Marriage Is Gods Idea sermon for 8-28-16

Marriage is not a man-made concept.

It was God’s idea.

It is a gift of God to us while on this earth.

**Parameters of Marriage**

**The parameters or restrictions of marriage define marriage. Everything done within these parameters is marriage, and anything done outside of this is not marriage.**

* + - One Man, One Woman
      * **The plan of God for marriage is to have two distinct individuals coming together in an intimate relationship.**
    - **Genesis 1:27** (NLT)

So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

* When God made the first human He made him both male and female together.
* **Genesis 2:18**

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

* + God then decided that humans should be separated into two distinctions—male and female apart from each other.
* **Genesis 2:24**
* **24**This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.
  + God made a helper for Adam—a wife!
    - Union
      * **Marriage is an event and a process of two individuals becoming one team.**
        + **Ephesians 5:31**

**31**As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.”

* + - * + It’s a process of two becoming one where you couldn’t imagine the husband as being complete without the wife; just like everyone around us should not be able to imagine us without Jesus.
      * **Marriage is not a partnership since there is an authority structure to marriage.**
        + **Ephesians 5:21-33**

**21**And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**22**For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23**For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. **24**As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

**25**For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her **26**to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. **27**He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. **28**In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. **29**No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. **30**And we are members of his body.

**31**As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” **32**This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. **33**So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

* **God’s understanding of authority is rooted in love and servant leadership.**
  + - * + God – Christ – Holy Spirit – Man – Woman – Children
    - Temporal
      * **Matthew 22:30**

**30**For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.

* + - Covenant
      * **Covenant is what separates marriage from just living together**
        + Covenant comes from a Hebrew word which means “to cut”.

The parties making the covenant were saying, “may I be torn apart like these animals if I break this covenant.”

The covenant relationship was held together by each party putting their own lives on the line to keep it together.

* + - * Marriage truly is “until death do us part”

**Purposes of Marriage**

* Companionship
  + God said that it’s not good for man to be alone.
* Teamwork
  + **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

**9**Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. **10**If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. **11**Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? **12**A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

* **A three-person team is best in a marriage—Christ, the husband, and the wife.**
* Godly seed
  + **Malachi 2:15**

Didn’t the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth.

* + All God’s plans for you are not for you alone; they are plans for the generations after you.
    - **When you live your life investing in the next generation you are planting seeds in the ground of time that will grow a harvest of Godly influence on this earth long after you die.**
* Glory of God
  + **This is the ultimate purpose of marriage—to show the glory of God on the earth.**
  + **Ephesians 5:21-33**

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* + - **Marriage is a picture of your relationship with Jesus if you are born again into His kingdom.**
      * The picture of our relationship with Jesus shows the world all the **parameters** of earthly marriage but one.
        + One man, One woman

There are two distinct individuals involved in our relationship with Jesus.

* + - * + Union

Both relationships start with an event of union and is also a process of becoming united.

* + - * + Covenant

We are in covenant with Jesus just like those of us who are married are in a covenant with our spouses.

* + - * + Temporal

However, unlike earthly marriage, our relationship with Jesus is everlasting.

* + - * The picture of our relationship with Jesus shows the world all of the **purposes** of earthly marriage.
        + Companionship

Giving your life to Christ and accepting His offer of salvation is the greatest level of companionship anyone could experience.

* + - * + Teamwork

When Christ gives us instructions, He helps us to do them through the help of the Holy Spirit. This teamwork enables us to live His life on earth.

* + - * + Godly Seed

When we are in Christ, He uses our life to produce fruit for Him from our generation to the next.

* + - * + God’s glory

God receives the most glory when we give our hearts and lives to Him.