



God's Design for Marriage

Lesson 1: STARTING WELL

“This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church”

Ephesians 5:32

Introduction

Marriage under threat

- Fear of Commitment
- Broad failure of marriages
- Unrealistic expectations

- Lack of Biblical understanding of marriage

- Lack of spiritual understanding and maturity

1 Cor 3:1-3, But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

- Unbelief and selfishness

Heb 3:12-14, Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

A Biblical Marriage

- Cultural view of marriage

- Biblical view of marriage

1. A Biblical Marriage finds its purpose in God

- *Self-satisfaction*

- *Others-satisfaction*

- *Joint-satisfaction*

- *God-focused*

Eph 5:31-32, Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

2. A Biblical Marriage finds its hope in the Gospel of Grace

- Grace: “God’s undeserved favour to those who deserve His wrath”

- Because of the gospel, Christians have become new creations (2 Cor 5:17)

- Because of the gospel, we are forgiven (Eph 1:7)

- Because of the gospel, we are accepted by God (Rom 15:7)
- Because of the gospel, sin's ruling power over us is broken (Rom 6:6, 14)
- Because of the gospel, we have access to God through Christ (Heb 4:14-16)
- Because of the gospel, we have hope (Rom 5:1-4)
- Because of the gospel, Christ dwells in us by his Holy Spirit (Gal 3:13-14)
- Because of the gospel, we have power to fight and overcome remaining sin, which continues to dwell and war within us (Rom 7:19-21)

3. A Biblical Marriage finds its home in the local church

- The church is the place where we grow in biblical humility
- The church is the place where marriages are fed and supported with truth
- The church is the place where marriages are helped when in need

