**Midweek Gathering**

Section: Doctrine of Man

Lesson #26- March 29, 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.

**Quick Answers *(Try to get through this section quickly)***

1. Fill in the blanks: The Core Pillars Pastor showed us tonight about Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage Found in Scripture:

- Because Marriage is a Creation Ordinance, God’s design and terms for marriage are to remain ­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as God designed it until the end of this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

- The one-flesh union created in marriage is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until the death of one of the spouses.

-Initiating or longing for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is never lawful.

-Remarrying after divorce is an act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if a former spouse is living.

1. Why is a proper understanding and embrace of a Creation Ordinance so essential?
2. When Paul speaks to the ending of a marriage in 1 Corinthians 7:39, what does he teach is the one and only thing that releases spouses from the marriage covenant?

**Closer Look**

1. What audience is Matthew’s Gospel written to first and foremost?

* When Jesus was ministering and teaching before His death on the cross, what covenant was in place with Jews?
* What did the Old Covenant prescribe for those caught in sexual immorality?
* When the Jewish audience hears/reads what’s in Matthew’s Gospel, “whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery,” or the like in chapter 5, what would they think would end the marriage of one who has committed sexual immorality?

1. Why is Eph. 5:31-32 extremely helpful when considering divorce & remarriage?

**Application**

1. When Paul speaks very specifically to Christians who are married to unbelievers, he comforts them by saying you can have a clear conscience about now living single if an unbelieving spouse abandons you (i.e. forces a divorce that you don’t long for).

* Does he then give any permission for them to marry another? With the Creation Ordinance reality, does having a divorce forced on you actually end the one-flesh union created in marriage?
* If abandonment divorce happens, how should that Christian live? (Honor the marriage covenant on their end, or long for/seek a new spouse?)

1. Why is this topic so hard to embrace and honor the Lord with, even after clearly understanding how clear God is regarding the institution of marriage and what it is meant to be and how it is to end?
2. Why is it so important that we slow down to get married, casually endorse others marriages, and or slack in training our children for the lifelong commitment of marriage?
3. God surely ordains in His providence many hardships and even suffering in this life. Why are people more ready to embrace so many of these but reject the idea or practice of life long hardship and gospel testimony being a worthy struggle for God’s glory when it comes to fulfilling your death do you part covenant in marriage.
4. The most important thing we can know about why we exist is that God made us to glorify Him. And we do that by trusting in Jesus, enjoying Him, treasuring Him above all else, growing in our knowledge of Him, obeying His commands, and by showing and telling the world how great He is.

* Why is this the most important thing we can know about why we exist?
* How does this help us live not for our own desires, but for God?