



15 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Ephesians 5:15-17

Solomon **stopped** applying the wisdom God was giving him.

22 Find a good spouse, you find a good life— and even more: the favor of God! Proverbs 18:22 (Msg)

When you forget the purpose of marriage, you'll stop embracing the **sacrifice** it takes to make it possible.

4 "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.'" 5 And he said, "'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.'" 6 Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." Matthew 19:4-6

God's Plan:

One man and One woman united in the **covenant** of marriage for **life**.

Covenant means: I'm in **no matter what**.

...the LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth.... she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Malachi 2:14 (NIV)

Four purposes of marriage:

- **Pleasure.**

9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love...Ecclesiastes 9:9

Whatever you feed **grows**. Whatever you starve **dies**.

Marriage Question:

How can we have fun **together**?

- **Procreation.**

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it...." Genesis 1:28

15 God, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? Children of God (*godly offspring*), that's what. So guard the spirit of marriage within you. Don't cheat on your spouse. Malachi 2:15

3 Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. Psalm 127:3

Don't just raise **humans** in your home, be intentional about raising **disciples** in your home.

Marriage question:

How are we making **disciples** within our home?

- **Purification.**

25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. Ephesians 5:25-27

21...submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

God created marriage not just to make us **happy**, but to make us **holy**.

17 You use steel to sharpen steel, and one friend sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17 (Msg)

Marriage Question:

How is God using my **spouse** to make me more like **Jesus**?

- **Partnership.**

28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30 And we are members of his body. Ephesians 5:28-30

31 As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. 33 So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:31-33

Marriage done right is a living **sermon** of God's **love**.

Marriage Question:

How can our marriage better **point** others to **Jesus**?

The medicine to a broken marriage is **sacrifice** and **service**.



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What does it look like to "live wisely" in marriage according to Ephesians 5:15-17?
- Why do you think Solomon drifted from applying God's wisdom in his relationships?
- How does understanding God's purpose for marriage change the way we handle sacrifice?
- Which of the four purposes of marriage stands out to you most right now: pleasure, procreation, purification, or partnership?
- What are some practical ways couples can keep fun and friendship alive in marriage?
- What does it mean to raise disciples, not just children, in the home?
- How can marriage help shape us to become more like Jesus?
- Why is mutual sacrifice and service so important in a healthy marriage?
- In what ways can a marriage become "a living sermon" of God's love to others?

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