



## Marriage Core Seminar, Class #10

### *Marriage and Children*

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#### 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 and Marriage

**Class 10: Children and Marriage**

Class 11: Infertility

Class 12: The End of the Dream?

Class 13: Panel Discussion

#### **I. Marriage is for making worshippers**

A key way in which marriage can portray who God is (Gen. 1:27) is by making babies (Gen. 1:28).

“Did he not make them one?...And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.”

– Malachi 2:15

“These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise”

– Deut. 6:6-7

Implications for adoption (Romans 8:23; Gal 3:23-25; Eph 1:5).

Children as a blessing: Psalm 127

<sup>3</sup> Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children of one's youth.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is the man  
who fills his quiver with them!

A few good books on how children affect marriage

- *This Momentary Marriage: A Parable of Permanence* by John Piper (chapters 12-13 focus on marriage and children)
- *Your Family, God's Way: Developing & Sustaining Relationships in the Home* by Wayne Mack (Ch. 1-3)

*If you have questions or comments on this class, please contact Jamie Dunlop at [jamie.dunlop@capbap.org](mailto:jamie.dunlop@capbap.org) or Mark Kalenak at [mdkalenak@gmail.com](mailto:mdkalenak@gmail.com).*

Thoughts on birth control

- Priority of not taking a human life.
- Priority of obeying your conscience and caring for others'.
- Priority of trusting that God's gifts are good.

## II. How Children Grow a Marriage

*The purpose of marriage is to be a union that portrays the goodness of God.*

Children and...the union of marriage



Children and...portraying God

Children and...seeing/showing the goodness of God

## III. How Children Change a Marriage

Different pressures at different stages

- Preschool
- School-aged
- Teen Years
- Beyond

*Changes to the Roles of Husband and Wife*

The little years can accentuate how different these roles feel.

- A husband must encourage his helper
- A wife must trust God's plan

Leading/helping through spiritual struggle of the tween/teen years.

Common temptation: to define “success” and “flourishing” in terms of what we accomplish (Gen. 1:28) rather than seeing/showing the goodness of God (Gen. 1:27)

- Little years
- Older years

*Challenges to Communication*

Different styles of communication work better/worse at different stages of parenting.

Communication when mom and dad don't align in their parenting values. Goal: to know / be known / build trust—even in disagreement.

*Challenges to Intimacy*

The little years: pursuing intimacy when parenting is intense.

School-age: (re)building a romantic friendship

Teen years: preparing your friendship for life without kids at home.