

When Sinners Say “I Do”

Lesson 1

1. What reasons do men and women give when they are convinced their marriage will survive? (*love, compatibility, family history, shared faith, good financial planning, etc.*)
 - *What are the positive features & negative features of these reasons?*
2. What we believe about God will determine the quality of our marriage
 - Theology is the study of God (His character, actions, virtues, and expectations)
 - Theology affects our ideas about life, our needs, our marriage, our conflicts
 - Slice of Married Life (pg. 21)
 - “It really frustrates me when you do that!”
 - “Yeah ... well ... whatever! That’s just the way I am – it’s not my fault that it pushes all the wrong buttons for you.”
 - “You don’t really care about what I need, do you?”
 - “What you need? What about what I need? My feelings don’t seem to matter at all in this marriage.”
 - “Why can’t you trust me?”
 - *** What are the assumptions about who we are, what we need, what’s really important, and how God figures into it all?
3. **FOUNDATION of Marriage – Scripture**
 - Good theologians need accurate, reliable, and relevant material!
 - How does the Bible provide stability and clarity to marriage? (*definition, expectations, objectives, relationship, roles, evaluation, etc.*)
4. **FOUNTAIN of Marriage – Gospel**
 - Bookends to the Bible: Genesis (sin enters) & Revelation (sin destroyed)
 - Other 64 books? GOSPEL!
 - Preparation for*
 - Presentation of*
 - Participation in*
 - What is the biggest problem in a dysfunctional marriage?
 - What kinds of problems affect the stability of any marriage?
 - The Gospel explains our most obvious & basic problem: SIN!
5. **FOCUS of Marriage – Glory of God**
 - Marriage wasn’t just invented by God, it belongs to God!
 - Eph. 5 – God is the most important person in a marriage
 - In this passage, what is the common reference point for all that we do in marriage?*
 - Why is it so hard to make this connection?*
6. What would happen if we abandoned the idea that the problems and weaknesses in our marriage were caused by a lack of information, dedication, or communication?
 - Thomas Watson: “Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet.”
 - What is the greatest hurdle/hindrance to admitting that we sin against our spouse?