



# Marriage Series, Lesson 1

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## I. Starter Questions

- Remember back to when you first met your spouse?
- What types of things did you do to further the relationship?
- How did you know that you wanted to marry them? What were your criteria?
- What part did God or prayers have in these decisions?

## II. What Is a Christian Marriage?

“A Christian marriage is a **lifelong** commitment between one Christian man and one Christian woman whose intent is to display the **covenant-keeping love and relationship** that exists **between Christ and His church.**”<sup>1</sup>

## III. Select Scripture Verses on Marriage

### Genesis 2:22-24

**22** Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. **23** The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." **24** For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

### Proverbs 12:4

**4** A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

### Proverbs 20:6-7

**6** Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find? **7** The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.

### Proverbs 31:10

**10** A wife of noble who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

### Proverbs 5:18-19

**18** May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. **19** a loving doe, a graceful deer – may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

### 2 Corinthians 6:14

**14** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

### Ephesians 5:28-33

**28** In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, **30** because we are members of his body. **31** “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother

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*and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

- Paul promotes the husband’s calling to self-sacrifice to his wife by comparing that love with a husband’s care for his own body and Christ’s love for His Church.

#### **IV. Men/Women Small Splits for Group Questions:**

1. What’s your definition of a Christian marriage? Do you agree or disagree with the definition above?
2. Using the “Christian marriage” definition above and the italicized/bolded words phrases, what are our personal implications for:
  - a. Solutions/Conclusions/Consequences for each of us to promote and practice to live out in our Christian marriage?
  - b. *For instance, what would it look like to have a **lifelong** attitude towards my spouse in a Christian marriage?*
3. In reading Genesis 22, can or does God bless a “homosexual marriage”? What should our response be to this very important current day issue?
4. What are your thoughts on “being unequally yoked”? Where you both saved Christians at the time of your marriage? (See 1 Corinthians 7:1-16 for help)
5. Discuss why having a “Christian marriage” is so important? Do you feel that God blesses or causes to happen the marriage of non-Christians?
6. While the “Christian marriage” demonstrates our relationship with Christ, who also does it display or demonstrate that relationship to?

#### **V. Direct Application For Each of Us to Be a “Christian Couple” in Today’s World:**

1. We need to be receptive to hearing God’s word taught from the pulpit and in CG
2. We need to set a godly example to the world
3. We need to confront our own sinful attitudes and non-scriptural beliefs.
4. We need to be so involved in people’s lives that you catch problems and help people to understand, this starts with your own spouse.
5. Pray specifically for your marriage, your spouse and others in the church. Do everything that you can to call members and encourage them.

#### **VI. General Group Discussion – Application of a Christian Marriage**

1. This next week, how can you practically display God’s love to your spouse in your marriage?
2. How can you encourage another man/woman to love their spouse this next week?