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Section: Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)

What is Marriage Pt. 2

**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. Read 1 Corinthians 8:6, 1 Corinthians 10:31, and Romans 11:36. For many, it seems like a lofty ideal to make the ultimate purpose of marriage the glory of God. But if you slow down to consider why all things exist, it begins to make more sense that God had a bigger aim for marriage than love, companionship, and family. Talk about how marriage points to God, His glory, His gospel and the eternal covenant between Christ and His bride.
2. Read Ephesians 5:28-30. If marriage is ultimately to display God and His gospel, then talk about why it is so critical we work to grow in Christ, communicate with our spouse, serve each other sacrificially, stay committed, and work through hurts. Talk about why this aim for your marriage affects the story you tell with your marriage.
3. Read Genesis 2:24-25. Talk about the mask that we wear (outside of Christ) in an effort to not be ashamed. Why do we struggle to be transparent outside of Christ? Why is it truly good news when we come to experience the spiritual cover that Jesus gave us with His substitutional death as it relates to our relationships?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 1 John 4:7-8, and Colossians 3:12-13. Why is the work of Jesus in our lives the essential glue that fuels a healthy and lasting marriage?
5. Read Matthew 22:37-40. Why is it so important that our greatest love be for God and not our spouse or anyone else we aim to love well?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 7:29, Luke 14:26, and Luke 18:29-30. Why is it essential that we hold marriage or the longing for it rightly?
7. Read Colossians 3:1-4. If Christ is our life, then how does that help us not over elevate our marriage or longing for it?

\*Spend some time in prayer together as you close.