Purpose-Driven Marriage pt 1 sermon for 2-19-17

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

—Socrates

I think that gay marriage should be between a man and a woman.

—Arnold Schwartzenegger

Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave.

—Martin Luther

My most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me.

—Winston Churchill

Chains do not hold a marriage together. It is threads, hundreds of tiny threads, which sew people together through the years.

—Simone Signoret

I have learned that only two things are necessary to keep one's wife happy. First, let her think she's having her own way. And second, let her have it.

—Lyndon B. Johnson

Ultimately, I believe the only secret to a happy marriage is choosing the right person. Life is a series of choices, right?

—Michelle Pfeiffer

Married men live longer than single men. But married men are a lot more willing to die.

—Johnny Carson

Marriage is the greatest relationship that I’ve ever committed to beside my relationship with Jesus.

It has challenged, changed, frustrated, and exhilarated me more than any other human relationship, and after 10.5 years, Audrey and I are still going strong. And I would like to share with you all in this sermon and the next how that is possible.

Audrey and I do not rely on feelings of love, admiration, or satisfaction to drive our marriage. We do not see everyday failures, miscommunications, or offenses as signs of a bad marriage. We look beyond our challenges and short-comings toward the goal of our marriage.

You see, the goal of our marriage is not to have a happy marriage; no our purpose for the marriage goes way beyond our happiness. Therefore, we are able to have an effective and good marriage even if we argue, have needs that go unmet, and aggravate each other along the way.

We know what God’s purpose is for every marriage and we know what His purpose is specifically for our marriage and that purpose drives our relationship forward like a nuclear reactor efficiently powers a massive aircraft carrier for years on a small amount of fuel.

**Purpose is the mechanism that can convert any amount of effort great or small into an exponentially greater amount of power that drives the marriage farther than any one person could carry it.**

You see, if the outcome of your marriage is equal to the amount of work that you put into it, then you are not diligently working for the Lord. Just like it would be terribly negligent of the Navy to deploy aircraft carriers that required every person on board to maintain the ship. At that point the aircraft carrier becomes the greatest obstacle to accomplishing the Navy’s mission when it was supposed to be the Navy’s greatest asset to accomplish the mission.

**Marriage is a powerful tool meant to be one of the greatest strategies to fulfill God’s mandate to the church—Genesis 22:17—to possess the gates of God’s enemies.**

In ancient times, the gates of a city were a place where leaders of education, government, and business would meet to conduct business. According to Galatians 3:7, those who believe in Jesus are the children of Abraham; so that means that God wants us to dominate the places of influence over education, government, and business.

That’s our broad mission and each of us have a unique part to play in that mission. Many of us can only achieve that part through marriage.

So, the purpose of marriage is to support God’s mandate that you play your part in dominating places of influence over and in education, government, and business.

With that in mind, let’s see just how marriage supports God’s overall design for us.

## **Marriage Provides Teamwork**

# Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NKJV)

**9**Two *are* better than one,  
Because they have a good reward for their labor.  
**10**For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.  
But woe to him *who is* alone when he falls,  
For *he has* no one to help him up.  
**11**Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm;  
But how can one be warm *alone?*  
**12**Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.  
And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

When there is trust and humility, the teamwork in marriage will increase your impact on this world.

In fact, **if God has called you to be married, the calling on your life cannot be accomplished without your spouse.**

## **Marriage Provides Godly Seed**

# Malachi 2:15 (NKJV)

**15**But did He not make *them* one,  
Having a remnant of the Spirit?  
And why one?  
He seeks godly offspring.  
Therefore take heed to your spirit,  
And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth.

Spirit = *disposition* of various kinds, often *unaccountable and uncontrollable impulse*

When the Holy Spirit makes the two spouses one in the spiritual realm, there is a residue of an impulse to remain as one in the physical realm.

And why? So that man and wife will have children and stick together through difficult times in order to raise the children in a consistent and godly way.

**Be aware that you will have unaccountable impulses and moods throughout life that will tempt you to cheat your spouse of the time, effort, and emotion that he or she is due and give it to something else; don’t allow yourself to deal treacherously with your spouse or you will greatly damage the potential of your children to love and understand Jesus.**

“Corrupt practices are the fruit of corrupt principles; and he who is false to his God, will not be true to his fellow mortals… Those who would be kept from sin, must take heed to their spirits, for there all sin begins. Men will find that their wrong conduct in their families springs from selfishness, which disregards the welfare and happiness of others, when opposed to their own passions and fancies…Those who think God can be a friend to sin, affront him, and deceive themselves. The scoffers said, Where is the God of judgement? but the day of the Lord will come.”

—Matthew Henry in Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary

## **Marriage Provides Illumination**

# Ephesians 5:22-23 and 31-32 (NKJV)

**22**Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23**For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

**31**“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5%3A22-32&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29336b)] **32**This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

**Marriage illuminates the meaning of covenant to a world that is otherwise blind to any concept of what God wants our relationship with Him to look like.**

Because of sin separating man from God, we do not instinctively understand what it is like to love whether or not we are loved in return, what it is like to commit to one person at the expense of our desires, or what it is like to pursue someone at all costs for a lifetime.

That is what God is like with us, but we require a physical picture of this holy relationship.

**There is no more accurate or comprehensive example of God’s love for us than marriage.**

 Through marriage, we learn how to sacrifice correctly.

We learn how to act properly in the church and work together.

And we learn how to be faithful.

## **Marriage Provides Companionship**

**Genesis 2:18** (NKJV)

**18**And the Lord God said, “*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Helper = someone who gives assistance and support in times of hardship and distress.

Comparable = *according to what is in front of* = *obviously* equal and adequate to himself.

**The place where the wife truly shines is in the middle of the battle when the man opens up to her completely about the burden that he carries inside.**

She longs to share an adventure—the hardships, the distress, the glory—with her husband!

Men, are you keeping your struggles a secret to your wife?

**A man does not protect his wife when he keeps his struggles from her, he strips her of her purpose cultivating ground suitable only for growing resentment, distrust, and ultimately, the isolation which God said was not good for man.**

Men will often choose to hide their inner lives from their wives because they do not believe that their wives are truly equal and adequate.

Women, are you focused on helping your husband?

**The place where a man really shines is in the middle of the battle when the woman looks to him for leadership and the strength to trust again, love again, and do what’s right no matter the cost.**

Many women will not look for leadership and strength in their husband because they will not respect him or trust him due to their past experiences either with their father or their husband.

Let’s ask ourselves though, how available are we for our spouse to run to us?

* Are we too busy to take the long amount of time that it takes to allow the depths of our souls to be plunged?
* Are we emotionally guarded?
* Are we dishonest about our feelings?
* Are we a safe place for our spouse?

Note: If your marriage is not open and healthy, do not think that you can immediately turn the tide. It will take a lot of time, forgiveness, and consistent transparency to get into alignment with God’s will for your marriage.

Note: If you are in a marriage where it is dangerous to open up to your spouse or follow your spouse, then begin to seek real and honest counsel from a trustworthy and emotionally mature pastor or counselor.