or #3's or 4's. God asks that of us—Actually He demands that of us.

Exodus 20:3 NIV

You shall have no other gods before me.

Command #1 tells us that God should always be second to none.

Matthew 22:37 NIV

[Jesus speaking] Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

1 Peter 3:15a AMP

But in your hearts set apart [as holy—acknowledging him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord.

And there's no better way to make God #1 than to do so on His terms. Recognize that you need Him and what Jesus has already done.