



Message Series Guide

Revive

Part 3 – Gospel-Centered Marriage

Ephesians 5:22-33

The word *gospel* simply means “good news.” The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news that sinful people can be made right with God by repenting of their sin and calling upon Jesus as Savior and Lord. To be gospel-centered is to be focused on the life-changing good news of God in Christ. We often speak of ministries, books, songs or programs as being “gospel-centered.” However, what does it mean to have a gospel-centered marriage? A gospel-centered marriage is a marriage made up of one man and one woman who have been declared righteous through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and whose marriage reflects His atoning work on the cross. In a gospel-centered marriage, the relationship between a husband and a wife reflects the relationship between Christ and His church for the glory of God.

READ:

Ephesians 5:22-33 • Romans 8:8 • Philippians 2:4, 7-8 • I Timothy 1:15 • Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- How would you define, “gospel-centered marriage?” Explain how a marriage should reflect the gospel. What makes a gospel-centered marriage unique and different from any other human relationship?
- What are the consequences of viewing our spouse as the ultimate source of our joy and fulfillment? Why is it so important that Jesus be the ultimate source of joy and fulfillment for both a husband and a wife?
- What are the benefits of mutual humility in a marriage/relationship? How did Jesus demonstrate humility? Why is humility a difficult trait to develop in a marriage/relationship? How do you practice humility in your marriage/relationship?
- Why is forgiveness essential in a marriage or relationship? Is forgiveness the same as forgetfulness? Why or why not? How does forgiveness and forgetfulness reflect the gospel message?
- As a couple, how do you demonstrate your faith together? Do you pray together? What impact has praying together had on the quality of your marriage/relationship?

DISCUSS:

- To what extent do you look to your spouse to meet your needs, fulfill your expectations, or bring significance and meaning to your life? Do you think this is healthy or unhealthy? Explain.
- Discuss some practical ways a couple can develop gospel-centeredness in their marriage/relationship.
- How do you communicate with your spouse the things you are learning on your spiritual journey? If you do not, discuss how you can better communicate your spiritual journey with one another.
- Do you find it easy or difficult to be pray with your spouse? Explain.
- Would you say that your marriage/relationship is solidly grounded on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

PRAY:

Whether single or married, pray that all of your relationships reflect the life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

RESPOND:

Commit to reflect the gospel in your life and relationships by growing in Christ-centeredness, humility, forgiveness, love and prayer.



Sermon Notes

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Ephesians 5:22-33

Most marriages are born out of a desire for companionship, affection or just personal happiness. Many people tend to believe that the marriage relationship is the ultimate source of happiness and fulfillment in this life. Our culture romanticizes and even idolizes finding that one person that you're meant to be with so that you can live happily ever after. However, Scripture gives a completely different picture for the purpose of marriage. Marriage is less about making us happy and more about glorifying God through obedience in a relationship that is centered on the gospel message.

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the good news that God restored our relationship with Himself by sending His only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins on the cross, to all who “*repent and believe*” (Mark 1:15).

What is a Gospel-Centered Marriage?

A marriage made up of one man and one woman who have been declared righteous through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and whose marriage reflects the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Evidence of a Gospel-Centered Marriage:

1. Understanding that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
 - The only One who can satisfy our heart and save our soul is the One who made them both - Jesus Christ.
2. Developing Humility
 - A gospel-centered marriage is when each spouse chooses to decrease so that other may increase (John 3:30).
3. Absolute Forgiveness
 - The more a husband and wife experience the grace of the gospel in their own lives, the larger their capacity will be to forgive one another in marriage.
4. Gospel Love
 - Gospel love doesn't cherish a future, better version of your spouse. Gospel love cherishes your spouse just the way they are because that's how Jesus loved you.
5. Unceasing Prayer
 - Revival in any church, nation, heart or marriage has always been preceded by unceasing prayer.
 - Nothing binds two hearts together more permanently than praying together.