



- Commitment to family is a critical component living in the body of Christ, and commitment to family begins with commitment to marriage.

Marriage is an image of the _____.

- Even before the Fall, God established husbands and wives to be an image Christ and the church (v. 31-32).
- Just as Christ and His church become one body, so husband and wife become one flesh.
- Let us make the message of the Gospel beautiful through our marriages in this church.

Implications of Marriage as an Image of the Gospel

1.) True marriage cannot be redefined by people.

2.) Biblical marriage must be a work of the Holy Spirit.

3.) Christian marriage is amazingly blessed.

4.) _____ disparages the Gospel (Malachi 2:16).

- Divorce inevitably makes one of the following two claims, if not both:

1.) Divorce says, "Christ doesn't really love His church."

2.) Divorce says, "The church may freely choose to forsake Christ."

- Biblical exceptions for divorce exist only because human hearts can be so hard (Mark 10:4-9).

5.) _____ is an image of worship.

- It is no accident that idolatry is called adultery throughout the Bible.
- Husbands depict Christ by wooing their wives and waiting on them.
- Wives depict the church by joyfully offering themselves to their husbands.
- Both husband and wife depict the Gospel by seeking to delight the other.
- Godly sexual intimacy between husband and wife is an irreplaceable element of imaging forth the Gospel in marriage.

6.) _____ roles in marriage are divinely designed (v. 21-25).

- Because marriage was established as an image of Christ's relationship to the church, gender roles are not arbitrary or ambiguous.
- They are established upon the distinctive roles of Christ and His church in redemptive history.

7.) Wives take their marriage cues from the _____ (v. 22-24).

- Just as the church honors Christ's headship, wives are called to honor the husband's primary responsibility to lead the home.

-- Four Cautions:

- a.) Men do not have any degree of ontological superiority.
 - b.) A husband's leadership is entirely subject to Christ's headship.
 - c.) Wives have a vital role in family direction and decision making.
 - d.) Very few details about specific activities of husbands and wives in marriage are given.
- A marriage will never know God's glory and joy if a wife refuses to let her husband lead.
 - A wife who wants to lead her husband is imaging forth the idea that the church is the head of Christ, and not vice versa.

8.) Husbands take their marriage cues from _____ (v. 25-30).

-- Godly husbands lead through sacrificial love (v. 25).

-- Godly husbands lead through humble service (Luke 22:26, Mark 10:45.)

- A husband's leadership must never be domineering or proud.

-- Godly husbands lead in order to _____ their wives (v. 26-27).

- They work for their wives' eternal joy (v. 27).
- Like Christ, husbands are called by God to sacrifice all that they are to help their wives become all that God wants them to be.

-- In blessing their wives, husbands bless themselves (v. 28-30).

- A husband's joy is inextricably tied to his wife's well-being.
- He who builds up his wife simultaneously builds up himself.

-- Godly husbands live life on _____.

- Passivity is a moral evil for husbands. It contradicts the message of Christ's proactive love for the church.
- No marriage will know God's glory and joy if the husband fails to lead.

Application

Wives

- 1.) Respect your husband as the spiritual leader of your family (v. 33).
- 2.) Honor your husband by participating _____ in His leadership.
- 3.) Remember, your joy is inseparably tied to your husband's.

Husbands:

- 1.) _____ your role as spiritual leader of your family.
 - The spiritual condition of your family is your responsibility before God.
- 2.) Image forth Christ by seeking to bless your wife in everything you do.
 - Make it clear that you will give your life for her good.
- 3.) Make it your goal to lead your wife so thoughtfully and lovingly that she follows you with delight.
- 4.) Remember: Your wife's joy is ultimately your joy as well.