



Does Marriage Matter? - Week 1

OVERVIEW

In the first message of the new series *Does It Matter?*, we will answer the question, “Does marriage matter?”

DISCUSSION

- What's the funniest wedding mishap you've witnessed or heard of?

Many today feel like marriage is an old, traditional carry over from people who don't understand “the real world” and are just stuck in “fantasy fairy tale of the past”. Yet, statistics show that marriage is essential to a child's health and development. The majority of criminals, high school dropouts, children with behavior disorders, and teen pregnancies come from a fatherless home. Healthy marriages are what make a difference in our culture and community. Marriage matters.

3 Reasons Marriage Matters

1. Marriage is God's idea.

The God who made us created us for marriage to recreate, procreate, and celebrate. There has never been another institution since the beginning of time that is a better, healthier way to grow as a person and raise children in the best environment than marriage.

- How does the belief that marriage is a divine institution impact the way society views and values marriage today?
- How does knowing that marriage is ordained by God shape your understanding of its significance and purpose?

2. You were made for relationship.

Genesis 2:18: The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Man was living in a perfect paradise, he had all he wanted and needed, even with his relationship with God. But God said, “Something is not good, it's not good for man to be alone.” Life is not about accomplishments, it's about relationships. Accomplishments are not fulfilling—relationships are. Relationships require intimacy, which we all desire. Within marriage, God has created an opportunity for us to develop true intimacy and authenticity with another human being.

- Reflecting on Genesis 2:18, why do you think God deemed it “not good” for man to be alone, even in a perfect paradise?

- Do you agree that life is primarily about relationships rather than accomplishments? Why or why not?
- What are some common barriers that people face in developing meaningful relationships, and how can these barriers be overcome?
- How do you prioritize relationships in your own life, and what steps do you take to nurture and maintain them?

3. You were made to leave a lasting legacy.

You are an eternal, spiritual being having a temporary, physical experience on earth. So, we were created to leave a lasting, spiritual legacy. The Psalmist, David, wrote in **Psalm 92:12-15**: ***“The righteous will flourish like the date palm [long-lived, upright and useful]; They will grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic and stable]. Planted in the house of the Lord, They will flourish in the courts of our God. [Growing in grace] they will still thrive and bear fruit and prosper in old age; They will flourish and be vital and fresh [rich in trust and love and contentment]; [They are living memorials] to declare that the Lord is upright and faithful [to His promises]; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”***

By sacrificing to build a healthy marriage that lasts, you will leave a legacy and generational blessing that will impact your children and grandchildren for generations to come. Like David, you become a living monument that God is faithful to His promises. You will leave a greater inheritance than Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos or Michael Jordan. **Proverbs 22:1**: ***“A good name [earned by honorable behavior, godly wisdom, moral courage, and personal integrity] is more desirable than great riches; And favor is better than silver and gold.”*** It’s been said, “Some people are so poor that when they die all they leave their children is money.” Marriage is a lifetime journey that our children have a front row seat to. After teaching them to love God with all their heart, there is no greater responsibility and privilege than showing them how to love their mate for a lifetime.

- What qualities or behaviors do you think contribute to earning a good name and leaving a positive legacy for future generations?
- In what ways do you believe building a healthy, lasting marriage contributes to leaving a legacy and generational blessing?

LIFE CHALLENGE

Regardless of your marital status, recognize the significance of relationships in shaping your legacy and impacting the world around you. Prioritize nurturing meaningful connections with others, fostering intimacy, authenticity, and love. Take on the challenge to invest in building healthy relationships, knowing that they are essential for personal growth and the well-being of future generations. Through acts of kindness, empathy, and commitment, strive to leave a positive and lasting legacy that reflects the importance of human connection and the richness of a life lived in community.

PRAY TOGETHER