

Ephesians 5:26-28 (2 Cor. 3:18, 4:3-6, 16; Php. 1:6)

“The Future Glory of Your Spouse”

Pastor Patrick Bowler

10-10-2021

Consult the Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 3 (specifically vs. 18)

2 Corinthians 4:3-6, 16

Philippians 1:6

Ephesians 5:22-33

(See also: Prov. 17:17, 27:9, 27:5-6, 1 Jn. 3:2, Jn. 15:12-14)

Consult the Scholars:

Tim Keller—

“Each spouse should see the great thing that Jesus is doing in the life of their mate through the Word, the gospel. Each spouse then should give him- or herself to be a vehicle for that work and envision the day that you will stand together before God, seeing each other presented in spotless beauty and glory.” (Tim Keller and Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage* [New York, NY: Dutton, 2011], p. 121)

Tim Keller—

“What keeps the marriage going is your commitment to your spouse’s holiness. You’re committed to his or her beauty. You’re committed to his greatness and perfection. You’re committed to her honesty and passion for the things of God. That’s your job as a spouse. Any lesser goal than that, any smaller purpose, and you’re just playing at being married.” (Tim Keller and Kathy Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage* [New York, NY: Dutton, 2011], p. 123)

Discuss:

1. **(Opener)** Looking back over your life, share one of the stupidest things you’ve ever done (*make sure that shares are appropriate for the setting*).

2. Pastor Patrick opened with the above question to make the point the following point: generally speaking, we get married when we are young, meaning that we get married when we still have a lot of growing up to do. How does might this impact our marriages in the early years? (If you are married, share some of your experiences)
3. What is the doctrine of *sanctification*?¹
4. Read 2 Cor. 3 (specifically vs. 18) and 4:3-6, 16 and discuss in view of sanctification. How does this fit within the gospel story (e.g. Gen. 1, 2 and 3 as discussed previously)? (See also Php. 1:6)
5. Pastor Patrick (referencing Tim Keller) said that, in marriage, your spouse will be one of the primary tools that God will use in your future glorification. Do you agree or disagree? (Note: more broadly, Pastor Patrick talked about relationships in general as a tool used in our sanctification).
6. Pastor Tim Keller identifies two “prime qualities” of a friend: (1) constancy and (2) transparency.² As a group, discuss what each quality means and why it is a quality. Which is the more difficult quality for you?
7. Read Eph. 5:22-33 and discuss in view of sanctification. How has Christ demonstrated this on behalf of the church?
8. Read the above quotes from Tim Keller’s book and discuss. What stands out to you personally? Why?
9. What challenged you with this week’s sermon? What questions do you still have? What’s your next move?

¹ **Sanctification:** “...is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.” (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology [Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994], p. 746)

² Tim Keller and Kathy Keller, The Meaning of Marriage (New York, NY: Dutton, 2011), p. 112.