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Section: Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Q29. What is marriage?**

Marriage is a covenant relationship whereby God joins together one man and one woman into a one-flesh union designed to be faithful and last until the couple is separated by death.

1. In Pastor Joshua’s introduction, he stressed why the topic of marriage and a need for a better understanding of it is something for which our modern culture is desperate. Why do you think this is?

\*Have someone pray for your group time and our start together into this series

**Marriage Is God’s Design and Doing**

Read Genesis 2:18-25 again.

2. Why is it essential to acknowledge that marriage is God’s to define and determine and that we truly go to Him to direct our understanding and practice of this part of life?

**Marriage Is a Creation Ordinance**

3. Why is it important to we understand that marriage doesn’t change over time or with cultural advancements or changes, but it is to remain the same from the beginning to the end of this creation (*it’s perpetual)?*

4. Because marriage is a Creation Ordinance, it is to be “**rightly *honored* by all men and women”** and not just God-fearing people.Why does this matter, even in the light of many people and generations who choose to ignore His commands?

**Marriage Is Ordained by God**

6. Does the fact that people choose to ignore/reject God’s command or design change the reality of what marriage actually is and/or who gets to decide what it is? Why is this important to rightly understand?

\*Additional study here if needed: The Scriptures are clear that mankind is still guilty before God for dishonoring Him and His decrees, even if they claim not to have known them (e.g.. Romans 1:18-32).

**Marriage Is Defined by God**

Read Genesis 2:24-25.

**Togetherness:**

7. Pastor Joshua talked about how most people see marriage as a commitment to “togetherness,” and the effort is to be faithful to working towards and keeping a close-knit togetherness. In this, many see themselves not as two who have become one but as two who are trying hard to be together. How is this highly problematic in how marriages are lived out, and why do so many marriages struggle to be healthy or to last?

**Oneness:**

Read Ephesians 5:31-32.

8. Why is a right understanding of God’s design for marriage in “two becoming one” so critical to a right and full understanding of marriage?

9. How does the “being sewn together into one” illustration help us see the depth of the commitment, bond, and change that occurs in marriage?

10. How does this understanding help improve/heighten your practice of, plan for, and/or talking about marriage?

**The Marriage Vow**

11. Why do so many struggle to faithfully live out and/or keep their marriages vows?

12. How can a right understanding and application of the gospel help this?

\*Close in Prayer.