



COUNSELING & A THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

October 8th, 2023

5 Truths about Marriage

1) Marriage was designed and instituted by God

- a. If God instituted marriage, then He alone has the authority to define it
- b. If God instituted marriage, then His Word alone contains the truths to have a God honoring marriage
- c. If God instituted marriage, then He must be at the center of your marriage
(or your desire to be married if you are single)

5 Truths about Marriage

2) A biblical marriage must be rooted in the Gospel

- Because of the Gospel, Christians have become new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). Therefore, in our marriage, our past does not define us, confine us, or determine our future.
- Because of the Gospel we are forgiven (Ephesians 1:7) and we can forgive as Christ forgave us (Ephesians 4:32). Nothing done against us compares to our sin against God. Therefore all offenses, hostility, and bitterness between Christians (or husbands and wives) can be completely forgiven and removed.
- Because of the Gospel, sin's ruling power over us is broken (Romans 6:6, 14). Therefore, we can truly obey all that God calls us to do in our marriage, regardless of any circumstance or situation.

5 Truths about Marriage

- 3) God intends the marriage relationship to be the most important human relationship we have
- 4) God intends the marriage relationship to be permanent
- 5) Marriage is meant to be a picture of the Gospel

5 Reasons we have struggles in marriage

- 1) I don't love my wife like Christ loves his bride the church
- 2) Rather than quickly resolving conflict, we want to wait them out
- 3) In finally resolving a conflict the goal becomes to prove I'm right, rather than the restoration of oneness and unity
- 4) My goal in confrontation or addressing issues is my own convenience or expectations being met, rather than the spiritual growth and maturing of my spouse
- 5) We keep trying to change our spouse

Scenarios

1: Steve and Joanna have been married for 6 years and they fight about everything. He doesn't like how she spends money, she doesn't like the amount of time he devotes to hobbies and sports. Joanna wishes Steve would be more romantic like he was when they were dating. Steve wishes Joanna would keep the house cleaner. Any attempts at discussing their issues result in them bringing up past offenses and not really resolving anything.

2: John and Susan have been married for 3 years. John believes he has seen some areas in Susan's life that concern him, things he didn't see or notice during dating. Susan nags and complains to John frequently about things that don't seem to be that big a deal. John has grown tired of listening to her and often tunes her out during these conversations. He's not sure what to do or how to address these issues because he wants to avoid conflict.

Scenarios

3: Tom and Betty have 3 kids ranging in age from 10 to 15 and life is filled with the busyness of school and sports and activities. They barely have time to talk or spend time together and describe their relationship like two ships passing each other going into and out of a harbor. This has caused them each to feel alone and start having doubts about the strength of their relationship.