



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

February 19th, 2023

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Sermon Discussion Guide

Week 7- “What Matters”: Marriage Matters

Recap the Highlights:

WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS

- Marriage is divinely CREATED by God as a revelation of His Grace.
- Marriage is uniquely DESIGNED as a Horizontal and Vertical Covenant.
- Marriage is expressly PURPOSED to make us Holy not merely Happy.
- Marriage is a spiritual covenant created by God for a man and a women. It is not a covenant fit for a season or culture.
- God created marriage. Man created and justified divorce.
- God never intended from the beginning for man to be alone — he created a helper who was just right for him.
- Our choice to love our spouse must direct our feelings about them — if not, our feelings will direct our choice concerning whether or not to love our spouse.
- Nothing is stronger or more stable than a Christ centered commitment of true love between a man and a women.
- The essence of marriage is a sacrificial commitment.
- The righteousness that grace demands is greater than the righteousness that law demands!

Now Dig Deeper:

1. Marriage must return in our culture to be a central value. When people see our marriage they should see Jesus. What characteristics or values can you share that describe a Christ centered marriage?
2. Could your spouse be part of the answer of helping you be more like Christ? See Ephesians 5:31-32 and then discuss. Look up the scriptures below as a group for further discussion.



Marriage Matters

Scripture References:

Text: Matthew 19:3-8

- Genesis 2:18-24
- Matthew 19:5*
- Matthew 19:4-6
- Matthew 19:7-8

Reflection of undeserved grace is the way to spiritual growth in YOU and your spouse. Make your marriage a holy sight. Where God can reveal to you, the world, and your spouse, the unwavering love of God!

Respond & Pray:

A. **Your spouse is not responsible for YOUR level of commitment.** Talk to God about making your current or future marriage a priority. There are different levels of commitment....where are you, really?

- God first marriages = covenant of us
- Self-centered marriages = covenant of me

B. Pray over how can you partner with God to make more of your marriage. It starts with grace and commitment, seeking the supernatural love of God — a “twice baked” covenant. Make God the head of your triangle!

Book References on Marriage:

Tim Keller, The Meaning of Marriage

Gary Thomas, Sacred Marriage