

[MESSAGE NOTES]

Marriage

Message Notes:

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

We all have some experience with marriage, whether it is our own or our parent's or our friends'. **Who are the people you know that inspire you and give you the most hope in the arena of marriage? Who are the people you strive to model your own marriage off of? Whose marriage(s) most clearly reflect and embody God's love for the world?**

[DIGGING DEEPER]

As we dive into marriage, let's start with a note on **singleness**. 'Why?' ...you might ask. Well, we know that many of our church family are not yet married, and *all* of us were single at one time! Marriage can often be idealized and idolized by churches, but it shouldn't be. Marriage is both a gift and a calling in scripture, but so is singleness. Sometimes it can feel like marriage is the ultimate goal in our culture, but if that is the case, then Jesus, Paul, and many others throughout Christian history have missed the mark... which is preposterous! In fact, Paul holds

up singleness as recommended in many ways (at least in the Corinthian church). **So, whether you are married or single, as the family of Christ we honor the place of both things as callings and responsibilities to be stewarded, honored, and supported without preference or judgment in the Kingdom of God.**

With this in mind, read **1 Corinthians 7**. *What kinds of things does Paul have to say about marriage (and singleness)?*

Marriage and relationship to God and one another was different before and after Sin entered the world. Compare and contrast these two passages in Genesis. **What was relationship and marriage like before Sin and after Sin? List out anything you specifically notice.**

Genesis 2:15-25 (pre-Sin/Fall)

Genesis 8:8-20 (post-Sin/Fall)

In light of the differences between relationship between man and woman pre and post Sin/Fall...

- **How do you think that Jesus calls us to live now as new creations in regards to relationship and marriage?**
- **What Genesis 2 realities need to be recovered?**
- **What Genesis 3 realities need to be crucified?**
- **What might this look like practically in your life, whether in marriage or in relationships in general?**

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message.

1 Corinthians 7

Genesis 2

Ephesians 5

Colossians 3