



The Power of Covenant, Part 2

THE POWER FOR MARRIAGE
Ephesians 5:21-33

Review: The People of Marriage

Ephesians 5:3-5

“...not be even a hint of sexual immorality, ...impurity, ..greed, ...Nor ... obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, ...but rather thanksgiving. ...No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God”

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord” (vs 8)

Also see Romans 7:7-25



Review: The People of Marriage

“The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.”

-- Tim Keller



Review: The People of Marriage

We Actually Marry a Stranger

Destructive to marriage is the self-fulfillment ethic that assumes marriage and the family are ...necessary for us to become “whole” and happy.... It fails to appreciate the fact that ***we always marry the wrong person.***

We never know whom we marry; we just think we do... The primary problem ***is...learning how to love and care for the stranger to whom you find yourself married.***

-- Stanley Hauerwas



Review: The Purpose of Marriage

To Reflect God's Glory

- a. **Reflect God's Saving Love for Mankind – Redemption** (*Eph 5:32, Christ and the Church*)
- b. **Refine our Character – Help Each other** (*Eph 5:30, We are members of one body*)
- c. **Leave a Godly Legacy – Be fruitful, Fill the earth** (*Gen 1:28*)
- d. **Build Complementary Sexes into and Enduring Whole-Life Union** (*Eph 5:31, leave and cleave*)



The Power for Marriage

Man's Power

Old Way – public good, duty, produce and heir, join families, tradition & culture

God's Way – Be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18



The Power for Marriage

Man's Power

New Way – personal fulfillment, self-actualization, personal happiness

God's Way – Be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18



The Power for Marriage - SINGLENES -

As a single person...

Having the wrong view of marriage as a single will negatively impact your life

You can not live your life in Christ as a single, without the correct, biblical view of marriage.



The Power for Marriage - SINGLENES -

**Why? Without the Truth about
Marriage, singles tend to...**

(1) Over-Desire Marriage

(2) Under-Desire Marriage



Single & Married Truth

Biblical World View

We are in the world but not of the world *(John 17:16)*

This world in its present form is passing away (1 Corinthians 7:31, not context is marriage)



Single & Married Truth

- **Our Identify is The Bride of Christ**
(Rev 21:9)
- **Our Hope is in Christ**
(not marriage, family, children, see heb 6:19)
- **Our Lives Point to Christ**
(not marriage, family, children, see Heb 6:19)
- **Our Friendships in Christ**



Power: Tap Into The Holy Spirit

- Ephesians 5:18, “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit”
- Galatians 5:16, “walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh”
- Romans 8:2, “The law of the Spirit... has set me free from the law of sin and death”



Power: Tap Into The Holy Spirit

Romans 8:5, “...have their minds set on... have their minds set on...”

Colossians 3:1-4, “set your hearts on... set your minds on...”

Romans 12: 2, “be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Romans 8:10, “even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.”



Supernatural Power in Intimacy

- A. A Loosely Positive View: sex is an *appetite*, an unavoidable drive that must be satisfied

- B. A Very Negative View: sex is dirty and disgusting, a *necessary evil* for the perpetuation of the species

- C. A Neutral Post-Modern View: sex is all about *individual expression*, therefore “find yourself”
You should become your true self



Supernatural Power in Intimacy

- A. Response to *appetite* view: God restricts sex to marriage for our good.
- B. Response to *necessary evil* view: God created the body and it is good (Gen 1:31), Bible is very positive (Gen 2:23, Prov 5:19, Song of Songs, 1 Cor 7:3-5)
- C. Response to *individual expression* view: Die to self (Matt 10:39), but not ascetisism (Eph 5:29, Phil 2:4)

