

Sermon Notes

TIP (Take It Personal)

May 12, 2013

Series: *God's Design for Marriage*

Title: *Marriage: Contract, Convenience, or Covenant?*

Text: *Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33; Matthew 19:3-6*

In light of all the legislation concerning same sex marriage and current societal trends I thought it would be good for us to take another look at how God has designed marriage. Why did He design it the way He did? One man and one woman for a lifetime. I realize as I write that statement some who are reading this have experienced a broke marriage covenant. Please read on ,this study is for all of us.

Much too often the perspectives we have on what to expect from our marriages do not always have a biblical foundation. Hollywood and public opinion would have us believe that marriage should be an expanded honeymoon, a perpetual Caribbean cruise, romantic evenings, and shopping trips to Macy's. It is often more about contract or convenience than the covenant relationship God has intended for the relationship between husband and wife and Himself.

Marriage is more wonderful than anyone on earth knows. We cannot discover that wonderfulness through listening to Oprah or any of today's pop psychologists. It can only be discovered if we view it through the lens of God's special revelation to us. It is only through a study of the bible that we discover what God has intended for this one flesh kind of relationship.

Even then we absolutely need the help of the Holy Spirit to bring clarity to this joining of two people, man and woman, in the most intimate of relationships. When I say intimate I am not necessarily speaking of the physical attractions husband and wife have for one another. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Blessings as you study,

Pastor Ed

Before answering these questions take a few minutes to read through the following passages of Scripture . Read them in the order they are listed. Ephesians 5:22-33; Matthew 19:3-6 and Genesis 2:18-25.

According to the section in Ephesians how are husband and wife to relate to one another? What is the example given in this text. How does this work itself out in a marriage relationship? Is it true for you if you are married?

Read through the text in Genesis 2:18-25 again. Make as many observations about the text as you can. Can you identify the four observations Pastor Ed made from this text on Sunday.

It has been stated that marriage is a covenant relationship. How would you define a "covenant relationship". Here are a few examples from Scripture. Hebrews 10:15-18, Genesis 9:8-17.

Who are the individuals involved in a marriage covenant?

What does a covenant of marriage mean practically? How does that affect us day to day? In other words how is it lived out? Genesis 2:24 states that couples are to leave their parents and hold fast to one another. This is the essence of a covenant relationship.

Every marriage affects the people surrounding the couple. How is the relationship as husband and wife a display of God's character, his love, his mercy and grace?

Genesis 2:24 states that the result of a marriage covenant is that the husband and wife become one flesh. What does that mean to you?

How would you contrast the difference between a contract and a covenant?

What should you do?

What is God asking you to do as a result of your study.