

Course Schedule

Class 1: The Purpose, Power, and Paradox of Marriage

Class 2: The Shape of Marriage (Gen. 2, Eph. 5:22-33)

Class 3: Marriage and Sin (Gen. 3)

Class 4: Marriage in a Fallen World (1 Pe. 3:1-7)

Class 5: Grace in Marriage

Class 6: Communication

Class 7: Conflict

Class 8: Sex in Marriage

Class 9: Money in Marriage

Class 10: Children and Marriage

Class 11: Infertility

Class 12: The End of the Dream?

Class 13: Panel Discussion

Extra, Extra

A few really good books on marriage which you can get and read on your own...

- *Love that Lasts* by Gary & Betsy Riccuci
- *This Momentary Marriage* by John Piper
- *What Did You Expect?* by Paul Tripp
- *When Sinners Say I Do* by Dave Harvey
- *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim and Kathy Keller

If you have questions or comments on this class, please contact Jamie Dunlop at jamie.dunlop@capbap.org or Mark Kalenak at mdkalenak@gmail.com.

Marriage Core Seminar, Class #2

The Shape of Marriage (Gen. 2, Eph. 5:22-33)



I. Introduction

Review from class #1

II. True Freedom

“The one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.” – James 1:25

What is a *law of liberty*?

Freedom from and freedom to.

Psalm 119:68. “You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.”

III. Different Orientations to the Task

The woman: “a helper fit for him.”

The man: “hold fast” to his wife.

IV. Helper Fit for Him

Gen. 2:18, 20; Eph. 5:22-24

What this term means

What this term doesn't mean

Two Observations

1. Characteristic of Eve's whole life. Basic orientation. More identity language than role language
2. Difference in orientation implies difference in authority (see Eph. 5:22)
 - a. Submission is to only one man ("...to your own husband")
 - b. Difference in authority \neq difference in worth or value
 - c. Motivation: submit "as to the Lord"
 - d. Primary allegiance is to Jesus, not her husband
 - e. "In everything" (Eph. 5:24)

Application for unmarried women

- What would it look like to prepare for this role?
- Questions to ask about the man you're dating

Application for married women

- The challenge of following a flawed husband.
- Recognize it will take time for him to really know you.
- It will take several years for your marriage to fully take on this shape (headship/leadership; helping/nurturing)

V. Hold Fast to His Wife

Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:25-32

Husbands are to love their wives just as Christ loved the church.

A general command (John 15:12) made specific to marriage.

What this means.

A husband is to give of himself for his wife's good.

Good leadership never takes a break.

Husbands are to love their wives as they love themselves.

A husband's love proclaims or defames Christ's love for us.

From last week: the core purpose of marriage is to perceive and proclaim the goodness of God.

In marriage, every word, action, expression says something true or false about God.

For those who have been married a long time, this is untiring motivation to pursue the picture of Christ's love in marriage rather than settling for what you've got.

Application for unmarried men

- Don't wait for marriage to live a self-sacrificing life.
- Look to marry someone who responds well to your leadership.

Application for married men

- Inescapable leadership

VI. Conclusion