

GOD'S PURPOSE IN MARRIAGE



2010 Weekend Marriage Getaway

Camp Maranatha, Big Lake, AK

OUR GOALS FOR THIS LESSON

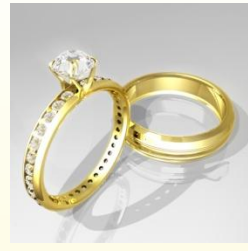
- Understand the origin of marriage;
- Identify the source of marital problems;
- Identify the source of marital solutions; and
- Learn and embrace the vision God has for marriage.

If you hear these truths and think, “I didn’t know what I’ve gotten myself into”, you are in good company.

"And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery. The disciples said to Him, ‘If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.’” – Matthew 19:9-10 (NASB)

*“Marriage is to be held in honor among all...”
– Hebrews 13:4 (NASB)*

WHAT IS MARRIAGE?



- ▣ How is it defined by our government?
- ▣ How is it defined by our culture?
- ▣ How do you define it?
- ▣ How is it defined by God?

WHY DO PEOPLE GET MARRIED?

- ▣ “In love”
- ▣ Sex without guilt
- ▣ Financial security
- ▣ Companionship
- ▣ Child-rearing
- ▣ Cultural expectation

THE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

- Creation of man from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:4-17)
- God declared that it is not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18)
 - Everything else God made was good. This was the first qualitative use of the word, “bad” in the Bible. It wasn’t that God made something bad, but that He had left things incomplete. Why would He do this?
 - We tend to think of this as an issue of loneliness, but Adam had God. Perhaps it would be better to say that Adam could not be all or fulfill all that God would have for him by himself.
 - What was God’s goal in creating Eve?

THE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

- God creates Eve (Genesis 2:18-23)
- Why did God create Adam first and then Eve?
 - To demonstrate that he was incomplete without her (Genesis 2:18-23)
 - To introduce the concept of headship (1 Timothy 2:11-13)
 - To allow Eve to be made from Adam (Genesis 2:23-24 and Ephesians 5:28-31)

They were indeed one flesh... literally!

For Adam, to be good to her is to be good to himself!

THE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

- God gave Eve to Adam as a wife (Genesis 2:22)
 - God brought Eve into Adam's life
 - His fingerprints were on this relationship!
 - God was just as much a Father to Eve as He was to Adam. He is the first Father to give away His daughter.
 - Adam was entrusted with a treasure
 - Proverbs 31:10 – Who can find a virtuous woman...
 - Luke 5:1-11 – Peter was humbled by God entrusting a ministry to a man such as himself

THE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

- One Flesh... what God has joined together (Genesis 2:22-24, Mark 10:1-9, Malachi 2:14-15)
 - Leaving: The parent-child relationship is evolving and transitory
 - Cleaving: A covenant with your spouse before God to:
 - Join your lives together as one
 - Fulfill your duties as a spouse
 - Maintain a monogamous relationship
 - Persevere in the relationship until separated by death
 - Marriage is God's doing (Mark 10:9)

What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

THE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

- Naked and not ashamed (Genesis 2:25)
 - Nakedness, in this context, is standing as we truly are, spiritually, before God and others.
 - Adam and Eve were able to stand naked before God and one another without any shame at all.

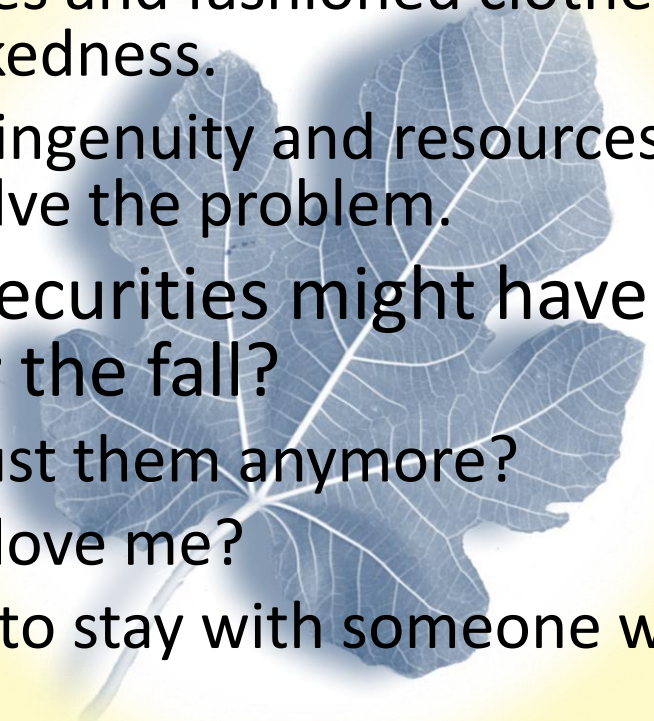
HOMework:

