

Marriage

Series: Family Portraits

Jason Seales, Calera Campus Pastor

May 30, 2010

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-32

Group Session

Opening Questions

What one piece of advice would you give a couple about to enter a marital relationship? (other than "Don't do it!")

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read Ephesians 5:22-32. Make a list of principles we can learn from marriage from this passage alone.
2. In what ways do you see marriage as a picture of the gospel? (Marriage is two people living with faithfulness, grace and forgiveness out of a deep love for one another.)
3. The first marriage struggle is selfishness verses selflessness. How have you been able to combat that in your marriage (or how would you if not)?
4. Have you ever been tempted to have a contract marriage rather than a covenant marriage? (A contract marriage says, "I'll do what you expect if you do what I expect.") Why is this not a good model for marriage? (We should see everything we receive from our spouse as a gift.)
5. Read Philippians 2:4 and 1 Corinthians 13:5. What does it say about the model of marriage that we should pursue?
6. The next struggle is freedom verses boundaries. What is an example of guard rails in marriage? What are some areas of our marriages in which we need guard rails? Can you name some ways guard rails would have protected a someone else you are familiar with?
7. Read Ephesians 5:28-29. How does this passage relate to guard rails or other areas in marriage?
8. How have your in-laws impacted your marriage? Have we handled those situations in a godly manner? Is there anything we need to do now in regard to our in-laws?
9. Struggle number three (for men) is to reject passivity and embrace leadership. People have a tendency to confuse our roles with our worth. Just because the wife is subordinate to the husband does not mean she is of lesser value. Men are called to leads courageously and expect God's reward. What factors in a relationship affect living this out?

Closing Challenge

How would you evaluate your marriage?

Is there anything you need to confess to your spouse?

What are some things you can do this week to better fulfill your role in the marriage?