

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: Beauty 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 #4 ***Beauty in a Fallen World (1 Peter 3:1-7)***



I. Introduction

Context: the evangelistic power (1 Pe. 2:12) of submission to unrighteous authority (1 Pe. 2:13-3:22) because submission shows how much we trust the goodness of God.

II. Beauty as the Goal (1 Pe. 3:1-4)

“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.”

A. What is true beauty?

“the hidden person of the heart”

“a gentle and quiet spirit”

B. Why beauty matters

This woman's trust in God makes her beautiful to her husband. For her, beauty is the external evidence of an evangelistic trust in God

Beauty is God's goal for your marriage because it shows off his beauty and portrays his goodness.

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.” - Prov. 31:30

III. Fear as the Obstacle to Beauty (1 Pe. 3:5-6)

“For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.”

A wife's temptation to fear that Sarah's life illustrates.

For a wife, the God-given shape of marriage in a fallen world tilts toward fear.

Fear as the driver behind control, distance, anger, etc.

IV. A Wife's Trust in God Resists the Temptation to Fear

Trust in God

Hope in God

The result: courage and beauty

V. A Husband's Care Helps His Wife Resist Fear (1 Pe. 3:7)

“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

In marriage, she has put herself in a vulnerable position.

A husband's tools to help his wife trust God:

1. Make her feel understood (literally, “according to knowledge”)
2. Honor and cherish her.

This is *extremely* important to God (“that your prayers may not be hindered” – compare with 1 Peter 3:12).

How verses 6 and 7 work together.

- For the good: understanding makes trust easier
- For the bad: a lack of understanding tempts a wife to fearfully respond with self-protective anger, withdrawal, etc.

VI. Conclusion: Sweetness = Beauty = Glory to God