



# MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

*PART ONE: Two Become One- Christ Centered*



**PA BIBLE**  
TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

## **Marriage Workshop**

**Session 1:** Teachings (2)

**Session 2:** Breakout

**Session 3:** Q&A and Final Exhortations

### **Today's Goals:**

- To increase your awe and reverence for the spiritual and relational significance of the marriage union.
- Encouragement to embrace and obey God's design for marriage.
- Help for understanding the God given roles and aspects of a Christ-centered marriage.
- To increase purposefulness, thoughtfulness, devotion, prayerfulness, communication, and loving service in your marriage.
- To help us have a deep sense of how marriage can glorify God and magnify Christ.

### **TEACHING 1: "Two Became One-What God has Joined Together."**

\*How did two become one?

\*What is the spiritual significance of this?

\*Honor and reverence regarding *what happened* when I got married.

### **Matthew 19:1-9 ESV**

**1** Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.

**And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.**

**3** And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?"

- Is it lawful to divorce for *any cause*?
  - Two schools of Rabbis concerning **Deuteronomy 24:1** "When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce..."
    - Rabbi Shammai- believed the indecency was some gross indecency though not necessarily adultery.
    - Rabbi Hillel- interpreted the indecency more broadly to include practically *any* offense that a wife might have committed, real or imagined by the husband.

**4** He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

- “from the beginning”- divorce was not part of how God created and designed male and female as husband and wife from the beginning.
- “two shall *become* one flesh”- God made them not to be *separated* (divorce) but to become “one flesh” (person).

**6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."**

- “What God has joined together”- *God* is the one who joins man and wife together as one flesh.
  - This is in two ways:
    - 1) By His marital design and His Word. Those who brought together according to the Word of God are joined together of God.
    - 2) By His active spiritual presence in the union.

**7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?"**

**8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.**

**9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery."**

- Next, we see *how* He makes them one in Malachi.

#### **Malachi 2:10- 17 ESV –**

##### **Background:**

- Judah was experiencing economic and social issues was blaming God for these. But they couldn't see that they were actually turning from God, and instead they questioned and blamed God.
- The context here is that they were divorcing the wife of their youth for younger, foreign (idolator) wives. Then they were coming to worship at the altar of God, but were rebuked of God for forsaking and destroying the thing which He loves; the marriage covenant.

**10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?**

**11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary [sacred/holy thing] of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.**

**12 May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!**

**13 And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.**

**14 But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.**

15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

16 "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

NKJV ""For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, hat you do not deal treacherously."

- It is a holy thing of God, sacred, sanctified.
  - He *loves* marriage.
  - He is a *witness* between the husband and the wife.
  - Husband and wife are *companions* by *covenant* before God.
  - God "makes them one" by a portion of the spirit (His presence) in their marriage union. The union of husband and wife as one is a spiritual reality in the presence and sight of God.
    - This is "what happened" when you got married! Things *changed* spiritually before God, where He, as the witness and the one who makes you "one" by His presence, now views you not only as an individual, but together, as one flesh.
- 
- Marriage is your most important human relationship. To be prioritized above all others.
  - Now that I am joined to another person as one flesh, all my life bears on them. I cannot think of myself outside of the context of that relationship. All my thought, words, actions, and choices need to be considered in light of that relationship.

## **God's Original Design and Order- "from the beginning"**

### **Genesis 2:15-25 ESV –**

- Humans were created in the image of God, to represent His presence and purpose in the earth.
- They were in a relationship with God, to partner with Him in ruling and reigning on the earth.
- The environment that God created was "good" in fact, "very good."
- However, there was one thing that was "not good" in regard to the relationship between man and God, and that is, that the man (Adam) was "alone" in partnership with God.

**18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."**

- "helper fit for him"- one who helps, one who aids. This word is primarily used of God Himself, like in **Psalms 33:20** "Our soul waits for the LORD: he is our help and our shield."
  - God's original design of the wife was a helper, aider, succorer to the husband.
  - The woman would be a beneficial help that was fit (proper) for the man as they lived in relationship with God together.
  - The helper provides a power and influence that the "helped" one does not have.
- The design of marriage was with special attention to human's relationship with God in the Garden, not separated from it.
  - The relationship with God was formed first, and the marriage was formed in light of that.
- This is a *key* aspect of understanding marriage: *why* did God make man and woman?
  - It was *not only* for the benefit and blessing of humans, but also, with the view of *glorifying God*.
  - In the first place, humans were *on earth* to glorify God and to be in partnership with Him ruling on earth according to His will.
- The cultural ethos of "ME-marriage" is contrary to the God ordained concept of marriage where we serve another person, and we do so for God's glory.
  - "Me-marriage" is antithetical to the marriage design because you begin your married life by the voluntary and complete surrender of your individual lives in the interest of that deeper and fuller life you are to have in common.

