

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: Who gets to define marriage? What is marriage designed for? What's required to have a good marriage? What can a healthy marriage show others? How can a broken marriage be restored? It's time to discover why marriage matters.

We all approach the topic of marriage through our own filters.

How God defined marriage, and how God designed marriage, matters.

Ephesians 5:22-33 (ESV)

Ephesians 5:18-21 (NIV)

Marriage Defined: A Covenant

Marriage Designed: To Cleanse and to Complement.

A Spirit-Filled Man who daily chooses to Lay Down His Life for His Wife while serving a Spirit-Filled Woman who daily chooses to Trust & Follow His Lead, as they both pursue Jesus together.

Solving the Mystery of One Flesh:

- Allow your spouse to point out your faults and wounds.
- Allow your spouse to reprogram your self-image.
- Recognize that you're not (really) independent of one another.
- Recognize that your marriage ultimately represents Jesus.

The Marriage Matters Challenge: FIGHT!

- Against the real enemies.
- For your Oneness.
- For the Gospel.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) How did you understand marriage growing up? How would you have described the purpose of marriage? What did you think it took to have a good marriage?
- 3) What aspects of the *Mystery of One Flesh* are most challenging for you to participate in? What comes most naturally to you?
- 4) How well are you doing at *The Marriage Matters Challenge*? What's your "next step" in order to position your marriage for success?
- 5) If someone asked you how they could pray for your marriage, how would you respond?