



How The Gospel Rescues Our Marriage

What is a good marriage?

- 1) She always wants lots of sex
- 2) She always agrees with my choices
- 3) She always agrees with my preferences

What are we *really* saying?

- 1) I want you to make me feel good
- 2) I want you to make me look good
- 3) I want you to not mess with points 1 and 2

Why doesn't our image of a marriage work out?

Misdirected Expectations: *We believe our wives can satisfy areas of our lives that only God has promised to fulfill.*

LIVING IN THE WRONG KINGDOM

THE KINGDOM OF GOD VS SELF

Kingdom of Self:

- We are the most significant person in the kingdom
- We protect what we value
- There is no sacrifice too great to achieve what we desire
- Happiness is the most important outcome of our life

Here is how Paul describes the kingdom of self:

Gal. 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

Gal. 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

Gal. 5:21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

This is what happens when we live in the kingdom of self. We only produce sin.

Kingdom of God:

- Others are the most significant
 - Phil. 2:3 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*
- We protect what God values



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- Eph. 4:2-3 *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.*
- We sacrifice our lives for others
 - 1John 3:16 ¶ *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*
- Joy is the most important outcome of our life
 - John 15:11 *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

Go back to Galatians 5 and contrast the flesh with the fruits of the Spirit:

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal. 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Gal. 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Gal. 5:25 ¶ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Gal. 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

QUESTION: What kingdom does your marriage live in?

MARRIAGE THROUGH GOSPEL LENSES

The PROBLEM in our marriages:

What are the most significant problems in your marriage?

- 1) Our Hearts
 - a. Out of the mouth, the hearts speaks (Matt 12:34)
 - i. What was the cause of your last argument?
 - b. Our hearts desires are driven by what we think makes us happy
 - c. If/Then fallacy
- 2) Our Happiness
 - a. We deserve whatever makes us feel good
 - b. Perfect advertisement of the world
 - c. Who is telling you this?
- 3) Our Habits
 - a. We create habits that flow from the desires of our hearts and to protect our happiness
 - b. Examples:
 - i. Food
 - ii. Porn



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- iii. Entertainment
- iv. Exercise
- v. Alcohol

What if my wife really is the “problem” with my marriage?

The PURPOSE of our marriage:

What is your plan for your marriage?

- Our answer reflects our hearts

What is God’s plan for your marriage?

- A reflection of His grace

- 1) A reflection of Christ’s relationship to the church
 - a. Requires sacrifice

Eph. 5:25 ¶ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

Eph. 5:33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

We make sacrifices for what we love and value. We are called to value our wives as Christ values the church. What we sacrifice reflects our hearts.

- 2) A testimony of our discipleship to the world
 - John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

- 3) A means of ongoing grace
 - 1Pet. 3:7 ¶ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Matt. 6:15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

James 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- 4) The source of our joy
 - John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*
 - John 15:12 ¶ “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*



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John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Joy is not what we can get from our marriage, but what we can give. We are promised joy when we make it our joy to lay our lives down for our wives.

How does this happen?

The PREPARATION of our marriage:

Let's go back to the beginning:

Desires control our happiness.

Happiness controls our habits.

- What is a habit?
- Where do bad habits come from?
- Are there such things as good habits?

We create habits around areas of our lives we value.

CREATING GOSPEL MOTIVATED HABITS

- 1) What is our motivation?
 - a. To determine what will controls our heart
 - i. We create habits around what we value
- 2) What are the priorities?
 - a. What helps fuel your marriage?
 - b. Create habits that protect this source
- 3) What habits need to be replaced?
 - a. We all have habits that are not motivated by the gospel (God's Kingdom) but our flesh (our kingdom)