**Genesis 2**

Introduction

I. Marriage is under attack

A. Culturally, there has been a monumental shift in the understanding of marriage in the past 60 years in America

B. Personally, our marriages are under attack

II. Our goal is to discover God’s purpose and plan for marriage and learn to live within that

The Passages

I. Genesis 2

A. The creation of Adam

-v. 7: created out of the dust

-v. 8: placed in a garden

 1. A wonderful garden (v. 9-14)

 2. A garden that needs tending and protecting (v. 15)

B. The creation of Eve

 1. God declares his plan to make Eve

-v. 18: “Not good for man to be alone”

 -This is the first time in Genesis God says something is not good

-a “helper suitable”

 1. “helper”

=someone who comes alongside to assist, aid, support

 -“helper” is used of God (Dt 33:7, Ps 33:20)

 -Adam needs help with gardening (2:15) and ruling (1:28)

 2. “suitable”

-“Someone who by relative difference yet essential equality should be his fitting complement.”

 -God builds the suspense as all the animals pass by Adam (v. 19-20)

 2. God creates Eve from Adams rib (v. 21-22)

 3. Adam’s response (v. 23)

She is a perfect counterpart as she is his very flesh and bone

 4. God created someone so intimately connected to Adam

He could have made another creature from the dust, but instead he makes someone intimately connected to Adam

 C. The point of the story (v. 24)

1. The author is telling us that every human marriage is to be patterned after that first marriage between Adam and Eve

2. When we marry, we are to think of the one-flesh union that Adam and Eve originally had, and see that God is forming that union in our marriage

3. Practically, our role in that union is to leave our family (all other human relationships now take second place) and cleave to our spouse (stick by them through thick and thin)

II. Matthew 19

A. Basic Perspective: You didn’t create your marriage, God created your marriage

B. The Pharisees question (v. 3): they want his interpretation of the law

C. Jesus’ response (v. 4-6)

 1. He goes back before the law to God’s original intention for marriage

 2. His point: “What God has joined together”

Marriage is God’s doing. Behind our vows, God is the one doing the main action in forming a union between husband and wife

3. The implication: “Let not man separate”

If God has joined something together, who are we to choose to separate it?

III. Ephesians 5

A. Basic Perspective: Your marriage is not just about you, it’s about God

B. The relationship between marriage between a man and woman and the marriage between Jesus and his church (v. 28-32)

 1. Husbands should love their wives as their own body

 2. Jesus loves the church because we are part of his body

 3. The “mystery” of marriage (v. 31-32)

a. The mystery is that when God created marriage between man and woman in the beginning, all along he intended that union to point beyond itself to an even deeper union between Jesus and his church

b. Marriage was always intended to be a temporary reflection of an eternal relationship Jesus wants to have with us

4. “Marriage is patterned after Christ’s covenant relationship to his people, the church. Therefore, the highest meaning and purpose of marriage is to put that relationship on display. That is why marriage exists. If you are married, that is why you are married. If you hope to be, that should be your dream.” –John Piper

Conclusion

I. Summary of the Biblical worldview on marriage

Marriage is God’s idea and creation. It’s a lifelong unity God forms between a man and woman which is intended to display the love and sacrifice Jesus Christ has for his church

II. How can you live within that story today?

A. Singles

 1. Singleness can be a wonderful calling (Mt 19, Jesus and Paul)

2. Marriage is not the end all be all: it’s just a pointer to the end all be all: Christ

3. Want to be married? Consider entering marriage with the right perspective

B. Broken marriages

1. We want to be a community that weeps, grieves with you and points you to the grace of God and his ability to bring beauty out of painful circumstances.

2. How can you actively participate with God in that healing process?

C. Married

1. Celebrate and affirm your spouse

2. One of God’s purposes in marriage is to refine you. “What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?” –G. Thomas

 3. Seek outside help early and often

**Discussion Questions**

1. As you considered the original marriage between Adam and Eve recorded in Genesis 2 on Sunday, were there any details that you hadn’t considered before or anything that you gained a new appreciation for?

2. Consider Paul’s perspective in Ephesians 5 that from the beginning God intended human marriage to reflect the relationship between Jesus and the church. The statement was made on Sunday: “Your marriage is not ultimately about you and your spouse. It’s about Jesus and the church.” What are the implications of that perspective as it relates to your own relationship with marriage?

3. At the end of Sunday’s message some comments were made to single people, married people, and those who have been affected by a broken marriage. How did you respond to those comments?

4. At the end of Sunday’s service we were invited to consider what God might be saying to us or what God might be asking of us as it relates to marriage. What came up for you in that?

5. On Sunday the following statement was somewhat facetiously made: “Many of us got married for the wrong reasons.” What do you think was meant by that? How would you counsel a single person who desires to be married regarding how to think about marriage and how to choose a spouse?