December 7, 2025

Real Marriage, Real Mercy

1. Outline

- a. Purpose in Marriage
 - i. Purpose misunderstood
 - ii. Reframing purpose Biblically
- b. Role of Worship in Marriage
 - i. Misplaced worship
 - ii. Reorienting worship
- c. Marital Interactions
 - i. "Wardrobe" of responses
 - ii. Renewing our "wardrobe"
- 2. Purpose in Marriage starting off on the wrong foot
 - a. Starting point what is the object in the center of our marriage?
 - b. "Helping" my spouse and conforming my spouse to the image of me instead of allowing the Creator to sanctify him/her to the image of Christ
 - c. Hidden expectations, often deeply held but subconscious
- 3. Redeeming the Purpose of Marriage
 - a. Glory of God (1 Cor 10:31, Matthew 5:16, Psalm 96:3)
 - i. John Piper's sermon Marriage Lived to the Glory of God
 - b. Part of God's plan for your sanctification, not for your happiness
 - i. God's sanctifying process uses your spouse as a key tool, not the change process we thought we were signing up for
- 4. Moving towards my spouse in Love
 - a. God's *hesed* love for us (Psalm 136:1)
 - b. Defining Love as commitment
 - c. Love is the gospel Agape love (Ephesians 2:1-10)
 - d. OT Gospel Love (Psalm 103:8-12)
 - e. Love is a verb (1 Cor 13)
 - i. Power that fuels marital unity
 - ii. Starts with the recognition of the movement of grace towards us –God's hesed love
 - iii. Recognition that our debts (sins/deeds of the flesh) are canceled

- iv. Our role as agents of the gospel to our spouse
- f. Marriage is a billboard for Christ's love for the church (Eph 5:32)

5. Reflection:

- a. When you first got married, what were your unspoken (perhaps subconscious) expectations?
- b. In what ways can you align your personal goals and desires with the purpose of glorifying God in your marriage?

c. What are some practical ways you can demonstrate the gospel's power in

your marriage, especially during challenging times?

- 6. Marriage problems are worship problems
 - a. Who sits on the throne of your heart? (can change in a moment)
 - b. We worship where we find life and joy (John 10:10, Psalm 16:11)
 - c. Wrong objects of worship-chasing idols (Rom 1:25, Jeremiah 2:11-13)
 - d. Where are your broken cisterns?
- 7. How do we reorient our worship? (1 Peter 2:2-11)
 - a. Remind ourselves of the gospel, God as the mover, us as the recipients
 - b. Focus on Christ and the church (Ephesians 5)
- 8. Reflection
 - a. Are there areas of your marriage that cause you lots of frustration? What were you trying to get? What is the idol at the root of that frustration?
 - b. What are attributes of God that you can meditate on that can reorient your focus? How can you long for the "pure milk of the word"?
 - c. Considering the "just as Christ" emphasis in Ephesians 5, where is the Lord calling you to move toward your spouse "just as Christ"?

9.	1arital Interactions - What clothes do you grab from your spiritual closet?			
	a. Putting on Christ (Rom 13:14)			
	b. Col 3:1-3 – Starts with position in Christ			
	c. Col 3:5-17 – Putting off and putting on (Fleshly or Christ [fruits of spirit])			
	d. Training your spontaneous response by renewing your mind (Col 3:9b-10, 16			
10.	Reflection			
	a. How can you actively improve your understanding of your position in Christ?			
	b. What are some of your spontaneous responses?			
	c. What would it look like to "put on" Christ?			
	d. What ways can you grow in your knowledge of the Lord in the next 30 days?			
	d. What ways can you grow in your knowledge of the Lord in the next 30 days:			