

“Marriage And The Gospel”

Ephesians 5:22-33

Sermon Series: “Jesus And My Marriage”

Introduction: Marriage was instituted by God as a part of creation as the foundational institution of human society. It was created for everyone and is under common grace. However, there is a deeper aspect to marriage, and that is a truly Christian marriage. The spiritual reality behind marriage is that it is designed to be a picture of Jesus and His Church. Of course, that relationship was brought about through Jesus sacrificing Himself for us so it is based on the gospel. This is an incredible passage that parallels marriage and the gospel. The gospel is the fact that Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead, and we are saved by trusting Him (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). So, a Christian marriage is not one based on Christian values (that may be a religious, legalistic marriage) but a Christ-centered, gospel-centered marriage that is based on and pictures the the union of Christ and the church. At True Life, we believe God wants us to focus on the gospel and examine how it applies to every area of life, including marriage, so let’s look at Marriage And The Gospel.

1. Christian marriage is a reflection of the gospel. That is the analogy and point of the entire passage, culminating in the truth that marriage is a picture of the union between Christ and the church. This means that, like salvation and everything else, the ultimate purpose of marriage is the glory of God (v. 27). Christian marriages are grounded in what Jesus has done for us and are under the Lordship of Christ. **Are we committed to the glory of God as the purpose and priority of our marriage?**

2. Christian marriage is empowered by the gospel. The foundational problem for marriages is that we live in a fallen world and every marriage is a union of two sinners. We are battling the

world, the flesh, and the devil at every turn. **We have to remember that Jesus is our Savior-not our spouse.**

How does being empowered by the gospel change our marriage?

A. We forgive because we have been forgiven. Tim Keller has written, “The key to marriage is simply reenacting the gospel to each other. You can talk about communication skills or other stuff, and they’re all good, but basically knowing how to forgive and knowing how to repent...If you both can forgive and repent, it doesn’t matter how different you are, you’ll be okay.”

B. We love because we are loved instead of to get love or because our spouse is lovable. It is natural to do things for someone to get something from them or because they are treating us well. However, unconditional love gives without expecting anything in return and whether or not someone else is loving us. That’s supernatural! It comes from the love of Jesus flowing through us.

C. We sacrifice instead of being selfish. Rick Warren says, “Nothing unmask our innate self-centered sinfulness as a long-term marriage. Many would rather divorce than admit it and change. I can summarize 35 years of pastoral marriage counseling in 2 words: GROW UP. Selfishness is the root.”

D. We pursue holiness instead of happiness. Rick Warren goes on to say, “The purpose of marriage is to make you holy, not happy. Happiness is a by product, not an end in itself.”

-Pursue holiness instead of what I want.

-Pursue holiness instead of what we want.

Conclusion:

Is Jesus at the center of your life?

Is Jesus at the center of your marriage?

Are you genuinely a Christian?

Are you filled with the Spirit?