

God's Purpose of Marriage
Biblical Soul-Care Workshops

Week 7

THE GOSPEL INSTITUTE

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Why Get Married, if it's like...



"THESE ROLLS WOULD SET OFF A METAL DETECTOR."

3

Why Get Married, if it's like...



"IN LEROY'S CASE, ALL THAT SEPARATES US FROM THE ANIMALS IS BARS."

4

Why Marriage? "A host of federal benefits"

- Tax benefits; right to file jointly
- Legal status with stepchildren
- Joint parenting rights
- Family visitation rights for spouse and non-biological children, next-of-kin status; Emergency decisions/ wrongful death claims
- Survivor benefits
- Automatic recipient of life insurance for some jobs
- Tax-free transfer of property between spouses (including on death) and exemption from "due-on-sale" clauses. (atheistexperience.blogspot/2011/08)

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Why Marriage? "A host of benefits"

- "...marriage benefits men significantly and serves as a civilizing influence on them. ...single men have almost six times the probability of being incarcerated
- Fathers living with their children invest more hours per week in work and careers than non-fathers.
- Married men make 25 percent more money than single men,... two-parent families are five times less likely to be in poverty than single-parent families. Their health and quality of life also improve with marriage. Mortality rates are 2/3's as high among married men as among single men. Married men (and women) are less than half as likely as their divorced counterparts to attempt suicide." R. Santorum

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The Beginning (Genesis 2)

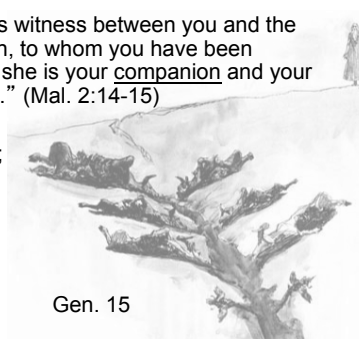
- Cannot define what marriage is without looking at the origin of humanity.
- Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature... (vs. 2)

7
Created, Designed by God
Reflector (image of God) <u>Identity, purpose</u>
Relational (vertical, internal, horizontal, external) <u>social</u>
Receiver (needing revelation from God, i.e. His Word)
Reasoning (Logical, rational, considering) <u>intellectual</u>
Responder (<u>Worshipper</u> , servant) <u>spiritual, purpose, volitional</u>
Righteous (pure) <u>spiritual</u>
Reliant (dependent, <u>NOT AUTONOMOUS</u>)
Ruler (Dominion-haver) <u>purpose</u>
Representative (Ambassador) <u>purpose</u>
The primary human relationship is <u>with GOD!</u>

8
Marriage – Created and Designed by God
Then the LORD God said, “It is <u>not good</u> that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. (Gen. 2:18-21)
• Marriage was created to be a pure, life-long, one-flesh, <u>covenant-relationship of companionship</u> [male wasn’t designed to live without the female] and <u>completion</u> [female was designed to complete the male] for the purpose of “Image-bearing”.

9
Marriage – God’s Plan from the Beginning
• Created male <u>AND</u> female
• First Divine institution; the second, most important relationship – the family; the foundation of all other institutions in society.
• God’s view of marriage – “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was <u>very good</u> [pure]. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.” (Gen. 1:31)

10
Purpose of Marriage
• Marriage is designed by God for mutual companionship, to <u>COMPLEMENT</u> each other in a one-flesh-UNITY of “Chosen-servanthood” to reflect the “Image-of-God”. [i.e., to <u>GLORIFY</u> GOD by “Giving others a ‘right-opinion’ of God”].
• Unity—Diversity—Community
• Equality—Authority—Submission
• Independence – Dependence
• God is creator – man is creative
• God is sovereign, man is to “take dominion”

11
Covenant-Companionship
“...the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your <u>companion</u> and your wife <u>by covenant</u> .” (Mal. 2:14-15)
“a bond in blood; A life and death <u>commitment of companionship</u> ”

Gen. 15

12
Purpose of Marriage - One-flesh Union
• Spiritual – theologically unified
• Physical – sexual oneness, intimacy
• Emotional – seeking emotional fulfillment in your spouse, not in another person of the opposite sex.
• Relational – companionship, friendship
• Mental – thinking of your spouse as your primary soul-mate
• Resulting in security, satisfaction, contentment
• Trinitarian one-ness

