



## PART 2: THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

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### Sermon Notes

**Text: Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33**

#### Intro:

"Destructive to marriage is the self-fulfillment ethic that assumes marriage and the family are primarily institutions of personal fulfillment, necessary to become "whole" and happy. The assumption is that there is someone just right for us to marry and that if we look closely enough we will find the right person. This moral assumption overlooks a crucial aspect of marriage. It fails to appreciate the fact that we always marry the wrong person.

We never know whom we marry; we just think we do. Or even if we first marry the right person, just give it a while and he or she will change. For marriage, being [the enormous thing that it is] means we are not the same person after we have entered it. The problem is...learning how to love and care for the stranger to whom you find yourself married."

~Stanley Hauerwas

"What is marriage for? It is for helping each other to become our future glory-selves, the new creations that God will eventually make us." ~Tim Keller

**Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33**

**What do love and submission mean?**

#### 1. Putting your spouse first

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Two sides of the same coin - to put the needs of someone else first.

Headship needs to be understood from the example of Jesus who gave himself up for his "bride."

#### 2. Partnering with Jesus as he forms your spouse

"What is marriage for? It is for helping each other to become our future glory-selves, the new creations that God will eventually make us." ~Tim Keller

*The key to a healthy marriage is friendship with your spouse.*

#### 3. Building your "oneness" together

v. 31 (referencing Genesis 2)

Uniting emotionally, mentally, financially, sexually, etc.

#### Conclusion:

*Good marriages don't happen by accident. Good marriages take hard work.*

APA - Sunday, February 12, 2023 - Pastor Dave Funk

## Connect Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. In your opinion, what are the key decision making factors someone should consider when decided whether or not to marry someone? How can you know if you're ready to get married?
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. What stands out to you? When you think of the word "submission" what do you think of? Do you think your understanding of that word is more cultural or Biblical? How did Pastor Dave compare the words "submission" and "love"?
2. What do you think of Tim Keller's definition of the purpose of marriage (see the notes)? Do you agree or disagree? How do most people today define the purpose of marriage? Why do you think so many marriages end in divorce (up to 40% of Canadian marriages)?
3. What are some practical things that people can do to put their spouse first? What role does friendship (with your spouse) have in the marriage? How can you improve your friendship with your spouse?

### Practice:

**If you're married:** Think of something practical you can do this week to put your spouse first. Ideas:

- Give them a night off from normal responsibilities (let them relax while you cook, do the dishes and clean up after dinner).
- Try asking, "How can I help you this week?"
- In your prayer time, before you pray for your own needs, pray for your spouse.

**If you're single:** Since one of the keys to a healthy marriage is friendship, you can practice for marriage by being a good friend. How can you put the needs of a friend before your own this week? Ideas:

- Ask a friend: "How can I help you this week?"
- Offer to cook dinner for a friend.
- Ask a friend how you can pray for them.