

## EPHESIANS 5:22-24 – MAKE IT A GOSPEL CENTERED MARRIAGE

**WORLD IS UPSIDE DOWN – more and more confusing. bewilder. scratch head.**

- Where people look for – MODEL PATTERN marriage of their dreams

The divorce rate has been declining in recent years, decrease in the overall marriage rate, people marrying later in life, and a rise in cohabitation before marriage – impact alternative trad marriage.

- MODEL?? – Millenials/GenZ – DIVORCE RTS > **(THE GOSPEL)**

You have to look to Jesus to determine what it really means to have a marriage purpose

CHRISTIANITY: has always been light in darkness, challenging cultural norms and codes.

- GOSPEL CENTERED MGS: didn't condone patriarchy, a man's dictatorial rule using power to subjugate women (**ROM SOC**), nor concede feminism: reversing the order of creation for women to master or domineer men **ARTEMIS CULT**

**MP: In a gospel-centered marriage, couples mutually acknowledge their shared purpose is to radiate Christ's love for His church and the church's love for Jesus.**

Can't package this book or rules - Rule following – miss loving Jesus and loving others.

- **Healthy marriages don't come from cosmetic changes but by spirit empowered transformational living. – PRINCIPLE + POWER**

### **FROM THE BEGINNING**

**IMAGE BEARING:** The Intention of God – **Not just Adam...LET US MAKE THEM..**

Not saying single people can't radically radiate the image of God. **in Christ Can.**

**Since** God lives in eternal relationship, he designed us for life-long lasting marriages. **Since** God is triune, he designed us for marriages of intimate companionship. **Since** God is three equal persons, he designed us for marriages in which h/w are equals. **Since** God is diverse, he created marriage to be mutually strengthening; our differences to be harmonizing. **Since** God's Trinity is ordered the Son and the Spirit living in voluntary submission to the loving leadership of the Father, so also there is a leadership order in marriage.

### **CREATED OF EVE**

- Helper Suitable (ezerkenedgo): **Ezer:** aids, strengthens, helps you in a way that you cannot help yourself – **essential aid. Kenedgo:** Someone who stands opposite, accountable, face to face, contending for your good. **2 BECOME ONE**

### **THE TRAIN GOES OFF THE RAILS – THE FALL**

- **CONFLICT:** Ur desire shall be contrary ur husband, but he shall rule over u.
  - o **'To love and to cherish' becomes 'To desire and to dominate' WAR**

**CHAOS: we all deal with in our fallen nature – DESTRUCTION ALL AROUND US**

### **THE GOSPEL REVOLUTIONIZES MARRIAGE**

Jesus didn't just restore marriage to the original intent; He took it to the next level.

**Everything Change GOSPEL – STORY OF GOD - PATH OF CHRIST – BEAUTY CHURCH**

**IMAGE BEAR:** To image bear means to radiate Christ the King and His gospel through your life as you experience Him and engage in His Kingdom's purpose.

- **REVOLUTIONIZED PURPOSE:** Conduit of love..Build a family. 2 better 1.

**In a gospel-centered marriage, couples mutually acknowledge their shared purpose is to radiate Christ's love for His church and the church's love for Jesus.**

Marriage is the one living metaphor through which God has chosen to display to all people the beauty of Christ's love and his profound relationship with His people.

CONTEXT of the CROSS - Cruciform Life: We have a cross-shaped life now. RESIST/LUV

- Bring that into marriage – marry Christian – SHARE SAME PURPOSE

## **WIVES AND HUSBANDS – SUBMISSION AND AUTHORITY**

It doesn't just boil down to this – Paul addressing issues in the culture specifically

It doesn't matter how many times a married man changes his job; he will always end up with the same boss...If a man is in the middle of nowhere and his wife isn't around, is he still wrong?

**SUBMIT:** modern context implies obedient, docile, inferior, meek, quiet, numb, in need of guidance, or childlike. THAT'S NOT BIBLICAL SUBMISSION

**Jesus turns submission from a vice into virtue. SCRIPTURE HAS A HIGH VIEW**

Last first, first last – servants lead the church – foot washers have highest honor

- **Submit:** Voluntarily place yourself below someone else (Ephesians 5:21)
- Paul opt out struggle for honor, prestige, control, and wealth that characterized Roman culture. **IN MARRIAGE.. RESULT OF THE FALL..**

**In God's kingdom church is princess next to prince, the bride next the groom.**

**HEAD:** source (Adam bio source) authority (lovingly leads) – disagreement/leans to..

- **BIB AUTHORITY:** self-giving, self-sacrificing, serving by giving yourself up for your wife to love, cherish and care for her like Christ does the church.

**Type of Authority cuts against the grain of the culture. Opposite Roman concept influence we aren't fighting**

- **SO MUCH MORE:** Not about tie-breaking vote when you disagree, deciding where you live, who gives up the job, how you raise your children, spend your money, Calls shots – **ALREADY MISSED THE POINT**

**Christ's authority is exercised through self-giving and self-sacrificing as He guides and leads His people toward what is best for them. REFLECT – NOT FOR ME**

- o Not just I do this and you do that – **DISCOVER STRENGTHS MAXIMIZE**

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IF MY HUSBAND'S NOT A CHRISTIAN**

1 Peter 3:1 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup>when they see your respectful and pure conduct. <sup>3</sup>Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— <sup>4</sup>but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

**28<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY – MUTUAL LOVE AND SUPPORT – JOURNEY GROWTH**

- Ask yourselves: how does our marriage, this decision, way we process reflect Jesus and His church. As a wife how am I radiating the beauty of the church's love for Jesus by the way I interact with my husband? As a husband is do I self-sacrificially guide my wife to fulfill God's best interest for her?

Single: pray for, future spouse, pray for the marriages