



MARRIAGE FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

One: Oneness

Marriage originated with and continues to be defined by God in Scripture as the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive, covenant commitment for a lifetime (Gen. 2:18-25). Therefore, when two people come together, they become one. This is a spiritual reality that may be difficult to understand but necessary to accept. As men and women created by God as male and female, we do not and cannot exist for ourselves. Rather, we exist for His purposes and glory. As we have been bound together spiritually, we must humble and discipline ourselves to live out His purposes practically in the marriage relationship.

1. When you think about your marriage over the past year, do you find yourself promoting oneness or destroying oneness? Please share the reasoning behind your answer.
2. When you reflect upon how you live your life day in and day out, do you see you have a clear understanding and practice of the truth that you do not exist for yourself? Based upon your answer, in what ways is that manifested?
3. Read Psalm 139:23-24. Prayerfully reflect upon the following descriptions that can destroy oneness in your marriage. Which have you found to be your greatest struggle(s)?
 - Unwillingness to forgive
 - Sexual immorality
 - Idolatry of your children
 - Idolatry of your marriage
 - Escapism
 - Weariness
 - Critical attitude
 - Failure to embrace your gender
4. In contrast to destroying oneness, we have the opportunity to promote oneness. What are some things you have found helpful in promoting oneness? (additional examples below)
 - Extend one another the benefit of grace (not just benefit of the doubt)
 - Trust God and not put unfair expectations on your spouse
 - Time away together
 - Be vulnerable
 - Cultivate common interests
 - Do private worship/devotions together
 - Laugh together
 - Sexual intimacy
 - Experience healthy conflict