



- Commitment to _____ is a critical component of living within the body of Christ (1 Timothy 5:8).
 - If you are not committed to your family, you ought not claim to be committed to Christ.
 - Our marriages matter to God and are critical to the church.
- Marriage is under _____ in our culture.
 - Albert Mohler – “The knowledge of marriage as an enduring covenant has been replaced with the concept of marriage as a contract of unknown duration—with terms to be determined later.”
 - Many, if not most, professing Christians live according to an understanding of marriage that is far too small and often unbiblical.

Two Wrong Views of Marriage

1.) The Dynastic View

- Marriage is seen as a means to social status and financial security.
- According to this view, passion and affection must be swapped for commitment and security.

2.) The Romantic View

- This view bases marriage almost entirely on emotion and attraction.
- According to this view, the possibility of commitment takes a major back seat to living for the moment.
- Both views place self and selfish purposes at the center of marriage.

God's Purpose in Marriage: The Gospel View

- Like everything else with real meaning, marriage is all about _____.
- Above all else, marriage is intended to bring glory to God's name by portraying the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Marriage is an image of the _____ (v. 31-32).

- Even before the Fall, God established husbands and wives to be an image Christ and the Church (Genesis 2:24, v. 31-32, 2 Cor. 11:2).
- Just as Christ and His church become one body, so husband and wife become one flesh.
- God has established human marriage to image forth the eternal covenant relationship between Christ and His bride, the church.

Implications of Marriage as an Image of the Gospel

1.) Marriage must not be _____ by people.

- This world hates the Gospel view of marriage.
- Many Christians despise this passage as well.
- Everywhere, society is trying to redefine marriage.
- Our passage today is _____ definitive plan for marriage, which He established Himself before the Fall.
 - To hate this message is to hate the Gospel it depicts.
 - Many people misunderstand and/or misuse this passage because we look at it through the filter of tainted experiences.
- Because marriage is from God and not man, it must not be redefined by man.

2.) Though this instruction is God's will for every marriage, it is not guaranteed to _____ in every marriage (v. 18-22).

- In context, Paul is saying that God's purposes for husbands and wives are and must be a work of the Spirit that fills them.
- Apart from the transforming work of the Spirit, these instructions are easily despised, neglected, or abused.
- In the Spirit, however, God's view of marriage is marvelous beyond description.

3.) Christian marriage is amazingly _____.

- In married life, God has richly blessed us with the privilege to image forth astonishingly glorious realities that are infinitely bigger than us.
- Because true Christian marriage is an image of the glorious Gospel of Christ, there are no meaningless moments in our married lives!

Application

- Godly churches will not happen without godly families, and godly families will not happen without godly _____.
- Godly marriages only happen among couples who endeavor to image forth the true Gospel of Jesus Christ in married life.

-- Will we commit ourselves to follow God's plans and purposes for our marriages, and not our own?