

Sunday, April 23, 2017

## "Embracing the Other" Part 1

THE MEANING  
OF MARRIAGE

### Embracing the Other

"Everyone comes into marriage with an idea of roles—of how a husband should behave to his wife, a wife to her husband, and children to their parents."

Let's Play **Blue Shirt**—**Pink Shirt**

"...we have found that in submitting to our own divinely assigned gender roles that we discovered one of God's great gifts for getting in touch with our deepest selves, as well as entering into the Great Dance of the universe."

### In the Beginning

**"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27)**

**DISTINCT** "If our gender is at the heart of our nature [and it is], we risk losing a key part of ourselves if we abandon our distinctive male and female roles."

**EQUAL** "...men and women together, in full participation, must carry out God's mandate to build civilization and culture. Both men and women are called to do science and art, to build families and human communities."

**COMPLIMENTARY** "...this wonderful gift of creating new human life is something we can only carry out together."

### The Dance of the Trinity

"If it was not an assault on the dignity and divinity (but rather led to the greater glory) of the Second Person of the Godhead to submit himself, and assume the role of a servant, then how could it possibly injure me to be asked to play out the 'Jesus role' in my marriage?"



**The "dance of the Trinity"** – "...the relationship of the Father and the Son is a pattern for the relationship of the husband to wife."

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:6-8)

## THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

### But What About Headship

"...authority and leadership mean that you become the servant; you die to self in order to love and serve the Other. Jesus redefined all authority as servant-authority."

"Both women *and* men get to 'play the Jesus role' in marriage—Jesus in his sacrificial authority, Jesus in his sacrificial submission."

### Embracing the Other

"Men and women are not interchangeable, unisex beings, but they have different strengths that result in men and women solving problems, building consensus, and performing leadership functions in distinct ways."

Women have a gift of interdependence, a "receiving" gift. They are inwardly perceptive. They nurture.

Men have a gift of independence, a "sending" gift. They look outward. They initiate.

"Marriage is a full embrace of the other sex. We accept and yet struggle with the gendered 'otherness' of our spouse, and in the process, we grow and flourish in ways otherwise impossible."

Next Class: Sunday, May 7, 2017

