

## **SESSION #19 – MARRIAGE**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Too many of us are \_\_\_\_\_ in our marriages
2. Marriage is about way more than just your \_\_\_\_\_ and positive outcomes on society.

### **II. THE DIVINE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE**

1. Genesis 2:18-25 (ESV) "The LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.' ...So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man: Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.'"
2. Four foundational truths this passage teaches us about marriage:
  - Marriage was \_\_\_\_\_ idea.
    - One man with one woman in a unique covenant relationship.
  - God said that it was not good for man to be \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - God created a \_\_\_\_\_ suitable for man.
    - The woman was created to co-rule the earth with the man, not to be ruled by him.
  - God intended man to leave his parents' home and to \_\_\_\_\_ to his wife.
    - The word "cling" carries with it the idea of maintaining a covenant relationship.
    - God didn't intend marriage as a \_\_\_\_\_ arrangement.

### **III. GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE**

1. Throughout history there have generally been three different approaches to marriage:
  - The "\_\_\_\_\_ "marriage.
    - In this type of marriage, it can feel like there are a winner and a loser.

- The “\_\_\_\_\_” marriage.
  - The identical marriage is an overcorrection for the top-down marriage.
- The “\_\_\_\_\_” Biblical marriage.
  - Emphasizes equality and fairness but also leaves room for leadership and God's intended differences between a husband and wife.

2. God's vision and design for a Biblical marriage in Ephesians 5:22-33 (ESV):

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.... Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ... Let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband”

3. Husband's Biblical role: "Headship" is the husband's divinely appointed role to provide responsible \_\_\_\_\_ in his home.

- Headship is a divine appointment.
- Leadership means you take the initiative and the responsibility for key aspects of your marriage and family.
- The key word in our definition of headship is the word \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Being a servant leader means that, like Jesus, you are other s-centered.
  - All healthy marriages are built on and around \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Wife's Biblical role: "Submission" is the wife's divinely appointed role to use her gifts and attitude to affirm her husband's leadership and initiative.

- Submission does not mean a “\_\_\_\_\_” person.
- Submission is not something a man demands from his wife.
- Submission does not mean an enabler of wrongdoing; it only means empowering of right- doing.

**DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. At the beginning of the session, Bryan mentioned that many men often feel "stuck" or "numb" in their marriage. Are there aspects of your marriage where you feel "stuck" or "numb"?
2. How does the fact that marriage was God's idea impact our approach to it?
3. Why do you think the "identical marriage" has been embraced by most of Western culture? Why do you think "submission" gets such a bad rap in modern society? How can husbands abuse their role of "headship"?
4. Bryan said "grace" is foundational in marriage and should be at the core of a husband's leadership. What does it look like for "grace" to be at the core of your marriage and leadership?

## Answers

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Too many of us are **stuck** in our marriages
2. Marriage is about way more than just your **momentary happiness** and positive outcomes on society.

### 2THE DIVINE ORIGIN OF MARRIAGE

1. Genesis 2:18-25 (ESV) "The LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.' ...So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man: Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.'"
2. Four foundational truths this passage teaches us about marriage:
  - Marriage was **God's** idea.
    - One man with one woman in a unique covenant relationship.
  - God said that it was not good for man to be **alone**.
  - God created a **helper** suitable for man.
    - The woman was created to co-rule the earth with the man, not to be ruled by him.
  - God intended man to leave his parents' home and to **cling** to his wife.
    - The word "cling" carries with it the idea of maintaining a covenant relationship.
    - God didn't intend marriage as a **temporary** arrangement.

### 3. GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

- a. Throughout history there have generally been three different approaches to marriage:
  - The "**topdown**" marriage.
    - In this type of marriage, it can feel like there are a winner and a loser.

- The “**identical**” marriage.
  - The identical marriage is an overcorrection for the top-down marriage.
- The “**side-by-side**” Biblical marriage.
  - Emphasizes equality and fairness but also leaves room for leadership and God's intended differences between a husband and wife.

b. God’s vision and design for a Biblical marriage in Ephesians 5:22-33 (ESV):

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.... Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ... Let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband”

- Husband's Biblical role: "Headship" is the husband's divinely appointed role to provide responsible **servant leadership** in his home.
- Headship is a divine appointment.
- Leadership means you take the initiative and the responsibility for key aspects of your marriage and family.
- The key word in our definition of headship is the word **servant** .
  - Being a servant leader means that, like Jesus, you are other s-centered.
  - All healthy marriages are built on and around **grace**.
- c. Wife's Biblical role: "Submission" is the wife's divinely appointed role to use her gifts and attitude to affirm her husband's leadership and initiative.
- Submission does not mean a “**yes**” person.
- Submission is not something a man demands from his wife.
- Submission does not mean an enabler of wrongdoing; it only means empowering of right- doing.