

# Session Four:

## Hope in the Gospel Video Outline

*The goal for every married couple should be to climb out of the sewer of cultural understanding when it comes to marriage. The Apostle Paul commands us to, “set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:2)*

*Paul is telling us that it is not heavenly-mindedness that hinders love in our marriage. It is worldly-mindedness that hinders love, even when it is disguised by a religious routine on the weekend. Where is the person whose heart is so passionately in love with the promised glory of heaven that they feel like an exile and a sojourner on the earth? Where are the marriages that are so full of Gospel reflection that there is maximum joy even in the stress and evil in the world?*

*What happens in our homes when our marriage is Christ centered?*

**Marriage: Right Thinking (Colossians 3:1-6)**

### **Culture vs Kingdom<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Glory of God (verse 4)**

- **Hope: Romans 5:1-2**
- **Security: Romans 9:22-23**
- **Gospel: 2 Corinthians 4:6**

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<sup>1</sup> I suggest you spend some time in Colossians 3 making a two-column list of the things we are to take off and the things we are to put on. It's a challenging exercise to see how much of the worldly culture controls our daily actions compared to those actions that exhibit the Kingdom of God. Two other passages that could add to this experience are Matthew 5-7 and I Corinthians 13.

While reading the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, record statements that can be used as Believers' identities. Example: We are a people who let our yes be yes and our no be no. Once your list is complete, then you can use this to hold each other accountable when we step out of our identity as a believer, a Kingdom warrior. Like in Appendix 1, you state: “You have forgotten who you are by doing \_\_\_\_\_. We are people who \_\_\_\_\_. Let's work together to restore our identity.

With the definition of love recorded by Paul in Corinthians, write this out using a blank space every time the word love is used. Now to back and read it using the name of God. It holds true in every descriptive way. But how do you do when you place your name in the blank? Here's where a time alone with God can be useful for confessing and restoring to our new character in Christ.

### Hospitality (1 Peter 4:7-11)

Verse 7: Cultivate a personal relationship with Christ

Verse 8: Cultivate a personal relationship with each other

Verse 9: Without grumbling

Verse 10: Steward God's Grace

Verse 11: Glorify God

*Overcome cultural norms with Kingdom knowledge.*

*The stress of life is overcome by loving others.*

### Radical Life of Love (Hebrews 13:1-6)

Verse 1: Love Christians

Verse 2: Love Strangers

Verse 3: Love Prisoners

Verse 4: Honor Marriage

Verse 5: Don't Love Money

Verse 6: Love that God wants to take care of YOU

### God reveals LOVE: The Principle of First Mention

Genesis 22:2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Mark 1:11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:22 ...and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.<sup>2</sup>**

***Marriage is precious. It should be held by all in honor. A Christ-centered marriage is a light in an otherwise dark world. To be out of step with God's value in marriage is to lurk in the shadows of culture. Christians are the salt of the earth and light to the world to the degree that they are out of step with the values of the world and in step with the values of God.***

### **The Blessings of the Prayers of the Patriarch**

**Genesis 27:26-29: Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed! May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!**

**Five principles of a biblical blessing as presented in *The Gift of The Blessing* written by Gary Smalley and John Trent<sup>3</sup>**

**Verse 27: Touch**

**Verses 27-29: Words**

**Verse 27: Value**

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<sup>2</sup> This verse was skipped in the video, however it allows us to understand God's love for us (the world). If the base line for love is God's love for his Son, and that love is absolute, then we can have great confidence in God's love for us seeing that the sacrifice for us was that Son that was so truly and absolutely loved.

<sup>3</sup> Gary Smalley and John Trent, Phd. *The Gift of the Blessing* (Nashville, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993) This is an invaluable resource. Please find a copy and incorporate regular blessings into your marriage and family. These authors provide biblical study, examples, and resources to create family nights that allow the whole family to flourish.

I want to also encourage you to watch the teaching series: *Keys to Loving Relationships* by Gary Smalley. These are available on DVD or you can watch them free on Right Now Media.org.

Verses 28-29: Picture of a Special Future

Verse 28: Commitment

Now feel the agony of heart in one who missed the blessing:

Verse 34, 38: As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!"

Esau said to his father, "have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father." And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

Verse 41: Now Esau hated Jacob...

*This radical life of love is possible knowing that God will never leave or forsake us. Entering marriage is entering a radical commitment to love.*

*God's design for marriage is to live free from the bondage of selfishness. God's design for marriage is for the glory of His name and the good of His people.*

Man and woman: "I do."

Jesus: "Action!"

It's God's evangelistic strategy: Go, Live the Gospel.