

Session One:

The Foundation of Marriage Video Outline

Before watching the video, How would you define marriage? What gives marriage a firm foundation?

Key passage: Genesis 2:18-25

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹So 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. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.¹

Marriage is the final act of creation. Adam says, "You and I belong together. Something taken from me must be returned for me to be complete. When together, we are magnified."

Marriage is God's Doing:²

¹ All scripture unless noted are taken from The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.)

² John Piper, *This Momentary Marriage: A Parable of Permanence*. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books 2009). Piper's teaching in this book provides the foundation for this series that marriage displays the Gospel. When I read this book years ago, it profoundly affected by life and ministry. I knew the church needed to hear this. I began by

**Marriage is designed by God (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:24)
God made and gave the first bride (Genesis 2:22)**

Therefore: God has the patent

- God owns marriage
- God and marriage can never be viewed as separate
- Marriage was established during creation and doesn't change

Genesis 1:27-28: Men and women are Image bearers

Image bearers function as ambassadors: "As God would do, so should they do."

Purposes of Marriage:

1. Reveal the Gospel
2. Subdue and multiply

God says, "I want more of a family."

Ephesians 5:31-32

³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Marriage reveals God and the Gospel

- Marriage is a covenant (verse 31)
- Marriage is a pattern (verse 32)

Marriage is profound because the Gospel is profound.

Christ's leaving His Father in heaven and taking the church as His bride, at the cost of His life, and holding fast to her in one-spirit union forever.

Marriage is viewed as unbreakable:

I will never leave you... Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5

Genesis 2:24-25

mentoring young men and soon it evolved into the pre-marital tool you have before you. I recommend you read the entirety of the book to deepen the truths I'm sharing from it along with my own personal experiences.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Verse 24 creates what verse 25 need to be true.

“Naked and not ashamed” can only happen inside a one-flesh relationship.

Covenant Commitment

- **Creates the context for a marriage free of toxic shame³**
- **It is God’s design for all love relationships**

“Say Yes to sanctification accountability but NO to manipulative, malicious, toxic shame.”

Covenant Love: God’s “hesed” loyal love

Even though I am imperfect, I have no fear of being toxic shamed.

You are marrying a sinner. Therefore, each must say, “I am NOT perfect, yet I have NO fear. I’m always going to sacrifice self for your good.”

Covenant love covers sin:

1 Peter 4:8

1 Corinthians 13:6

When the Covenant Collapses:

Declaration of Independence (Genesis 3:5-7)

All-trusting security of marriage disappears forever

Result of the Broken Covenant

Vulnerability to toxic shame:

Learning to relate in selfishness

Feeling guilty and unworthy

Fig leaves:

Established hypocrisy

Significance of Clothing

Negative: Clothing says we are no longer what we should be

Positive: God will one day make us what we should be through the blood

³ Wilder, Jim and Hendricks, Michal, *The Other Half of Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation*. (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2020) pages 130-135. Shame is one of the six emotions hardwired in the brain. Neuroscience reveals shame is necessary for character to change. Our brain has dedicated circuits for handling shame, and they are tied to other circuits that control the formation of character. Shame is important for socialization, and without it, our character will not change. Toxic shame communicates the message “you are bad.” A healthy shame message is of the form, “I love you but believe that you stopped acting like yourself. Let me remind you how we act in this situation.” Without shame (the sense that we are displeasing people) our character has zero motivation to change. This book is another excellent tool for how to relate in marriage. See Appendix 1 for a sample of the identity statements we’ve written for our marriage and children.

- *Marriage is not a picture of self-gratification; it is a picture of self-sacrifice.*
- *Marriage is designed by God to display the Gospel to the world.*
- *Marriage that does NOT proclaim the Gospel is useless.*
- *The “Fall” did not change God’s purpose in marriage.*
- *Love can only grow in the soil of GRACE in marriage.*
- *Your marriage was created by God to be a safe and sacred place to be naked and not ashamed.*

What would you add or take away from your previous definition of marriage?