

Northside

FOURSQUARE CHURCH

The Beauty of Marriage Part 3

January 28, 2018

Big Idea: Marriage was designed by God as a strong unified force to establish and maintain the Kingdom of God in our world.

Scripture: *For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but **woman is the glory of man.** ... 11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; 12 for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman.*

1 Corinthians 11:7-12a ESV

Five Passages of Marriage

Passages are predictable and necessary stages involving the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual dimensions. Each passage has its own winter and summer seasons. If we fail to complete any one passage, inadvertently or on purpose, dire problems take root.

1. Young Love (first and second year)

Task. To mold into one family (we leave home, but home doesn't leave us)

Formula: "1 person + 1 person = conflict"

2. Realistic Love (third to tenth years)

Task: Hang on to Love after reality strikes.

Marriage is no longer new. Maintaining requires time and effort, which are both in short supply.

Formula: "1 person + 1 person + 1 person = multiplied combinations of conflict"

3. Comfortable Love (11th to 25th years)

Task: Can we maintain our individual identity and learn interdependence

Mid-life. Menopause

Goodbye youth. Goodbye to the illusion of a perfect mate.

Teenagers invade the home.

4. Renewing Love (26th to 35th years)

Task: combat the crisis of this task. Accept imperfection.

Re-establish companionship and unity

Grieving our losses (parents and children)

5. Transcendent Love (36th and beyond)

Task: Prepare for retirement

Retirement creates control and boundary issues.

Adjustment to finances.

Adapting to physical ailments and death

Three principles that will guide our marriages through each Passage

Honour with our Attitude

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honour to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Peter 3:7 ESV

Listen with our Ears

For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness.

The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body,

setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

James 3:2-7a ESV

Encourage with our Words

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:29-32