

LESSON 14 | THE BIBLICAL THEOLOGY & PRACTICE OF MARRIAGE

TRUTH #1: The God who created all things, created & defined marriage.

TRUTH #2: Any attempt to understand & workout marriage apart from the God who created it will fall short of God's good intention for marriage.

TRUTH #3: Marriage is a very good gift of God to all humanity that has been marred & tainted by sin.

TRUTH #4: A truly Christian marriage is able to know God's good purposes for marriage that He established in **Genesis 2:21-25**

TRUTH #5: God intends and expects marriage to be a lifetime covenant between a man and a woman, based on gospel-enabled, biblically-informed love.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES TO REMEMBER

#1: Marriage is not a social convenience nor simply an invention for living together. It is ordained by God to be a covenant of companionship and mutual complement (**Genesis 2:18-25**), and it is meant to keep you set apart in your physical relationship for one another (1 Corinthians 7:2-5).

#2: The marriage relationship is designed by God to be one of unity and one-flesh permanency (Ephesians 5:31). This reflects the loving & enduring relationship between Christ & His Church (Ephesians 5:25-28).

#3: If you are married, God's Word instructs you to love your spouse. If you are a follower of Jesus, you have already been enabled to do just that (Romans 5:5)!

#4: Even if your spouse never practices biblical love, you can still obey the Word and be at peace (Romans 12:18; Psalm 119:165; John 16:33). Not only that, but you can do your part to foster peace in the home (1 Peter 3:8-9).

#5: You are not responsible to change your spouse (Ezekiel 18:20 & Philippians 2:13), but you are responsible to examine yourself continually in a biblical manner (Matthew 7:1-5).

#6: Be a biblical servant and a biblical blessing to your spouse (Philippians 2:3-4). As you do this, you can be assured that God will work all things for your good in your marriage (Romans 8:28-29).

A PRIMER ON BIBLICAL MARRIAGE

GOD HAS ORDAINED MARRIAGE

The covenant of marriage is designed by God to be a lifetime of _____ with your spouse.

Your commitment to companionship is given to provide for _____ help, and to unify you and your spouse in every aspect of life.

Your marriage commitment is sovereignly ordained and established by God and should never be dissolved (**Proverbs 18:22 & Mark 10:9**).

Only the sinfulness of and corresponding hardness of heart in a marriage can lead to the breaking the covenant of marriage (**Matthew 19:8-9**).

GOD HAS ESTABLISHED THE CHARACTER OF MARRIAGE:

Biblical love for your spouse is _____ based on God's love for you & must be practiced out of a desire to glorify/please the Lord.

Marriage is a one-flesh relationship – which is physical, mental, relational, and purpose.

In marriage, both the husband & wife are equal in value (**Galatians 3:28**) but different in _____ (**Ephesians 5:22-25**)

As in all Christ-centered relationships, marriage partners must seek to have the same mind and same judgement (Philippians 2:1-7)

Which means all decisions are to be based on the _____ principles of God's Word.

Which means that all clear commands of Scripture are to be obeyed _____ compromise.

Which means that you are able to _____ your spouse on matters of preference and opinion out of self-dying love (Ephesians 5:21 & 1 Peter 3:1 & 7).

Marriage must be marked by loving servanthood by _____ the husband & wife because that is how Jesus has loved you.

You are to serve your spouse lovingly, as believers should do in all relationships (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

You are to seek to be a fit help to your spouse (**Ephesians 5:24-25**).

Jesus is your example of _____ love & servanthood that you must follow as you minister to your spouse (**Mark 10:43-45**).

WORKING THROUGH MARITAL CONFLICTS ACCORDING TO THE WORD

TRUTH: Most all conflicts in marriage result from living to please self instead of living to please God. These conflicts can be resolved and are actually opportunities for spiritual growth when dealt with in a _____ manner.

#1: When living to please self, each spouse will blame the other for problems & difficulties **EVEN THOUGH BOTH ARE SINNING (James 4:1)**.

#2: When a husband & wife live to please themselves, they will always solve conflicts according to the flesh:

Compromising biblical priorities

Making trade-offs & bargains so that both can "get their way"

Begin lifestyles of co-inhabitation, not marital oneness (i.e. becoming consumed with work, children, hobbies, causes, ministry)

Threaten to leave or intentionally hurt their spouse until they get their way

Withholding money, time, or sex from one another to get the other to change

Endeavoring to change my spouse to conform to my will and ways (i.e. to be like me)

Allowing feelings & emotions to win the day and drive the train

#3: When a husband & wife live to please the Lord, conflict in marriage becomes a means of _____ and _____ for both the husband and the wife (**Isaiah 55:8-11 & James 1:25**).

God commands a believing spouse to love Him and to obey His Word...no matter what (**1 John 4:15**).

Out of a thankful response to God's love because of the cross, a believer can demonstrate _____ - _____ love for his spouse according to the Word (**1 John 4:7-11**)

FOUNDATIONS

learning to change biblically

As a believer esteems his/her spouse as more important than themselves (Philippians 2:3-4), he/she will face and deal with all difficulties in a manner that pleases the Lord (Luke 9:23-24 & **1 Peter 4:1-2**).

#4: Conflict in marriage becomes a means of grace that causes both the husband and the wife to draw closer to God.