



Week 3: Sex and Marriage in God's Plans

Big Idea: Sex and marriage are created by God for his purposes: to model his character and point to Christ. They are most meaningful and satisfying when pursued for his goals, his way.

As we work through this series on family, we'll be touching on topics that carry a lot of freight for people. So there'll be various experiences, hopes and griefs that people will have that we want to be sensitive to. It's really important to hear God's word on these things that are such a big part of our lives, but let's just be mindful of one another as we discuss these things together.



How could you imagine different people answering this question: "What is the purpose of sex and marriage?" How would you answer it to a 15 year old?

The Purpose of Marriage



1. In the following passages, what is the purpose of marriage? What is the purpose of sex and intimacy?
 - a. Genesis 1:27-28
 - b. Genesis 2:15-25
 - c. Ephesians 5:28-32

The Future of Marriage

Read Matthew 22:23-33



2. Why is Jesus being asked this question in particular?



3. What do you learn about the nature of marriage from Jesus' words? Why do you think there is no marriage in heaven?
4. How do the following passages shed light on this [in pairs]
 - a. Revelation 19:7-8
 - b. Revelation 21:1-3
 - c. Revelation 21:9-14

So far, we can see marriage is created by God, it points us to Christ's relationship with the church, and ultimately, to the new creation. Let's think about the difference that makes for marriage now.



Marriage "in the Middle"

5. Compare Adam and Eve's relationship before and after the fall - what has changed? Where did the change come from?
 - a. Genesis 2:23-25
 - b. Genesis 3:8-13
 - c. Genesis 3:16-19



6. Since the fall into sin, Marriage, intimacy and family are broken and often painful in various ways.
 - a. What are some of the ways this can play out?
 - b. Are there ways this has impacted you personally that you'd be happy to share?
 - c. Are there things about God's character you've found comforting in the midst of this?
 - d. What are some of the ways that God's big picture plans for marriage and family could shape the way we think about challenges in this area?



7. How does sin and the brokenness of human relationships...
 - a. make it *difficult* for human marriage to reflect Christ and the church?
 - b. give *opportunity* to reflect Christ and the church?



8. If human Marriage is limited to this life and is intended to anticipate the lasting marriage of Christ and his bride, the church, how should that change the way we think about marriage? Eg.s (**choose some relevant to your group**)
 - a. deciding whether to get married?
 - b. How you live in a marriage in this life?
 - c. What your hopes are for you and your spouse?
 - d. How you respond to disappointment or pain in relationships?
 - e. The expectations you place on your spouse or marriage?
 - f. How you think about intimacy?
 - g. What your hopes are for your family?



9. In our culture, a lot of weight is put on sexual attraction and sexual fulfilment for people's identity and sense of fulfilment. How would you respond to someone who said you can't live a full life without sexual fulfilment?

10. In light of this discussion, what's one change you want to make in how you think about marriage and relationships?



Discussion Question



Context Question

Application Question



Structure Question



Observation Question



Meaning Question