



**IMPACT COMMUNITIES**  
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**Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to experience real life & real impact.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Mystery of Marriage #1 of 2, June 26, 2016**

1. Take some time to share about how God has been working in and through you this past week using the B.L.E.S.S. habits questions.
  - How has the Gospel been a **Blessing** to you this week?
  - What are you hearing from God as you **Listen** to the Spirit & read God's Word, the Bible?
  - Who have you had an opportunity to **Eat** with this week to build relationship?
  - Who has God led you to **Serve** this week?
  - In what ways have you been able to **Share** about Jesus this week?
2. What resonated with you from the message? What did you find helpful or challenging.
3. What do these Scriptures tell us in regard to God's purpose for our lives Romans 8:29, Galatians 4:19, 2 Corinthians 3:18. In what way does this impact your perspective on your life.
4. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. What does this passage tell us about God's view of marriage and His purpose for marriage? What does it tell us about God's commitment to us as His church (the bride of Christ)?
5. How does the understanding that God's purpose for marriage is to make us more like Jesus (holy), impact you as you reflect on marriage?
6. What aspects from this Ephesians passage do you need to put into practice as you relate to marriage? What is God asking you to do in this regard?
7. Read Hosea 2:19-20 and understand the context of the book of Hosea. How does this Scripture mirror God's relationship with us as His wayward bride? In what way is the Gospel pronounced in this story? How does this impact your heart?



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## SEQUOIA NOTES

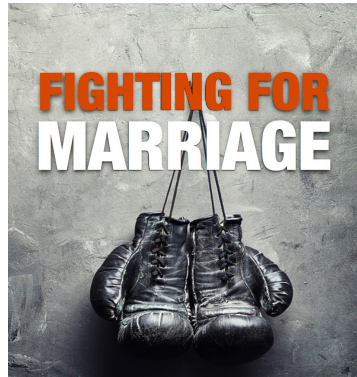
Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

### The Mystery of Marriage

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor

June 26, 2016

**God is passionate about marriage!**



Malachi 2:15-16 (MSG) God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Children of God, that's what. So guard the spirit of marriage within you. Don't cheat on your spouse. <sup>16</sup> "I hate divorce," says the God of Israel. God-of-the-Angel-Armies says, "I hate the violent dismembering of the 'one flesh' of marriage." So watch yourselves. Don't let your guard down. Don't cheat.

**Big Question: What is the purpose for marriage?**

**God's ultimate purpose for us is to become like Jesus.**

- Romans 8:29
- Gal. 4:19
- 2 Cor. 3:18

**What is God's ultimate purpose for marriage?**

God uses marriage to help us become more like Jesus.

*"It helps enormously just to know that God designed marriage - with its joys and its trials, its ups and downs, its good times and its bad times - to help us grow to be more like Christ." Dr. Greg and Erin Smalley - Ready to Wed*

**Big Idea: Marriage was designed to make you holy more than happy.\*\***

Ephesians 5:21-33 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Saviour of his body, the church. <sup>24</sup> As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup> For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. <sup>27</sup> He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. <sup>28</sup> In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. <sup>29</sup> No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. <sup>30</sup> And we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. <sup>33</sup> So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

**Helpful resources:**

*Ready to Wed - Greg and Erin Smalley*

*\*\*Sacred Marriage - Gary Thomas*

*Right Now Media - You and Me Forever - Francis and Lisa Chan*