

Content

We are going to look for one more week at the topic of marriage and covenant relationships. We have already seen that the goal or purpose of marriage is ministry when God told Adam, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" (Genesis 2:18). And we have seen in Eph. 5:21 that the key to marriage is the gospel leading both husbands and wives to live "Out of reverence for Christ." Reverence, or the fear of the Lord, is not of course being afraid or in dread of God, but is that sense of wonder and awe that the gospel lead us to. This morning we finally want to look more specifically at the vocation of marriage looking at our roles within marriage. To that end we will explore (1) The Picture of Marriage and (2) The Power of Marriage. Under the first point we will look at the picture God is painting for both wives to be submissive to their husbands and for husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. We will look at the reality that within the unity of equality, dignity and value, God has created us with a diversity of roles.

Gospel Connections

Under the second point the power of marriage we will see that we grow in our diverse roles by trusting in the goodness and power of the promises of Christ and the gospel. Husbands are to love their wives "As Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her." And Christ's love is grounded in God's covenant with us. We will look at one of the most amazing passages showing us God's covenant commitment to us, Genesis 15:1-18. In that passage God reassures Abraham with a covenant ceremony whereby He pledges Himself to His people. Jesus Christ fulfills that pledge with us in His death on the cross and resurrection. We grow by trusting in the goodness and love of our amazing Savior.

Application and Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn from this sermon? Specifically
 - a. What insights did you learn?
 - b. What questions do you have? Are there any areas you don't understand?
 - c. What areas of your life (be specific) do you sense God wants to change as a result of this passage of Scripture?

2. What do you think of the notion of gender roles? Why do you think we struggle with the concept of gender roles?

3. In practical terms, what does it mean for the wife to submit to her husband?

4. What is the relationship between Christ and the church? How does the relationship between Christ and the church explain the role of the husband in marriage? What does it mean, in practical terms, for the husband to love his wife?