The beauty of God's marital design:

**19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.**

**20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.**

**21 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.**

**22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.**

**23 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."**

- God could have formed Eve from the dust of the earth, as He did with Adam, but instead He took her from Adam's flesh so that she would be seen as "bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh" (part of himself).
  - This is the original design from God for marriage; that the man should always treat his wife as part of *himself*.
- When the woman was presented to him, there was an instant recognition that she was "fit to be a helper to him"- that is, that she was a *proper companion*.
  - There was an intrinsic recognition of her value to him; a natural, God-ordained relationship
  - The longing for this is seen the beautiful phrase "AT LAST, this is bone of my bone!"
- This design of the man being created *first* and the woman being made from the man was not haphazard. God set both the intimacy and the order of the husband-and-wife relationship from the very beginning.
  - Order- the husband was first, then the wife, he is the head of the wife.
  - Intimacy- she is "part of him."
- The marriage relationship is a "companion by covenant." You are *partners* as husband and wife.
  - In God's wisdom, He set an order of authority and structure in the marriage and the companionship of that covenant relationship. This order glorifies God and displays His wisdom.

**24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

**25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.**

- "one flesh"- They are now *one* in every aspect of the husband and wife relationship. God now sees them, not only individually, but as intrinsically bound to another person, so much so that He sees them as one person.
  - This is a spiritual change where God "makes them with a portion of His spirit in the union."
  - This suggests:
  - God does not treat you in a way that is without regard to your spouse, or in a way that is detrimental to your spouse.

- God sees your relationship with Him, in part, connected to your spouse. That you are no longer simply an individual, but through the covenant of marriage, you were joined as one with another person. This effects your relationship with God.
- This truth regarding one flesh is something that remains even to our day and time and through every era of human history.
  - Even though they sinned together, God did not remove them as husband and wife as they left the Garden. It is something that remained intact from the Garden.

## TEACHING 2: Christ-Centered

### Genesis 3:14-17 ESV –

**16 To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."**

**17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life."**

- We see the fall of man would bring issues to the marriage as well. What we see in our culture today is due to the corruption of humans, not God's design of marriage.
  - They strive against *each other* and against God's *order in the marriage*.
- But now, Christian marriage is part of God's overarching redemptive work in Christ.
  - It's part of the *new creation* that God is doing, and our marriages get to be sign-posts pointing to the redemption of Jesus Christ.
    - Now marriage is intimately bound up with the supernatural union of Christ and the Church, which union is to be its prototype.

### Eph 5:21-33 ESV

**21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

**22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.**

**23 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.**

**24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.**

**25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,**

**26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,**

**27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.**

**28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.**

**29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body.**

**31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."**

**32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**

**33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

- This is *primarily* speaking about Christ and the Church. However, Christ and the Church is an excellent way to portray the beauties of a husband and wife in marriage. Marriage then becomes a reflection of Christ and the Church.
  - In this way, the Christian marriage is to the glory of God, as Christ with his Church.
- We see the specific, God-ordained roles and functions of both the husband and the wife.



- We see the reason why these roles are to be performed.
- For both husbands and wives, you are to *know* your God-given role, and then to *do* your role.
- One key aspect to understand is the headship of the husband:
  - **Eph 1:20-23 ESV - 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.**
    - The model is Jesus' headship over the Church and all things.
    - It is both "authority" and "supply."
      - He is both "over" the Church (authority) and "filling all in all" (supply).
      - His headship is intimately connected to the idea that the Church *is his body*.
  - **1Co 11:3 ESV - 3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.**
    - The concept of headship is applied to the husband and wife, for their good. God's order and authority are shown in nearly all relationships.
- Being "the head" is a tremendous and weighty responsibility. God ultimately views the husband as responsible for the marriage.
  - It could appear as more "glamorous" to be the head, but it certainly requires diligence, thoughtfulness, hard work, prayer, devotion, sacrifice, selflessness, accountability, and integrity.
  - It is to be exercised with absolute accountability of the headship of Christ and of God in your life, in the pattern of Christ's headship.

**21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

**22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.**

**23 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.**

**24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.**

- "submit"- This may be a "trigger word" in our culture, but it is *normal* in Christianity. The Christian life is one of submitting, reverence, and humility.
  - To submit to someone is to willingly subject yourself in reverence to another person.
- "wives submit..."
  - To your *own* husbands
  - As to the Lord, Jesus Christ.
  - Why? *Because* the husband is the head of the wife, even as Jesus is the head of the Church.

- Wives should submit to their husbands in “everything.”
- “to your own husbands”- your husband belongs to you by covenant. It is *not* that women need to submit to men in general (we *all* submit to *one another* regardless of gender). This is speaking specifically to your companion in the marriage covenant: *your* husband.
- “as to the Lord”- this is the *way* in which you are to submit, in recognition of your Lord Jesus Christ.
- “Because the husband is the head of the wife”- This is the reason *why*, because he is the head of the wife. This is simple because this is how God has ordered it in the Church. In the same way that Christ is the head of the church, so the husband is to the wife.
- “in everything”- this does not give exception, but comprehensiveness. The point here is *not* that the wife is to agree with her husband on everything, or not to have her “own voice,” opinions, thoughts etc.... Rather, this is in the sense that the wife is to be in subjection to her husband comprehensively, that is, she is never the head of the husband, she is the wife.
  - This is *crucial* because God will *not* treat the wife as if she is the head of the husband! So, if this order gets reversed, it will be detrimental to the marriage because this is not in accordance with God’s order.
  - There is much that Scripture teaches regarding wives being in loving and cheerful subjection to their husbands. It makes it quite clear that to usurp that role is hurtful to the health of the marriage and the fruit that it bears to the glory of God.
  - Wives; as you honor your husband in this way, you are a living encouragement to him to lead well!

