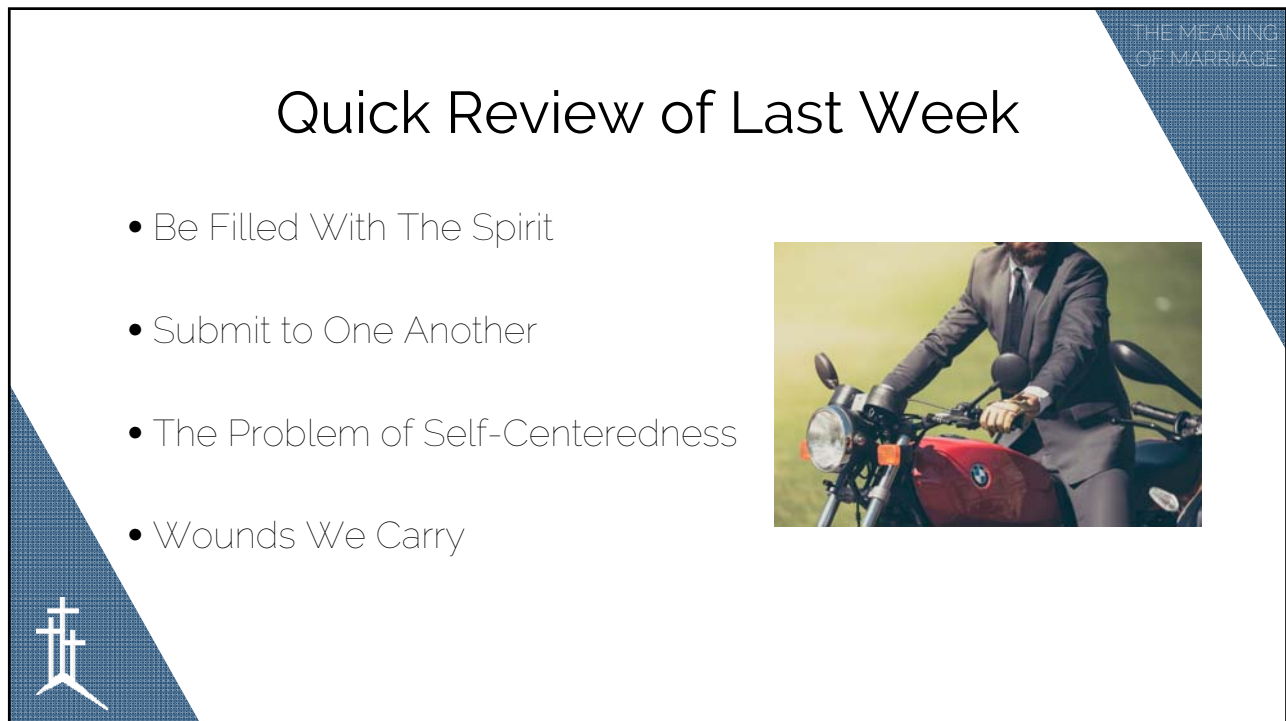




# THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

The Power for Marriage (Part 2)



## THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

### Quick Review of Last Week

- Be Filled With The Spirit
- Submit to One Another
- The Problem of Self-Centeredness
- Wounds We Carry

## Confronting Our Self-Centeredness



- "And [Christ] died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:15)



## Confronting Our Self-Centeredness

- "If two spouses *each* say, 'I'm going to treat my self-centeredness as the main problem in the marriage,' you have the prospect of a truly great marriage."



## Confronting Our Self-Centeredness

- Journaling and Personal Reflection
  - Treating *MY* self-centeredness: If I am honest with myself, how am I self-centered?
  - How would I like to become more others-focused?



## It Only Takes One to Begin Healing

"God asks that you deny yourself, that you lose yourself to find yourself. If you try to do this without the work of the Spirit, and without belief in all Christ has done for you, then simply giving up your rights and desires will be hardening. But in Christ and with the Spirit, it will be liberating."



## It Only Takes One to Begin Healing

"The Christian principle that needs to be at work is Spirit Generated Selflessness—not thinking less of yourself or more



of yourself but thinking of yourself less. It means taking your mind off yourself and realizing that in Christ your needs are going to be met and are, in fact, being met so that you don't look at your spouse as your savior."



## It Only Takes One to Begin Healing

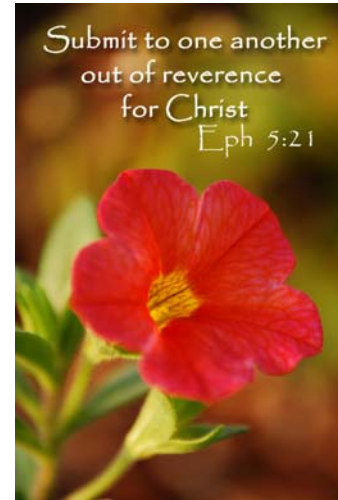
- Journaling Activity
  - What needs do you have as a relational being?
  - How might you look to a spouse to meet those needs, and what can a spouse realistically do?
  - How does Jesus perfectly meet each of your needs?

Needs	What a Spouse Can Do	What Jesus Does
Companionship	Present sometimes, but not always	Always with you!
Acceptance		
Quality Time		
Touch		
Affirmation		



## The Fear of Christ

"...to be in the fear of the Lord is not to be scared of the Lord, even though the Hebrew word has overtones of respect and awe. 'Fear' in the Bible means to be overwhelmed, to be controlled by something. To fear the Lord is to be overwhelmed with wonder before the greatness of God and His love. It means that, because of his bright holiness and magnificent love, you find Him "fearfully beautiful."



## Growing in the Fear of the Lord

- "How can we actually be filled with the Spirit? How can we grow in the fear of the Lord, so we are not controlled by other fears?"





## Growing in the Fear of the Lord

- "This does not happen overnight, of course. It requires disciplined prayer, Bible study and reading, innumerable conversations with friends, and dynamic congregational worship. But unlike learning other thinkers or authors, Jesus's Spirit can come and live within you."



## Set a Goal

Choose one of the four disciplines you would like to focus on in the coming weeks.

- Disciplined Prayer
- Bible Study and Reading
- Conversations/Friends
- Congregation Worship



How will you practice this discipline in the coming weeks? Write a specific goal for how you plan to use this discipline to bless you as you grow in fear of the Lord.




THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

## Two Ways to "Love"

Love seeketh not itself to please,  
Nor for itself hath any care,  
But for another gives its ease,  
And builds a heaven in hell's despair.


Love seeketh only self to please,  
To bind another to its delight,  
Joys in another's loss of ease,  
And builds a hell in heaven's despite.

[by William Blake – from "The Clod and the Pebble"]




THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

## Two Ways to "Love"



We love because  
he first loved us.  
1 JOHN 4:19



## Closing Reflections

- Journaling and Personal Reflection
  - What is something new you have learned about marriage today? How has your view of marriage been impacted or changed?
  - What is one way today's lesson/discussion can help you be a better spouse, friend, or family member?



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/19 – “Future Direction of the Church”  
[Trinity Hall, 9:40am]
- 2/26 – ‘Retro’ Church Picnic  
[after ONE Worship Service at 10am]



Next Class: 3/5 “The Essence of Marriage”