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Purpose of Marriage – Dominion

- The family is the foundational institution of society.
- And God blessed them. And God said to them, "... fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:28; see also Ps. 8:6-8)

14

Purpose of Marriage; Sexual Exclusivity and Pleasure

- "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Cor. 7:1-5)

15

Marriage Gives Language and Experience to Understand God and Redemption

Which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. (Ps. 19:5)

For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. (Is. 62:5)

16

Marriage Gives Language and Experience to Understand God and Redemption


- "The durability and quality of your marriage is not ultimately based on the strength of your commitment to your marriage. Rather, it's based on something completely apart from your marriage; God's truth; truth we find plain and clear on the pages of Scripture." The gospel is the heart of the Bible. Everything in Scripture is either preparation for the gospel, presentation of the gospel, or participation in the gospel. In the life, death and resurrection of Christ, the gospel provides an ultimate solution for our sin—for today, for tomorrow, for the day we stand before God, and forever.

Dave Harvey, *When Sinners Say I Do*, page 23-24

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The Environment of Marriage

- A "very good" institution (Gen.1:31) in a very broken world.
- In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Mt. 5:16)
- The environment is also God's DESIGN (Acts 17:26)



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"Set on the Stage" of a Broken World

Knowing this is foundational to preparing and persevering in the battle for God's glory in marriage;

- Growing more like Christ (Eph. 4-6)
- Growing in one-flesh relationship (Col. 3:19)
- Growing in ruling/taking dominion (Ps. 8:3-9)
- Growing in parenting/shepherding (Eph. 6:1-2)

"Your worst circumstance (this just might be your marriage) is God's greatest tool for sanctification in your life." If you are married Marriage is God's primary venue for your sanctification.

19

Marriage in a Broken World is designed to *TEMPER YOU!*

- In this [promised eternal blessings] you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested [tempered] genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:6-7)
- Plan for grief, trials, testing [tempered, refined] in this broken world.

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Marriage in a Broken World is designed to *TEMPER YOU!*

- Likewise, wives...husbands... (1 Pet. 3:1-7)
- Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (1 Peter 4:12)
- *“Marriage is a personal holiness paradigm...to rescue you from you”* Paul Tripp, *What Did You Expect?*, p. 22
- Your spouse is God’s instrument of sanctification in your life. You are called to personify the Gospel to him/her, regardless of how much you’ve been sinned against.

21

Marriage puts the Gospel on Display

- Marriage is a living “play-act” of the relationship between Christ and His Church. “²³the husband is the head of the wife *even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.* ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (Eph. 5:22-24)
- *“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ...”* (2 Cor. 5:20)

22

Marriage puts God and the Gospel on Display

- Husbands, love your wives, *as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. *In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.* He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, *just as Christ does the church*, because we are members of his body. (Eph. 5:25-30)

23

Marriage puts God and the Gospel on Display

In loving the sinner, without regard to the other’s performance as you live out the Gospel through...

- Seeking oneness with someone **unlike yourself**
- Self-denial - humility
- Submission - meekness
- Service – showing mercy and compassion
- Suffering - forgiving
- Self-sacrifice – loving without record-keeping

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If God is Going to Get Glory...

- You must be saved, born-again, made new (Jn. 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:9-21...see caveat at 1 Pet. 2:12)
- You must be being-transformed (Rom. 12:1-3), dying to selfishness (Mt. 16:24), seeking God’s glory and your spouse’s good. (Rom. 8:28-29)
- You must be growing and changing to become more like Christ. (Lu. 6:40; Col. 1:28; Rom. 8:29; Ja. 1:3-4)
- Your spouse is a sinner, purpose to grow in Christ-like love towards him/her.

Committed to the Plan, Show Christ's Love

- God's love is dependent on His Sacrifice.
- God's grace/mercy is dependent on Christ's work/performance, NOT YOURS.
- God's love NEVER fails, because it's dependent upon Christ's perfect performance and perfect payment/sacrifice.
- The Holy Spirit invades and pursues to CHANGE YOU to become like Christ; God is a pursuing God.
- Compatibility is achieved by CHRIST; you are NOT compatible with holiness; you cannot use compatibility as an excuse not to love, pursue, forgive, grant mercy, grace, etc.