



## Beyond "I Do" PT. I | Genesis 2 : 20-25 | Jimmy Evans | 02.15.26

### The Four Laws of Love

#### Opening Prayer

**Opening Prayer:** Begin by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

#### Icebreaker (10 minutes)

**Icebreaker Question:** What's one thing you wish someone had told you about marriage before you got married (or if single, what's one question you have about marriage)?

#### Sermon Overview (5 minutes)

Pastor Jimmy shared the four foundational laws of marriage from Genesis 2:24-25:

1. **The Law of Priority** - Marriage must be first
2. **The Law of Pursuit** - Marriage requires work
3. **The Law of Partnership** - Marriage is an equal relationship
4. **The Law of Purity** - Marriage requires integrity and openness

These are God's universal, inviolable laws for marriage. When honored, they create order, safety, and predictability. When violated, they lead to pain and dysfunction.

## **Discussion Questions:**

### **Understanding the Message (15 minutes)**

1. Pastor Jimmy stated that "marriage is the safest relationship on earth when God's laws are honored." How does this challenge common cultural views about marriage?
2. Why do you think God established laws for marriage? What purpose do they serve?
3. Which of the four laws resonated most with you personally? Why?

### **The Law of Priority (10 minutes)**

4. What are the most common "rivals" that compete with marriage in today's culture? (Consider: work, children, technology, hobbies, extended family)
5. Pastor Jimmy shared that his golf obsession nearly destroyed his marriage. What are practical ways to communicate to your spouse that they are your top priority?
6. How can jealousy be a healthy emotion in marriage? When does it become unhealthy?

### **The Law of Pursuit (10 minutes)**

7. Why do you think most couples work hard to win each other's hearts before marriage but stop working once married?
8. Pastor Jimmy said, "The greatest marriage is two servants in love. The worst marriage is two selfish people in love." What does being a servant in marriage practically look like?
9. What's one specific way you could "work" at your marriage this week? (Or if single, what would you commit to if you were married?)

### **The Law of Partnership (10 minutes)**

10. How does dominance (by either spouse) damage a marriage? What did you observe growing up about this?
11. What does healthy partnership look like in decision-making? How can couples navigate disagreements without one person dominating?
12. Pastor Jimmy mentioned that all major decisions in his home have "three names on it: Karen, Jimmy, and Jesus." How can couples practically include God in their decision-making?

## The Law of Purity (10 minutes)

13. What does it mean to be "naked and unashamed" in marriage beyond just the physical aspect?
14. Pastor Jimmy shared about his verbal abuse and how his words killed intimacy in his marriage. How powerful are our words in building up or tearing down our spouse?
15. The saying goes: "Trust is earned in drops and lost in buckets." How can someone rebuild trust after it's been broken?

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## Key Takeaways

- ✓ **You have a 100% chance of success in marriage when you do it God's way**
- ✓ **Marriage only works in first place** - your spouse must be more important than work, children, hobbies, technology, and anything else except your relationship with Jesus
- ✓ **Marriage only works when you work at it** - you must actively serve your spouse and meet their needs
- ✓ **Marriage is a 50-50 partnership** - no one owns more stock; dominance destroys intimacy
- ✓ **Purity and responsibility are essential** - you must be careful with your words and actions and take responsibility when you're wrong

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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge:

#### For Married Individuals:

- **Priority Check:** Identify one "rival" competing for your spouse's rightful first place. Have an honest conversation with your spouse about it and make one concrete change this week.
- **Pursuit Action:** Do one specific thing this week to serve your spouse that meets one of their needs. Ask them: "What do you need from me?"

- **Partnership Practice:** Make one decision together this week using the "three names" principle: you, your spouse, and Jesus. Pray together before deciding.
- **Purity Commitment:** If you've sinned against your spouse with your words or actions, take responsibility. Say, "I was wrong. I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?"

### For Singles:

- Reflect on what you observed about marriage growing up. What patterns do you want to repeat? What do you want to do differently?
- If you desire marriage, begin praying for your future spouse now and ask God to prepare you to be the right person, not just find the right person.
- Consider: What "rivals" in your life would need to be reprioritized if you were to get married?

### Accountability Partner:

- Pair up with someone in your group this week. Share which of the four laws you most need to work on and check in with each other mid-week.

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## Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer: (10 minutes)

### Specific Prayer Focus:

- Marriages that are struggling or on the verge of divorce
- Healing from past hurts in marriage or family
- Singles desiring marriage and preparation for it
- Couples who need help prioritizing their relationship
- Restoration of trust where it's been broken
- Grace to become servants rather than selfish spouses

**Closing Prayer:** Holy Spirit, give us the power to live our marriages Your way. Help us make our spouses first, work at our relationships, treat each other as equal partners, and maintain purity and integrity. For those who are hurting, bring supernatural healing. For those who are hopeless, restore hope. Give us the grace to change and the courage to do what's right. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## For Next Week

Invite someone who could benefit from this series on marriage. Remember: 70% of people in church are there because a friend invited them. Your invitation could change someone's marriage and their eternity.

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## Additional Resources

- Read Genesis 2:18-25 daily this week
- Memorize Genesis 2:24: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."
- Consider reading: Proverbs 18:21-22 on the power of words in marriage.