

NO ORDINARY MARRIAGE

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

Week 3:

Marriage as Friendship

February 15 & 16, 2014

1. God's Design

Genesis 2:18: "I will make an "ezer" = companion, helper, friend

2. More than Attraction

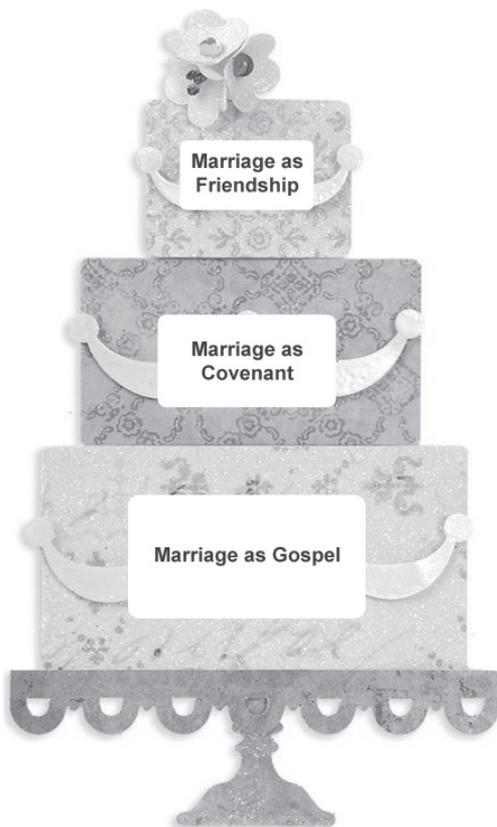
Song of Solomon 5:16: "My lover and my friend"

3. The Great Horizon

Ephesians 5:25-27: "For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault."

"Your spouse has got to be your best friend, or be on the way to becoming your best friend, or you won't have a strong, rich marriage that endures..."

- Keller, p.117



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Small Group/Personal Reflection Questions:

1. God designed marriage and provided the first spouse as an “ezer” (*helper-friend*). How do you see yourself as a “helper-friend” to your spouse.
2. Do you believe that most couples today marry their best friend? Why or why not?
3. What do you see as some of the dangers of couples marrying a romantic or sexual partner and not their best friend? Why do you think people place a dividing line between ‘lover’ and ‘friend’?
4. What characteristics or qualities were you looking for in a spouse before you got married? If you are single, what qualities are you looking for?
5. What is the primary goal of Christian marriage? What are practical ways this goal can be achieved in your own marriage?
6. Have you and your spouse discussed how you can commit to helping each other become holy? What are 2-3 things can you do to help accomplish this in your marriage?
7. Have you ever discussed with your spouse how to challenge or confront your spouse when they are not living according to their life-values or plan.
8. “Your spouse and your marriage must be the number one priority in your life.” (*Tim Keller, p. 118, 127*). If you have children, how do you balance the necessary commitment to both your children and your spouse? Which do you believe is more important, your role as a parent or your role as a spouse? Please explain.

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



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