

# Session Three:

## Growing in the Gospel Video Outline

*Even though God's design for marriage reflecting the Gospel is perfect, the actors engaged in the play are not. No matter how much we desire to image the perfect love of Christ in our marriage, often we fail. This is the reason marriage is based on grace. In other words, take the forgiveness that we have received by the death of Christ and freely give it to others; specifically, husbands to wives, and wives to husbands.*

**The foundation of marriage is GRACE.<sup>1</sup>**

Colossians 2:13-14

Colossians 3:12-13

**The Practical Aspects of Grace in Marriage:**

- There is going to be conflict based on sin in marriage, we need to forgive sin and forbear strangeness, and sometimes you won't even agree on which is which.
- The hard, rugged work of forgiving and forbearing is what makes it possible for affections to flourish when they seem to have died.
- God gets glory when two very different and very imperfect people forge a life of faithfulness in the furnace of affliction by relying on Christ.<sup>2</sup>

**You and Your Spouse Have Worth: Colossians 3:12**

Chosen— the apple of God's eye

Holy— set apart for God's purpose

Loved— God is for you and not against you

**Value and worth solicit a response: Colossians 3:12**

Inner response--compassionate heart

Outward response--kindness, humility, meekness

**Building a Person with Patience: Colossians 3:13**

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<sup>1</sup> John Piper *This Momentary Marriage* (Wheaton, IL. Crossway Books. 2009) Chapters 3 and 4.

<sup>2</sup> Timothy Keller *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God* (New York, Riverhead Books, 2011) 131. Here is another excellent tool for understanding marriage and how to flourish throughout your years together.

Forbear--endure strangeness  
Forgive--freely or graciously give

***We don't know what our spouse will be like in 35 years. Our HOPE is based on this: we are chosen, holy, and loved. In the "Garden of Marriage", learn to separate the flower bed from the compost pile. Spend more time among the flowers.<sup>3</sup>***

***Grace allows for the dealing with sin in marriage without dwelling on sin in marriage. Marriage should never be static. The goal is not for our spouse to feel as if forbearance is a permanent ball and chain.***

***To commit to marriage is to commit to change.***

***Grace is the foundation of change. I'm in this marriage for the long term all the way to the end, so ... please change.***

Grace is:

- The power to love your enemies (Matthew 5:44)
- The power to stop sinning (Romans 6:13)
- The power to call for change (Galatians 6:1)

Pattern for change: Ephesians 5:26-27

KEY: Christ died to change the church.

Husbands changing wives:

- Husbands are *like* Christ. NOT Christ
- God's holiness is the standard. NOT husbands personal preferences
- Change NOT by oppression, but by sacrifice

Wives changing husbands:

- Wife submit to husband like to Christ. NOT equal to Christ
- Seek change while respecting headship
- Prayer is a request for change
- Gentle spirit. NEVER nagging

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<sup>3</sup> John Piper *This Momentary Marriage* (Wheaton, IL. Crossway Books. 2009) 59.

***The state of oppression and rebellion is the concrete in which marriage becomes static, stale, and hopeless.***

***The state of GRACE (forgiveness and forbearance) is the catalyst by which change toward Christ-likeness in marriage is guaranteed; sometimes even immediate change!***

***Sanctification, true change only comes from sacrificial love.***

***Marriage is a place for making disciples. (Matthew 28:19)***

***Making Marriage a Place for Making Disciples (Ephesians 6:1-4)***

- ***Fathers lead***
- ***Mothers and fathers teach by example***
- ***Environment of honor and unity***
- ***Always pointing to the Lord***
- ***Child has a front row seat to view “Christ and the Church”***

***Fathers, don’t provoke anger (verse 4)***

- ***When authority and self-will come together anger often occurs***
- ***Anger devours other emotions***
- ***God’s forgiveness deals primarily with anger (Ephesians 4:31-5:2)***

***Think about the dynamic change that will happen in our children when they love what they see at home in your Christ-centered marriage.***

***Christ-centered marriage is a place of tender love that opens our children’s hearts and delivers them from anger.***

***Remember: The Gospel is at stake!***

