

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 23, 2015

This Week's Focus: Marriage was instituted by God, and he alone defines its meaning. Marriage is a God-centered relationship that displays to the world the mystical union between Christ and his Church.

"So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

Genesis 2:21-24

"Her commitment to her husband's well-being is true, not false; constant, not temperamental; reliable, not fickle; and discerning." **Bruce Waltke**

Related Texts: Proverbs 2:16-17, 11:22, 12:4, 12:15, 17:1, 18:22, 19:13-14, 21:9, 21:19, 31; Ephesians 5:31-32

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What was most inspiring about this week's sermon/text?
- According to Genesis 1:27, where do our value, dignity, and worth come from? Why is it important that we not lose sight of this when discussing marriage and choosing a marriage partner?
- Read Genesis 2:21-25. How was the first woman formed? Who instituted marriage and why? What does it mean that a man and woman become one flesh when they marry? What should be the foundation of marriage? What is the difference between the marriage covenant and a contract?

- Read Proverbs 15:22. How does the wisdom in this passage relate to choosing a spouse? Explain the following statement: "Making a major decision like marriage should never be done in a vacuum." Do you rely on caring, Christian friends to help you make wise decisions? Give an example from your life when you approached a decision with the question, "What is going to please the Lord?"
- Discuss the following characteristics of a good husband. Which do you lack? Are you seeking the wisdom and grace of God to transform you for his glory and your joy?
 1. He counsels with many. (Proverbs 12:15)
 2. He keeps good company. (Proverbs 13:20)
 3. He composes himself well in life. (Proverbs 14:29)
 4. He works hard and cares for the needy. (Proverbs 15:27, 21:13, 14:21, 14:31)
 5. He is consecrated to his wife. (Proverbs 5:15-18)
 6. He celebrates his wife. (Proverbs 31:28)
- Discuss the following characteristics of a good wife. Which do you lack? Are you seeking the wisdom and grace of God to transform you for his glory and your joy?
 1. She does her husband good. (Proverbs 31:12)
 2. She is diligent at home. (Proverbs 31:21, 22, 27)
 3. She cares for others. (Proverbs 31:20)
 4. She honors her husband. (Proverbs 31:23)
 5. She speaks words of wisdom and kindness. (Proverbs 31:26, 14:1)
 6. She is dedicated to God. (Proverbs 31:30)
- What other traits or characteristics are important in a spouse?
- According to Ephesians 5:31-32, what is the purpose of marriage? How can we live so that our marriages display the loving union between Christ and the Church? How does a husband's love for his wife declare the gospel to the world? How does a wife's love for her husband declare the gospel to the world?