“The Origin of Our Marriage”

MARRIAGE IN TURMOIL

- The fall of man (Genesis 3:1-6)
- The problem of nakedness (Genesis 3:7)
- Nakedness was not a problem until now. Why did it become a problem?
 - After sin entered, perfection was lost.
 - When sin entered, shame did as well.
- Why were they covering themselves? Who were they trying to hide from?
 - They were trying to hide their nakedness (sin).
 - They were trying to hide from God, from one another, and maybe even from themselves.

MARRIAGE IN TURMOIL

- How did they cover themselves?
 - They found leaves and fashioned clothes out of them to hide their nakedness.
 - They used their ingenuity and resources to do the best they could to solve the problem.
 - What type of insecurities might have entered their minds after the fall?
 - Could I really trust them anymore?
 - Will he/she still love me?
 - Do I really want to stay with someone who isn't perfect?
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MARRIAGE IN TURMOIL

- ▣ Sin abounding (Genesis 3:8-13)
- ▣ Did fig leaves fix the problem?

Note that communication was broken down by sin!

- ▣ How did sin multiply?
 - ▣ They ran from God together rather than running to God together
 - ▣ Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent.

MARRIAGE IN TURMOIL

- The curse of sin (Genesis 3:14-19)
- What difficulties were introduced at the fall that further affects marriage?
 - Inherent conflict between the husband and wife over their roles
 - The burden of labor
 - Death (Mark 12:18-25)



MARRIAGE IN TURMOIL

HOMework:

“The Log List”

- ▣ *“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?” – Matthew 7:3 (NASB)*

MARRIAGE SAVED: FIG LEAVES TO FUR



- How did God respond to their clothing of fig leaves? (Genesis 3:21)
 - He made them a covering of animal skins.
- How did God acquire these animal skins and what is significant about this?
 - He must have slaughtered one or more animals to acquire the skins
 - This was the first physical death that occurred since the creation of all things

MARRIAGE SAVED: FIG LEAVES TO FUR



- What do we learn from God's decision to make clothing for them?
 - He loved them.
 - Their self-made clothes were not sufficient.
 - God saw a need to cover their nakedness properly.
 - Covering their nakedness was not an easy process and it involved death.
 - By covering their nakedness (shame), God made it possible for their relationship with Him and with one another to continue

MARRIAGE SAVED: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



- Do we have a problem with nakedness?
 - *Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (KJV)*
 - *Hebrews 4:12-13 – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” (KJV)*
- What is the spiritual significance of fig leaves?
 - *Romans 10:3 – “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.” (KJV)*

MARRIAGE SAVED: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



- How can this create problems in marriage?
 - When the shiny veneer of our fig leaves fades away (once we really get to know each other), we are discovered for who we really are. This leads us to try and find another way to cover up the problem.
- How does God view our works?
 - *Isaiah 64:6 – “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. “ (KJV)*

MARRIAGE SAVED: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



- What is the spiritual significance of the animal skins?
 - *Isaiah 61:10 – “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.” (KJV)*
 - *Hebrews 9:22 – “And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (NASB)*

Sin cannot be disregarded; it requires death.

MARRIAGE SAVED: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



- How is this righteousness made available?
 - *2 Corinthians 5:21 – “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”*

God placed our sin into the palm of Jesus’ hands and nailed His hands to the cross.

- *Romans 10:11 – “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.” (KJV)*

We can run to God rather than running from Him into the trees

MARRIAGE SAVED: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



- How does the gospel intersect with marriage?
 - *Romans 5:6-8 – “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (KJV)*
 - *John 15:12-13 – “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (KJV)*

The love we are called to have for our spouse is inspired and derived from the love of Jesus Christ.

MARRIAGE SAVED: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



■ How does the gospel enhance marriage?

