

# Celebrating Marriage

## Celebrating the Privilege of Marriage

### I. Introduction

II. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to be Alone (Gen 2:18).

A. Adam was in perfect fellowship with God and in a perfect place, and yet God said, “It is not good that man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18a).

- “The Genesis narrative is implying that our intense relational capacity, created and given to us by God, was not fulfilled completely by our “vertical” relationship with Him” (Tim Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage* pg. 111).

B. God’s design has never been for people to live alone in isolation; whether a person is single or married.

C. Why would God design us to live in community as these verses describe?

D. After creating Adam, God made him “a helper, fit for him” (Genesis 2:18b).

III. What is the purpose of this friendship in marriage?

A. A life of \_\_\_\_\_ in God – together with your spouse.

1. Let's first look at this life of joy God has for us (fill in Scripture below).

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Marriage as a joyful experience (fill in Scripture below).

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Marriage is to prepare you and your spouse for that great day when we will \_\_\_\_\_

Tim Keller gives us a great picture of what love and friendship in marriage can look like:

“Within this Christian vision for marriage, here’s what it means to fall in love. It is to look at another person and get a glimpse of the person God is creating, and to say, ‘I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be a part of that. I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to his throne. And when we get there, I will look at your magnificence and say, ‘I always knew you could be like this. I got glimpses of it on earth, but now look at you!’ . . . Each spouse then should give him or herself to be a vehicle for that work and envision the day that you will stand together before God, seeing each other presented in spotless beauty and glory” (Tim Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage* pg. 121).

#### IV. Qualities of Friendship that should be cultivated in our Marriages.

A. A growing \_\_\_\_\_.

B. \_\_\_\_\_.

C. \_\_\_\_\_.

- “Love finds joy in your comfort, satisfaction, and safety. Love will serve you and not use you. Love finds more excitement with giving than receiving. Love enjoys the unique vulnerability of the nakedness of the marriage bed and takes care that this vulnerability is never demanding or dangerous. **Love sees sex as an act and celebration of the relationship of self-sacrificing love that the marriage is all about**” (Paul Tripp, *What Did You Expect?* pg. 173).

D. \_\_\_\_\_ – it does not waver.

“Love is willing self-sacrifice for the good of another that does not require reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving” (Paul Tripp, *What Did You Expect??* pg. 188).

#### V. Conclusion/Questions to discuss.

- A. What was the most helpful or encouraging thought we discussed during this talk?
- B. Spend a few minutes talking together as a couple evaluating the quality of your friendship in marriage or relationship in the 4 characteristics we just looked at: affection; transparency; self-sacrifice; and constant.
- C. What are some things you have been thinking, saying, and/or doing that has cultivated an intimate friendship in your relationship OR you have not been doing that has hindered an intimate friendship in your relationship?