

The Sanctity of Marriage

February 22, 2015 — The Meaning of Marriage series MSG 3 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

Msg 1-- **MARRIAGE: All God's Idea**

Genesis 2:18-25 Ephesians 5:31-32 Rev. 19:6-9

The Bible begins with a wedding and ends with a wedding.
Marriage comes from God, not human history.
Marriage is designed by God for His glory and our good.
Marriage is shows us Christ's relationship to the church.

Msg 2-- **MARRIAGE: Covenant of Grace**

Colossians 2:13-15; 3:12-19

God's covenant commitment through Christ makes union with Him possible.
Right relationship with God makes for right relationship with others.
Vertical justification enables horizontal reconciliation.
Relationship with God requires forgiveness. Relationship with spouse requires forgiveness.

Ephesians 5:31-32

31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother 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.

Hebrews 13:4

4 Let marriage be held in honor among all...

Ephesians 5:21-28

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Sanctity refers to specialness or sacredness or holiness.

'holy' means 'set apart, not like the rest'
sanctify, sanctification, sanctuary

- 1) Marriage is sacred because God made it to be holy.
- 2) Marriage is sacred because God made it to show us His perfect love.
- 3) Marriage is sacred because God made it to share with us His glory.

The PROFANITY of Marriage:

profane = related to that which is not sacred or biblical;

Latin *profanus*; *pro* = outside *fanus* = temple
irreverent, irreligious, ungodly, godless, unbelieving, impious, disrespectful, sacrilegious

D-word: Divorce.

means to let go, release, send away.
Matthew 19:1-12 Mark 10:1-12

Matthew 19:7-9

7 They said to Him [Jesus], "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away? 8 He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced [for reasons other than sexual immorality] commits adultery."

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

10 To the married I give this charge (not I, but the Lord): the wife should not separate from her husband 11 (but if she does, she should remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and the husband should not divorce his wife.

1,000 things could be said about the pain and agony of failed marriage, but ultimately divorce destroys God's earthly illustration of His heavenly union with us.

(His covenant commitment of love, grace, forgiveness, sacrifice, permanence.)

A-word: Adultery.

Any sexual activity that violates a marriage covenant.

Hebrews 13:4

4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Physical adultery usually begins with emotional adultery.

F-word: Fornication.

porneia = adultery / illicit sex / extramarital sex

All sexual activity that is outside a marriage covenant.

Leviticus 8:16-23; Galatians 5:16-21; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5-6; 1 Thess. 4:3-5

Ephesians 5:3

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

P-word: Pornography.

porneia = adultery/illicit sex + graphy = written/drawn

Matthew 5:27-29

27 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

1 Corinthians 6:9, 13, 18 Romans 6:12; James 1:14-15

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S-word: Selfishness.

Ephesians 5:21-28

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1 Corinthians 7:3-4;

SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

1) Esteem marriage. Honor it. See God's purposes in it.

See it for what it is. (our study for the last three weeks)

Hebrews 13:4

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

2) Repent of sins in the past and the present.

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

3) By Christ's power, honor God from here on.

Philippians 3:14

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Recommended Reads:

The Meaning of Marriage: by Tim Keller
Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God

Sacred Marriage: by Gary Thomas
What if God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More Than to Make Us Happy?

This Momentary Marriage: by John Piper
A Parable of Permanence

What's the Difference?: by John Piper
Manhood and Womanhood Defined According to the Bible