



COMMUNITY

MARRIAGE

Objective for Learning: To understand the covenant, beauty, and sacrifice of marriage and its importance to God.

Objective for Living: To ensure that the covenant of marriage is actively lived out as a model of the radical love and sacrifice of Christ and the church.

Objective for Reproducing: To be able to help others love, live, and serve their spouse with the Biblical paradigm of marriage in mind.

Scriptures for Marriage:

- Ephesians 5:21-33
- Matthew 19:4-6
- Genesis 2:22-24
- Hebrews 13:4
- Proverbs 18:22
- Ephesians 4:2-3

How do each of these Scriptures help to **define** and **illuminate** what accountability is and why it is important?

Hearing (Discussion Points and Questions):

Overview:

Marriage is a covenant relationship in which a man and a woman are called to be a living representation of Christ and His loving relationship with the church. It is one of the most beautiful and fulfilling yet most difficult relationships you can be a part of because it demands the daily embodiment of the Gospel with and for another person. Marriage is built upon the dependency on God for strength to continue to become more like Him, embody His loving sacrifice, and continue in the character of Christ so that can be reflected and received by your partner on a daily basis.

Many people have a skewed view of marriage as being a relationship that is based exclusively on sexual attraction, financial stability, or that marriage is there to meet their needs and make them happy. A Biblical marriage is based on the loving sacrifice

of Jesus played out in both spouses' desire and willingness to serve one another and the glory of God in those acts of love and service. It is less about your happiness, more about your holiness, and ultimately about God's glory.

Questions for Learning and Living:

- € Before reading through these Scriptures and this resource, what would you have said the main purpose of marriage is? Has that changed after reading this? Why or why not?
- € Explain what it means to be in a covenant relationship and why that is so critical to understand in the context of marriage.
- € "Marriage is not about your happiness but is about your holiness." How does marriage make you holy?
- € Read Ephesians 5:21-33. In what ways are we called to die to ourselves in the context of marriage in order to love our spouse well?
- € What are some ways that you can love and serve your spouse without harboring bitterness if it is not reciprocated?

Questions for Reproducing:

- € How can you help someone truly reshape their understanding of what marriage is about and its purpose? Also, share some verses you could use to help drive that point home.
- € What are some very practical Biblically based tips you could give someone to try to love and serve their spouse well in view of Ephesians 5?
- € How do you help someone embrace a servant's heart and attitude in the context of their marriage?

Doing (Implementation and Application):

- What is Jesus saying to you about this?
- How are you going to respond? Look at your personal discipleship assessment.
 - Give 1-3 concrete action steps that you are going to do this week to help you take the next step of learning, living, or reproducing in this area.
- Choose one of the Scriptures that really impacted you and commit to memorizing it this week.