



- **Commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ is a critical component of living within the body of Christ (1 Timothy 5:8 ).**
  - If you are not committed to your family, you ought not claim to be committed to Christ.
  - Our marriages matter to God and are critical to the church.
- **Marriage is under \_\_\_\_\_ in our culture.**
  - Albert Mohler – “The knowledge of marriage as an enduring covenant has been replaced with the concept of marriage as a contract of unknown duration—with terms to be determined later.”
  - Many, if not most, professing Christians live according to an understanding of marriage that is far too small and often unbiblical.

## Two Wrong Views of Marriage

### 1.) The Dynastic View

- Marriage is seen as a means to social status and financial security.
- According to this view, passion and affection must be swapped for commitment and security.

### 2.) The Romantic View

- This view bases marriage almost entirely on emotion and attraction.
- According to this view, the possibility of commitment takes a major back seat to living for the moment.
- Both views place self and selfish purposes at the center of marriage.

## God's Purpose in Marriage: The Gospel View

- Like everything else with real meaning, marriage is all about \_\_\_\_\_.
- Above all else, marriage is intended to bring glory to God's name by portraying the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **Marriage is an image of the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 31-32).**

- Even before the Fall, God established husbands and wives to be an image Christ and the Church (Genesis 2:24, v. 31-32, 2 Cor. 11:2).
- Just as Christ and His church become one body, so husband and wife become one flesh.
- God has established human marriage to image forth the eternal covenant relationship between Christ and His bride, the church.

## **Implications of Marriage as an Image of the Gospel**

### **1.) Marriage must not be \_\_\_\_\_ by people.**

- This world hates the Gospel view of marriage.
- Many Christians despise this passage as well.
- Everywhere, society is trying to redefine marriage.
- Our passage today is \_\_\_\_\_ definitive plan for marriage, which He established Himself before the Fall.
  - To hate this message is to hate the Gospel it depicts.
  - Many people misunderstand and/or misuse this passage because we look at it through the filter of tainted experiences.
- Because marriage is from God and not man, it must not be redefined by man.

### **2.) Though this instruction is God's will for every marriage, it is not guaranteed to \_\_\_\_\_ in every marriage (v. 18-22).**

- In context, Paul is saying that God's purposes for husbands and wives are and must be a work of the Spirit that fills them.
- Apart from the transforming work of the Spirit, these instructions are easily despised, neglected, or abused.
- In the Spirit, however, God's view of marriage is marvelous beyond description.

### **3.) Christian marriage is amazingly \_\_\_\_\_.**

- In married life, God has richly blessed us with the privilege to image forth astonishingly glorious realities that are infinitely bigger than us.
- Because true Christian marriage is an image of the glorious Gospel of Christ, there are no meaningless moments in our married lives!

## **Application**

- Godly churches will not happen without godly families, and godly families will not happen without godly \_\_\_\_\_.
- Godly marriages only happen among couples who endeavor to image forth the true Gospel of Jesus Christ in married life.

-- Will we commit ourselves to follow God's plans and purposes for our marriages,  
and not our own?