- *1 John 4:19 – “We love, because He first loved us.” (NASB)*

“Let the measure of God’s grace to you in cross of Christ be the measure of your grace to your spouse”

— John Piper, [This Momentary Marriage](#), p. 46

- *1 Peter 4:8 – “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.” (NASB)*

Through the gospel, you don’t need two perfect people for a marriage to thrive. You need the love of Jesus Christ.

MARRIAGE SAVED: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



- ▣ *Luke 7:47 – “Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.” (KJV)*

“Without a biblical view of God’s wrath, you will be tempted to think that your wrath – your anger – against your spouse is simply too big to overcome, because you have never really tasted what it is like to see an infinitely greater wrath overcome by grace, namely, God’s wrath against you.” – John Piper, [This Momentary Marriage](#), p. 45

A real experience of conviction and conversion is essential to being able to extend this grace toward your spouse in all situations.

MARRIAGE SAVED: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



“The main battles in life and in marriage are battles to believe this person {Christ} and this work {the cross}. I mean really believe it – trust it, embrace it, cherish it, treasure it, bank on it, breathe it, shape your life by it.”

– John Piper, [This Momentary Marriage](#), p. 54

MARRIAGE SAVED: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



HOMework:
“Log List – Part 2”

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A PICTURE WORTH 1K WORDS



A Picture of Christ and the Church

- ▣ Genesis 2:22-24
- ▣ Ephesians 5:22-33

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A PICTURE WORTH 1K WORDS



A Submissive Wife (The Church)

- What is the relationship of the church to Christ?
 - *Ephesians 5:31-32 – “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” (KJV)*
- What is the role of the church to Christ?
 - *Ephesians 5:23 – “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” (KJV)*
- What is the extent of the submission of the church to Christ?
 - *Ephesians 5:22,24 – “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord... Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.” (KJV)*

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A PICTURE WORTH 1K WORDS



A Loving Husband (Christ)

- What is the depth of Christ's love for His church?
 - *Ephesians 5:25 – “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;” (KJV)*
- What is the basis of Christ's love for His church?
 - *Romans 5:20 – “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound;” (KJV)*
 - *Ephesians 5:26-27 – “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (KJV)*

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A PICTURE WORTH 1K WORDS



A Loving Husband (Christ) *continued...*

- What is the basis of His commitment to His church?
 - *Luke 22:19-20 – “And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.” (NASB)*

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A PICTURE WORTH 1K WORDS



An Amazing Oneness: The Spiritual Unity of Christ and the Church

- *Ephesians 5:29-30 – “For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.” (KJV)*
- *Ephesians 3:21 – “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” (KJV)*

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A REFINING POT



■ A Refining Pot for Christian Growth

- *Titus 2:3-5 – “Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.” (NASB)*
- What if you have an imperfect husband who isn't “worthy” of respect?

The world doesn't understand why you would submit to Christ either.

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A REFINING POT



- A Refining Pot for Christian Growth *continued...*
 - *Ephesians 5:28 – “So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. (KJV)*
 - This is a call for sacrifice, patience, building up and not tearing down, to the point of laying down your life for your wife.
 - *Romans 8:28-29 – “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (KJV)*

You must recognize the sovereignty of God in marriage!

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A SPIRITUAL CALLING

- *1 Corinthians 7:32-33 – “But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife.” (KJV)*
 - This isn't derision against the married. It is simply a statement of fact. If we neglect our spouse to “serve God” we have actually denied God because He has called us to this service.
 - This is a hard work and it requires great sacrifice on both parts!

Ephesians 5 is the altar upon which the lives of the married are to be offered to God.

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A SPIRITUAL CALLING

- *Matthew 20:28 – “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (KJV)*
 - We are called to love all men with the love with which God loves us. But the picture of marriage is unique because of the roles, the oneness, and the covenant that seals them together.

“The Mountain and the Moon-Lit Valley”
 - We need to be rescued from the “grass is greener” syndrome, respect and embrace this ministry that God has for us, and have faith that He will use it to His honor and glory.

GOD'S VISION FOR MARRIAGE: A SPIRITUAL CALLING

- *Revelation 19:5-8 – “ And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” (KJV)*

A day is coming when the glory of the illustration of our marriage will be dissolved into the greater glory of the reality.