

Introduction

Radio

Shannon

1. Last week

(1) What do you hunger/hope for?

(2) Are you settling?

(3) Hold Fast, to become one flesh

Ephesians 5:31 - "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

(4) Hold Fast; Make tight

Ecc. 4:12 - And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him - a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

(5) One flesh is "becoming" the new but not yet (spiritual one flesh)

1. Part of that is friendship

2. Developing a Friendship

(1) How do we get there?

(2) Why is it so hard to be friends w/ our spouse?

1. We don't like "friend zone" (Dr. Hight)

(3) Three Orientations of Marriage

I. Shoulder - to - Shoulder

Facing the same objective

1. Shoulder - to - shoulder requires a degree of equity

(1) Mutual submission

Ephesians 5:20-21 - giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

(2) Mutual authority

1 Cor. 7:4 - For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

(3) The husband leads w/ respect to the metaphor... but not extend beyond that "Make me a sandwich"

(4) We complement each other in our duties & management

2. Shoulder - to - shoulder carries a degree of risk

(1) We can get stuck here

(2) Years can pass raising kids, making a career, running a business, making ends meet, etc.

(3) IF shoulder - to - shoulder too long

II. Back-to-Back

Facing different objectives

1. What causes back-to-back?

(1) Preferences

1. Activity drift
2. When activity changes so does relationship

(2) Perspective

1. Marriage is complementing not corroborating
2. They're your friend, not your entourage

(3) Planning

1. Reverse engineering, passive planning

(4) Play

1. Date nights aren't always for feelings

(5) Pain

1. Suppress → Release
2. Whole gen. that can't communicate

2. How to get out of back-to-back

(1) Build around identity, not activity

(2) Embrace distinction over union

1. The way you would do/think/feel

(3) Be intentional, not reactionary

(4) Make time for fun, not just feelings

(5) Aim for friendship, not partnership

III. Face - to - Face

Facing our main objective: each other

1. Shoulder - to - Shoulder = Partnership

2 Corinthians 6:14 - Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

(1) Partnership = what we do

1. Raise kids
2. Make Money
3. Lessen burden

(2) Fellowship = ("we are fellow...")
what we have in common

1. Golf, yoga, motorcycles, gym, church

2. Face - to - Face = Friendship

Ex. 33:11a - Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...

1. Intimacy occurs face - to - face

1 Cor 13:12 - For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

2. Friendship is about being fully known

3. Friendly w/ many, but only friends w/ a few

Proverbs 18:24 - A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

4. Friendship takes time & proximity

5. Don't have to hide

Genesis 3:8-10 - And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

6. They didn't want to be seen. they were afraid that God would see what He saw

Deal w/ sin

Conclusion Band

Hard for all because the metaphor is so lofty

1. Pain for all

Gen. 2:18, 23-25 - Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone.

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

(1) Delayed Marriages

- ① Singleness has its advantages
 - ② Singleness is hard
 - ③ Singleness is not permanent
1. 3 years means 152 of 156 Sundays are for all
 2. Men, women, particular sins career... but motherhood, fatherhood & marriage
 3. Acknowledgments
 4. This subject is not just painful for you

(2) Divorced Marriages

1. Failed intimacy, friendship, & metaphor

(3) Distressed Marriages

1. Not excited about this series
2. Marriage is not flourishing, but languishing.
3. Or it feels more like partnership than friendship.

2. Friendship for all

(1) Stop spiritual bypassing

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 - I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

(2) Start spiritual operating

1. Everyone falls short of the metaphor (not a gift; but curse)

Heb. 13:4a - Let marriage be held in honor among all...

Hebrews 8:5a - They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things....

2. Everyone has a friendship

Matt. 11:19 - The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Jn. 15:15 - No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

4. Everyone is in a marriage (first love)

Mk. 12:25 - For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Your Father loves you,
far more than a future spouse
ever will or could.

God intends to use you, your faith,
your time, and your singleness
in radical ways right now, as you
are. You don't have to wait to get
to the most important work
you'll ever do.

We are saved to go out into the
world—single or married—for
the glory of our Jesus, to make
him known as our Lord, Savior,
and greatest treasure.

MARSHALL SEGAL

Not Yet Married

Rev. 7:17; 19:7 - For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

