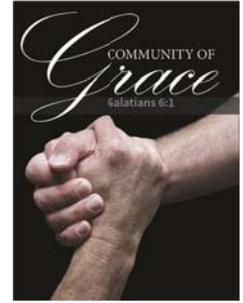


Grace Bible Church
2016 Biblical Counseling Conference
Track One



Session #7

God's Purpose For Marriage

Genesis 1-2

Marriage in today's culture:

I. Marriage is a life-long covenant.

A. Malachi 2:13-16

B. Proverbs 2:16-22

II. Marriage is a life-long covenant of companionship between a man and a woman.

A. Malachi 2:14

B. Proverbs 2:17

C. Genesis 1:26-27; 2:15-25

1. The heart of a marriage contract is a life-long, life and death promise to provide companionship in fellowship, a deep intimacy, not a superficial contact.
2. This intimate union is equivalent to becoming one-flesh, an act that is accomplished by the process of leaving parents and cleaving to one another.

D. Proverbs 31:11

This kind of companionship brings no shame or confusion, but rather, trust.

III. Marriage is a life-long covenant of companionship between a man and a woman, created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26-31

IV. Marriage is a life-long covenant of companionship between a man and a woman, created in the image of God, that results in unity.

A. Understanding flesh

B. This does not mean the obliteration of any and all distinctions between the husband and wife. It does mean a cooperative, coordinated tandem.

V. Marriage is a life-long covenant of companionship between a man and a woman, created in the image of God, that results in unity for the purpose of dominion.

A. Through multiplying and being fruitful

B. Man is to subdue or make the earth subject to him.

VI. Marriage is a life-long covenant of companionship between a man and a woman, created in the image of God, that results in unity for the purpose of dominion under God.

A. God creates, rules, and rests; man is to work, rule, and then rest in worship.

B. The work, rule and rest must be for and under God's dominion and His claim to our loyalty and love is above the family's claim.

NOTE: A covenant relationship is not common today – marriage is often viewed casually.

Companionship is reduced to romantic feelings.
Equality is reduced to identity without distinction.
Unity is rejected for individualism and self-realization.
Dominion is viewed as exploitation.
Child-bearing is neglected for selfish ambition.

VII. Marriage is ordained by God.

- A. A lifetime of companionship...
- B. ...patterned after the relationship of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church.
- C. God's purpose includes that marriage demonstrates the most intimate of all human relationships: one flesh.
 - 1. Genesis 2:18 – God designed a suitable helper for Adam.
 - 2. Genesis 2:24 – This new and distinct inseparable relationship provides companionship along the journey of Christ-likeness (Ephesians 5:25-32).

VIII. The character of marriage is established by God.

- A. Biblical love for your spouse is to be based on God's love for you and must be practiced out of a desire to please/honor the Lord.
- B. God helps us understand how to develop a one-flesh relationship by...

1. Leaving

- a. Means to 'leave behind.'
- b. This must be balanced with Deuteronomy 4:9 and 1 Timothy 5:8.
- c. It is more than geographical leaving.
- d. It includes moving from a parent-centered and parent-controlled life.
- e. Applications of leaving:
 - i. Understanding T.P.T.
 - 1) Temporary
 - 2) Permanent
 - 3) Temporary
 - Settle past conflicts
 - Not slavishly dependent on parents
 - Your spouse's concern is first and primary.

2. Cleaving

- a. Means 'welding together'
- b. "Learning to love"
- c. Your commitment to each other should equal your commitment to Christ.
 - i. Not blind chance but deliberate choice.
 - ii. Not convenience but obedience.
 - iii. Not how cards fall but a covenant.
 - iv. Not compatibility but a welding.

3. Weaving

- a. Means 'intimacy'
- b. Marital intimacy consists of oneness, closeness, communion and unity.
- c. There are many problems that come where there is sin in weaving.