



TOGETHER – Part 1 SERMON DISCUSSION NOTES

Opening Thought:

Marriage was created and designed by God. His purpose for marriage was to illustrate who He is through the covenant of marriage. He said "Let Us make them male and female in our image". Male and female together, in marriage, represent the full and complete picture of who God is. He knew that none of us would be good at marriage if left to ourselves and therefore the design is brilliant because He leads us to rely on Him for a great marriage.

Scripture (All Scriptures NIV):

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:18

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Ephesians 5:21-33

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

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 his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church - for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Malachi 2:13-14

Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Discussion:

1. Marriage is NOT about Me, it's about WE, built on a covenant, not a contract of Godly leadership and mutual submission.
2. Discuss the difference between covenant and contract.
3. What does Godly leadership look like in the home?
4. What does the word submission mean according to Eph. 5:33?
5. Why do we typically spend so much time on other things in our lives, but we don't spend time developing our marriage?
6. Is marriage something that is happening to you or are you working toward a better marriage?
7. What are the things that you are doing as a couple on a regular basis to grow your marriage?
8. Are you growing in friendship and intimacy with your spouse?

If you are single: What is the most important thing for you to do before getting married? What are your goals for marriage?

If you are single live as if you are married to Jesus. You are in covenant with Him. It's not about ME. Learn to serve Him with all your heart through your actions. It's a covenant; give 100% or your life to Him. He gave and continues to give 100% to you. Lead where you are, start with your own life and you'll be equipped for whatever relationship develops in your life.

Closing Thought:

As our relationship with Jesus goes, so goes our marriage. As our marriages goes, so goes the rest of our lives. It is therefore important to remember the source of a great marriage is our close connection with Jesus.