

The Value of Marriage in Today's World

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01 If you had to create a promo for marriage, how would you sell it?

02 What are the pros and cons of marriage?

- a. For those who are married, what's one thing that has surprised you about being married that you had not anticipated? Feel free to share a 'good' surprise and a 'not so good' surprise.
- b. For those who are single, how have you experienced marriage in the body of Christ? Feel free to share something that's been helpful and/or something that has been unhelpful.

02 Read Matthew 19:1-9.

[Note that we will look at the next section next week as it relates to single people in the Body of Christ.]

03. What is the Pharisees' intent in asking Jesus about divorce in v.3? How does Jesus redirect their focus?

04 How does Jesus' reference to Genesis 1:27 and 2:24 (vv.4-5) shape our understanding of marriage?

05 What does this passage teach about the permanence and purpose of marriage?

06 How can churches uphold the sanctity of marriage while also extending grace to those affected by divorce?

07 How does the biblical understanding of marriage as a covenant differ from contemporary views of marriage? How do we lovingly hold the tension of these different expressions in our society?

08 Compare Matthew 19:4–6 with Ephesians 5:22–33. How is marriage a reflection of Christ's relationship to the Church?

09 The biblical narrative starts with a marriage and ends with a marriage with the first marriage being 'a trailer' for the second. Discuss this. How do you respond to this statement?

10 After Jesus teaches on marriage the disciples effectively say in v10 "Marriage is hard, maybe it's better to just stay single!" How would you respond to this if someone said this to you? Do you agree or disagree with this sentiment?

11 Adam writes: *I've often thought that as congregation members and clergy we are excited when a couple marry, we celebrate and get excited, we officiate the ceremony in our churches and then we send the couple into the big wide world to make it on their own. Sadly when marriages struggle or even end, we can be harsh or judgemental about it. Historically we've often made once cherished church members feel less valued or welcomed when their marriages end.*

How as a Church can we be more pro-active and intentional in loving and supporting married couples through all stages of married life.

12 Marriages, in part, exist in a community to bless everyone in the community. When a couple marry, a new home is created. A home where children can be born and grow and be nurtured. But also a home where friends, community and extended network can be gathered. A place where weary guests can find hospitality and where people far away or disconnected from family can find family in Christ, a home away from home.

Rather than making Christian marriage all about the couple, how can we promote a vision of marriage that blesses and enhances the life of the community?

13 Closing Prayer Suggestion: Ask God for wisdom to honour His design for relationships and grace to live faithfully in our callings—whether in marriage or singleness.

Want to submit a question for QnA Sunday 21 Sep?

Follow the link:

