

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 2/2/20

Ephesians 5:18-33 – “Gospel-Shaped Responsibilities of Husbands and Wives” by Drew Hunter

Overview

When rightly understood and practiced, the unique roles God has ordained for husbands and wives present a beautiful picture of the gospel.

1. The Framework for Marriage
2. The Roles in Marriage
3. The Power for Marriage

Quotations

"Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men... Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name" (Phil 2:6-7, 9).

"If it was not an assault on the dignity and divinity... 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 marriage?" (Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*).

"The first thing to do to have a better marriage is to be filled with the Spirit." Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) Drew gave four points as summarizing the framework for marriage: (1) God is a God of love, (2) history is a story of love, (3) marriage exists to reflect that story, and (4) gender is a gift. Discuss how it is that Paul's instructions on marriage cannot be fully understood outside this framework.
- 2) The picture of marriage given in Ephesians 5:22-33 is counter-cultural (and always has been). What are some of the assumptions our culture makes about authority and submission and about gender relationships that make it hard to understand this passage? How does this passage overturn those assumptions?
- 3) Why is it significant that Paul addresses wives directly in Ephesians 5:22-24? Drew mentioned more than one implication of this.
- 4) Discuss what is implied by the instruction that husbands love their wives as their own bodies. How is Christ our model in this? What does Paul mean in saying, "He who loves his wife loves himself"?
- 5) Consider the third quote above and re-read Ephesians 5:18-21. What steps do you need to take for this to become more true of you? If you are married, how can you help your spouse in this? How can you receive your spouse's help?