

## “Making Marriage Work”

### Ephesians 5:15-33

#### Sermon Series: “Jesus And My Marriage”

**Introduction:** The designer of something knows how it is supposed to work so we need to follow His instructions. In the section of Ephesians that we will be studying, God, the designer of marriage, is instructing us on how He designed marriage and what we are to do to make it work correctly. In this first message we are actually going to look at the passage that precedes the marriage passage because it is not there by accident or coincidence. There are two commands in this section that I believe are necessary for us to obey in order to make marriage work in the way that God designed it. They are: **Walk in wisdom and be filled with the Spirit. Wisdom shows us what to do and being filled with the Spirit gives us the power to do it.**

#### **1. Wisdom is necessary to make marriage work according to God’s design.**

Definition of wisdom: Wisdom is making right choices according to God’s will, it is the application of God’s truth to life, it is living according to God’s plan. **Areas of Application:**

#### Marriage

1. Nagging/complaining/criticizing/demeaning instead of encouraging and showing appreciation
2. Anger and harsh words instead of listening and speaking kindly
3. Unforgiveness and bitterness instead of forgiveness
4. Refusing to admit we are wrong and apologizing
5. Putting our kids ahead of our spouse
6. Spending beyond our means instead of being good stewards
7. Spending time with tv, technology, etc. instead of with our spouses

8. Thinking it’s about your own happiness instead of serving your spouse
9. Denying your spouse sexually on a constant basis/pornography/getting too close to members of the opposite sex
10. Divorce as a solution

#### Singles

1. Being unequally yoked together
2. Pre-marital sex
3. Living together
4. Not listening to wise counsel
5. Making excuses for the other person and talking yourself into the relationship being a good idea
6. Don’t settle for the first person to come along
7. Don’t make decisions based on feelings instead of the truth of Scripture
8. Find your identity in Christ instead of a relationship status
9. Don’t follow culture’s “wisdom” on relationships
10. Don’t focus more on preparing for a wedding than preparing for a life together

**2. Being filled with the Spirit is necessary to make marriage work according to God’s design.** Being filled with the Spirit means to be controlled by the Spirit. It stands in contrast to being controlled by our own sinful nature (see Galatians 5:16-26). Do we want the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit to characterize our marriages? The type of marriage we have is dependent upon the type of people we are.

**Main Idea of verse 18: We live out what Jesus expects of us by living out of what Jesus has done for us through the filling of the Spirit in us.**

**The principle here is that what we are filled with inwardly determines how we relate to others outwardly (v. 18-21).**