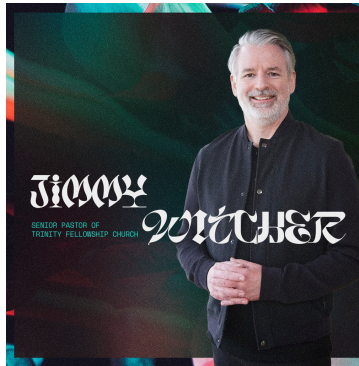




Stand Alone Message | Principle of First Love | Jimmy Witcher | 10.5.25

Key Takeaways:

1. Humans are created in God's image, distinct from animals.
2. Marriage is a reflection of the Trinity, with specific roles for husbands and wives.
3. The husband's primary spiritual role is to love his wife sacrificially.
4. The principle of "first love" involves husbands taking the initiative in love and service.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding that we are created in God's image impact our view of ourselves and others?
2. The sermon mentions that marriage is the first institution created by God. Why do you think marriage is so important to God's plan?
3. Discuss the concept of gender roles in marriage as presented in the sermon. How do these compare to cultural views on gender roles?
4. Pastor Jimmy talks about husbands loving their wives as Christ loved the church. What are some practical ways husbands can demonstrate this kind of sacrificial love?
5. How does the "principle of first love" challenge or affirm your current understanding of marriage?
6. For singles: How can you prepare yourself for a future marriage that reflects God's design?

7. What struck you most about the pastor's personal story of marriage struggles and transformation?

Practical Applications:

1. For married couples:

Husbands, commit to one specific way you will "love first" this week.

Wives, share with your husband one way he can better demonstrate love to you.

2. For singles:

Reflect on the qualities you should look for in a potential spouse that align with God's design for marriage.

Consider how you can cultivate a servant's heart in your current relationships.

3. For everyone:

Meditate on Ephesians 5:21-33 this week, considering how it relates to the sermon's message.

Practice "loving first" in a challenging relationship in your life (family, work, friendships).

4. If you're struggling in your marriage, consider reading the book mentioned: "If Only He Knew" by Gary Smalley.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His design for marriage and ask for His help in implementing the principles discussed.