

## Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

### Sermon: Marriage Basics

#### **Passage: Ephesians 5.15-21**

Illustration:

Need: Before we can explore Paul's instructions to husbands & wives we must first understand the basics of marriage.

#### **I. Marriage was God's idea. (Gen. 2:18-24)**

- To complete what was lacking by design.
  - The language of helper is not of a "sidekick" or lesser individual. "Strong helper" more accurately describes the woman. Strong where he is weak, weak where strong.
  - Man & woman are created equal in worth and importance but distinctive in design, characteristics, and function.
- To introduce intimacy and oneness through covenant.
- Humans in the community of love in loving relationship with their triune Creator for His glory!

#### **II. Marriage was broken by sin. (Gen. 3:16, 20)**

- Sin corrupted and broke the sinners as well as all of the created order.
- In the man, care giving love was replaced with domination. In the woman, completing strength was replaced with competition for control.
- Seeking to have "my needs" met with someone "compatible" became the greatest motivation.
- Marriage has been constantly devalued and often completely disregarded in human history, especially in pursuit of the deceptive "soul-mate."
- Selfishness dominates, 50-50 philosophy, endless expectations, all withdrawals and no deposits, etc.
- (Gen. 3:21; 4:1) Marriage remained sacred & a means of God's blessing even after sin.
- Marriage, though broken, remained God's sacred vehicle for intimacy, reproduction, and reflection of His own unique oneness in community.

#### **III. Marriages experience transformation in the gospel.**

- We are confronted by our own individual broken self-centeredness.
- We are set free from slavery to sin and made free to live with and for others more than ourselves.
- We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love others sacrificially as Christ loves us.
- We are able to see and imitate the sacrificial love of God as displayed in the life and death of Jesus.
- We are able to understand marriage through the lens of mutual submission and sacrificial love.
- We are given a unique arena to practice vulnerability and transparency.
- We are given a unique arena to have and be an authentic friend.
- We are given a unique arena to experience God's desire for Christian community, the church.
- We are given a unique arena to practice the "one anothers" prescribed to followers of Jesus.
- We are given a unique arena to disciple and be discipled as we pursue Christ together for each other.
- We are able to reflect the message of the Gospel to the watching world as we practically live out our roles in the marriage.
- We are able to reflect the image of God as we mutually submit to one another. (Eph. 5:21)
- We are able to reflect the love relationship between the Savior, Jesus, and His bride, the church. (Eph. 5:32)

#### **IV. What best describes what you bring to your marriage - Brokenness or Gospel?**

- "I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of your calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph. 4:1-3)