



NO ORDINARY MARRIAGE

Saying "I DO" to God's Wisdom in Marriage

Week 1: The Modern Myths of Marriage

February 1 & 2, 2014

Dismantling the Myths

- Odds are against you.
- You will become unhappy.
- It doesn't fit the male nature.
- A perfect soul-mate exists.

These myths combine to create a pessimistic idealism.

Discovering the Truth about Marriage

- God designed it.

"...While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man...This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."

Genesis 2:21b, 22 & 24

- Gospel defines it.

"For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her... As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one."

Ephesians 5:25 & 31-32

**"Through the gospel, we get both the power
and the pattern for the journey of marriage."**

Tim Keller, The Meaning of Marriage



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Small Group/Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Which of the modern myths of marriage have/do you find the most difficult to overcome or the most prevalent in our society? Why do you think that is the case?
2. Drawing from Gen 2:21-25**, Timothy Keller writes* that "...marriage, next to our relationship to God, is the most profound relationship there is." (p.14, 22) Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
3. How do you feel about the statement: a soul mate or "a perfectly compatible person" does not exist. Explain.
4. Do you believe the church has a responsibility to help others see marriage as a good thing? How can this best be accomplished?
5. God designed marriage. How does that statement challenge modern ideas about marriage? How does this encourage Christians to learn God's opinion about building a healthy marriage?
6. Timothy Keller's classic definition of the gospel is this:

We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope. Discuss how this understanding of the gospel is can strengthen a marriage.

*Keller, Timothy J., and Kathy Keller. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*. New York: Dutton, 2011.

**Genesis 2:21-25 NLT

21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs[a] and closed up the opening. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

23 "At last!" the man exclaimed.

"This one is bone from my bone,

and flesh from my flesh!

She will be called 'woman,'

because she was taken from 'man.'"

24 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

25 Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.



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