

Marriage Is Very Good and Very Hard

Genesis 1-3

We are redirecting our focus, not changing our theme.

Not right w/ *Creator* - How can b right w/ *Creation*?

I. Marriage Is Very Good (Gen 1:31)

- A. God's design (1:27)
- B. Flourishing (1:28)
- C. Provides companionship (2:18-25)
 - a. "Know" & "be known"
 - b. "Naked & Unashamed"
 - (1) not physical perfection
 - (2) but security of covenant love
- D. Is a pic of Christ & Bride Chrch (Eph 5:32; Rev 21:2)
- E. SO....*Why so hard?*"

II. Marriage Is Hard because it was designed to be *good* not *easy* (Work)

- A. Our def. of good is *narrower* than God's.
 - 1. We think a *good* marriage means:
 - a. Compatibility(emotional, sexual, communicative, financial)
 - (1) Compat tests / Pers. Profiles
 - (2) Tremendous pressure...finding "right person."
 - 2. We think marriage exists to fulfill our *dreams*, not His *purposes*
- B. Gen 1&2 shows us 3 good/hard things:
 - 1. Gen 1:27 - **Male & Female** is good/complicated
 - a. Men & wom see / experience the world diff. (Genie Joke)
 - b. Equally bearing God's image
 - c. Individually - *lopsided*: Together - *Balanced*
 - (1) "man" hating, or "woman" belittling = attack on God
 - (2) homosexuality (Isn't queer or diverse)
 - (3) Rosaria Butterfield "just easier"
 - 2. Gen 2:24a - **Leaving & Cleaving** is both good/hard.
 - a. ways your family of origin shapes you:
 - (1) Foods: What, Where, When
 - (2) Love languages.
 - (3) Sense of humor, taboo, normal.
 - (a) Ill. Only married w/in family by 3rd gen weird.
 - (b) e.g. Alaskan Bush People
 - b. But hard to blend two family cultures.
 - 3. Gen 2:24b - **Two Becoming One** is good & hard

- a. I always and only see things from my perspective.
 - (1) eyes, brain, heart,
 - (2) memories
- b. Hard because 2 living as 1
 - (1) sharing same space, same money, same time.
 - (2) requires sacrifice.
- c. This why we tend to feel like: *“I’m doing everything. I’m carrying the relationship. I’m making all the sacrifices.”*
 - (1) Of course you feel like that.
 - (2) 100% 10%

III. Marriage is like a garden

- A. Adam & Eve lived in a garden - Plant, cultivate, wait, harvest
- B. Marriage - work, time, plant, water & wait for God give incr.

IV. But sin turns hard things into **bad things** (Thorns)

- A. See how sin affected Adam & Eve.
 - 1. Gen 3:7 - **They lose intimacy.**
 - 2. Gen 3:12 - **They blame each other to protect themselves.**
 - 3. Gen 3:16 - **They struggle for control.**

Marriage, like everything else, is **corrupted by sin**, but like everything else, marriage can be **redeemed by the gospel**. Nxt Wk.

For now, tend your garden. Don’t fight it. Work with it. Instead, fight the **sin of pride and stubbornness** - 1Pet 5:5-6 *Clothe yourselves... with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.*

LK -0- 4-10-2016

Credits:

Doug Wilson - *Reforming Marriage*, Tim & Kathy Keller - *The Meaning of Marriage*, Dave Harvey - *When Sinners Say I Do*