



## MARRIAGE FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

### One: Redemption

In Ephesians 5:31-32, the apostle Paul writes, “As the Scriptures say, ‘A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.” When a man and a woman unite in marriage they become part of one another in a way that is indescribable. Paul describes this oneness as being a “mystery.” Why would he use this term? Because the husband’s relationship with his wife is such a profound picture of Christ’s relationship to the church. To attempt to describe this parallel using any other word would not do it justice and fall dramatically short.

1. There are two popular views of oneness. On one end, our culture defines love by romance; they are committed to “the feeling” rather than to the person. On the other hand, some view marriage as being more duty-driven; they are committed to “the doing” rather than to the person. Describe a time in your relationship when your marriage was driven more by romance or duty.
2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, “It is not your love that sustains your marriage, but your marriage that sustains your love.” The Scriptures define love as being committed to each other in the way that God is committed to us: covenant, steadfast, loyal. Who is someone in your life whose marriage is sustained by this type of a loyal covenant? Describe this marriage.
3. One of the aspects of the gospel that marriage teaches is grace. Just as God has granted us grace, so also we are to grant our spouse grace. When was a time when your spouse granted you grace? How did that make you feel? How do you need to extend grace to your spouse?
4. Of the five categories of marriages mentioned in the message and listed below, what category/ies do you identify with the most? How can your group members pray for you?
  - a. Infatuation (met love of life in college, you can survive anything)
  - b. Distraction (kids come, career booms)
  - c. Apathy (tired and tempted to escape, become roommates learning to exist)
  - d. Unique challenge (loss of job, death of parent, special needs child, child rebels, or any unique issue/situation that soaks up your energy)
  - e. Crisis (checked out, emotional volume is so high you cannot move forward, people want out)