-This brings us to the high and holy calling of husbands: Christ-likeness.

**25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,  
 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,  
 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.  
 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.  
 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,  
 30 because we are members of his body.**

- “love your wives as Christ loved the church”-
  - The husband is called to imitate Christ in his love for his wife.
  - This love is sacrificial and selfless.
    - Jesus went to the extreme lengths of sacrifice, taking our reproach on himself and carrying it to the cross. He did this all while being rejected, forsaken, and despised. This is the love of Christ.

- This love is *not* reciprocal; Christ gave his life for the church, not because we loved him, but because he loved us.
  - Loving like this is to put *her* needs ahead of your own. To be mindful, thoughtful, and active toward what is best for your wife.
    - This requires truly knowing your *Lord* and his love for you, in a personal and intimate way.
    - It requires prayer and devotion to God, to be expectant of His wisdom and guidance.
  - This love is *not just* a feeling. You *decide* to love your wife.
- “Husbands love your wives as your own bodies, he who loves his wife, loves himself”-
    - Again, this is from the Garden of Eden- “bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh” and the “two” become “one.”
    - To always view and treat your wife as part of yourself.
    - God sees the headship of the husband as it relates to the headship of Christ and the church; it is *his* body, for this reason he nourishes and cherishes it.
  - “nourishes and cherishes”-
    - This is how the Lord supplies for his church *as the head*; he nourishes it, and he cherishes it (tenderly cares for it).
    - Again, headship is not just authority, it is also *supply*. The husband, in accountability to Christ and with the love of Christ, brings growth to his wife and tenderly cares for her in all capacities; spiritually, physically, mentally, and materially.
    - Husbands: God has entrusted you with His child, treat her accordingly. You are one of the direct ways in which He cares for her. He expects you to live with her according to knowledge and according to His Son Jesus Christ, to whom He entrusts everything.

### **Roles and Callings:**

- Men and women are equal as humans, their callings in marriage though are not equivalent.
  - This is by design, to help us to subordinate our self-serving desires for the betterment of our spouse and family.
- So husbands need to *learn* what will nourish and care for their *specific wife*
- Wives need to learn how to support their husbands without replacing them, bringing things to their attention so that they can assess and address.

**31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."**

**32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**

- Ultimately, he is speaking about Christ and the Church. The Christ-centered marriage is a good illustration and demonstration.
- This points us back to the chief aim of marriage: to glorify God. Here, in a Christian context of Christ and the Church.

**33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

- CHRIST-CENTERED MARRIAGE:
  - Love like Christ.
  - Submit as unto the Lord.
  - Standard of Christ.
  - Bears fruit to the glory of God through Christ.

## **Marriage Workshop – Couples Questions**

### **April 2021**

#### Relationship:

- Name three strengths that you see in your spouse.
- Name three things that you love about your spouse.
- Name three things that you respect or value about your spouse.
- In what way(s) are you building and cultivating your spiritual life together?
- What is one way your spouse has helped your personal relationship and walk with God?

#### Function:

- What is one way you can honor your spouse more?
- Husband: what is one way you could improve in leading and serving your wife?
- Wife: what is one way you could improve in showing honor to your husband?
- Husband: what is one way that your wife shows honor to you well?
- Wife: what is one way that your husband leads and serves you well?
- What is one aspect of your marriage that glorifies God?
- What is one aspect of your marriage that does not glorify God?
- What can you grow in together?
- What can you do to better serve the needs and interests of your spouse?

#### Communication:

- How have you approached decisions in the past and how can you improve doing so in light of Ephesians 5?
- Do you feel like you and your spouse are in “this” together?
- What can *you* communicate better to your spouse?
- Do you feel heard by your spouse?
- Do you consider yourself a good listener? Can you define to your spouse what listening is?
- Conflict resolution: do you resolve your conflicts, disagreements, and arguments so that both parties are held accountable to the standard of the Scripture and the love of Christ? If not, how can you further grow in this?
- What Biblical approach do you take when you find you “don’t like your spouse?”
- What Biblical approach do you take when you find yourself avoiding talking or being with your spouse?
- Are there any unforgiven things in your marriage? Are there some disappointed expectations that need to be talked out?
- What thing(s) are obstacles to your meaningful and purposeful time together?

#### Marital Vision:

- Are expectations clearly defined on what you expect of your spouse?
  1. Division of labor and roles.
  2. Raising children.
  3. Financial provision.
  4. Time spent with family, in-laws.
  5. Time spent together.

- Where do you see your marriage in ten years? Especially as it relates to your family and to your spiritual life.

- Can your marriage be useful for glorifying God and making known Christ?