

INTENTIONAL

Marriage



INTENTIONAL MARRIAGE

- **Outcomes:**

- Provide principles and practices to cultivate a healthy and God honoring marriage.
- To help create an intentional connection between discipleship and marriage.
- To provoke intentional conversations about marriage.

**SMALL THINGS DONE WELL
CONSISTENTLY OVER TIME**

WE LET THINGS GO AND EXPECT

A QUICK FIX



**WE OFTEN WANT TOOLS BEFORE
TRANSFORMATION**

FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE:

THE GOSPEL HAS TO BE AT THE CENTER OF MARRIAGE

FUNDAMENTAL PREMISE:

MARRIAGE IS ABOUT HOLINESS NOT JUST HAPPINESS

**BIBLICAL
FOUNDATIONS OF
MARRIAGE**

Genesis 2:18-25

The Lord God said, “**It is not good for the man to be alone.** I will make a helper suitable for him.”

19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam^[f] no suitable helper was found. **21** So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs^[g] and then closed up the place with flesh. **22** Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib^[h] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,
“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

That is why a man leaves his father and
mother and is united to his wife, and they
become one flesh.

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 2:18-25

SUMMARY OF GENESIS 2 AND BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF MARRIAGE

- Marriage was created and instituted by God.
- The model of marriage is expressed in Genesis 2:18-25
- Marriage is a relational context of profound unity and connection.
- Marriage is a place of deep knowing and being known.
- Marriage is a continuous process of unity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is a key insight that stuck out to you from the Genesis 2 passage?
- Reflect on your marriage process of “becoming one” what have been key steps or turning points in your journey?
- What has been the biggest challenge in developing unity as a couple?

3 BIBLICAL COMPONENTS FOR MARRIAGE

**LOVE AS A FOUNDATIONAL
COMPONENT**

LOVE DEFINED

- **Culturally Defined:** an intense, emotional feeling of desire and affection for another.

LOVE DEFINED

- **Biblically Defined:** A decisive commitment to live with a self sacrificial giving of oneself for the flourishing and wellbeing of another.

BIBLICALLY ILLUSTRATED

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN
HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

-JOHN 3:16

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

If I speak in the tongues^[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,^[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Reflect on the idea that love is a commitment not just an emotion what does this mean? How does this effect what love looks like in your relationship?
- What is one way that your spouse communicates love that resonates well with you?

MUTUAL SUBMISSION

EPHESIANS 5

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. **22** Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. **24** Now as the church **submits** to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

-Ephesians 5:21-24

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body.

Ephesians 5:25-30

31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”^[c] **32** This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. **33** However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:31-33

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

-Ephesians 5:1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why is the idea of mutual submission so important in a marriage?
- What practical realities make mutual submission challenging?

Mutual Servanthood

Philippians 2:1-7

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature[a] God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature[b] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does it look like, practically, to serve your spouse well?
- What do you find challenging about the idea of mutual servanthood?

HOW IS THIS ALL POSSIBLE?

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

-Ephesians 3:16-20

APPLICATION

- What is one thing I can do today to communicate to my spouse that I love them? {Foundation of Love}
- What is one thing I can do this week to serve my spouse well? {Mutual Servanthood}
- What battle/argument/disagreement/plan can I let go of to submit to my spouse? {Mutual Submission}

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is one key insight/thought that stuck out to you?
- What is one takeaway that you want to implement?