

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



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9. Marital 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

- How can you actively improve your understanding of your position in Christ?
- What are some of your spontaneous responses?
- What would it look like to “put on” Christ?
- What ways can you grow in your knowledge of the Lord in the next 30 days?

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