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23 Jul 23

Marriage Goals

Eph 5:25-33

Dr Graham Blaikie

Groups & Families Discussion Questions

Follow along with the sermon and use these questions to dive a little deeper with your group, with your families at home or for your own personal reflection.

Sermon Notes: Can you identify the main point, the subpoints and application of today's message?

Life Group Questions

1. Conversation starter. Can you love someone without changing the way you are?
2. What would you say is the number one reason people get married today? Do Christians often unconsciously buy into this approach?
3. What are some things that much of the time make marriage so wonderful, and even exquisite? And the things that make it (sometimes) simply excruciating?
4. What were the three points of the pyramid that construct a 'theology of marriage'? "Love like Jesus and you'll: (3).
_____ (2). _____ (1).
_____. Do you agree with this framework? Why or why not?
5. Gary Thomas's book *Sacred Marriage* has the subtitle, 'What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than happy?' In your experience (or observation), does marriage create unique opportunities to choose to become more like Christ / less like him? What dynamics are at play here in our spiritual growth (or lack of growth)?
6. What does the example of Jesus who 'loved the church and gave himself up for her' (v25) have to do with marriage? Or with any other relationships, for that matter (see also 5:2 & 5:21). What is one way that you can 'give yourself up' for your spouse (or, if you're not married, your closest other relationship)?
7. Read Matt 22:23-30 and Eph 5:31-32. Graham proposed that marriage's true significance is as "a momentary shadow of the eternal reality of Christ's covenant-keeping love for his church." And that even the most perfect marriage on earth right now will be a sad, sorry story compared to the quality of relationships we will enjoy in eternity. How does no marriage in heaven make you feel? How do you feel knowing our good God has even greater gifts in store for us?