**Midweek Gathering**

Section: Doctrine of Man

Lesson #24- March 15, 2022

**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.

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

Read Genesis 2:18-25 again.

1. 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?

2. 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:**

3. 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 Mark 10:6-9

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

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

**The Purpose of Marriage**

6.. 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.

10. 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.

**The Fuel For A Thriving and Lasting Marriage**

Read 1 John 4:7-8 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

11. Why is the other centered love of God so essential to a thriving and lasting marriage?

12. Pastor said these two profound truths..

***Selfish*** *love will fade away when the person does not provide any longer what is most desired*

***Selfless or sacrificial***  *love will always remain because what is most desired is already had in Christ.*

With this in mind, why do we struggle in our marriages when we try to love our spouse outside of Christ and why do we thrive in our marriages when we love our spouse in Christ?

13. Based on this what is the most important investment of our time and energy in our days?

 Answer- Abiding in and Growing in Christ so that His love can be at work in our marriages.

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