



A HOLY MARRIAGE OR A HAPPY MARRIAGE?

Session #2

A. HOLINESS OR HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE?

Gary Thomas

“What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?”

Douglas Wilson

“If we might paraphrase the words of the catechism, the chief end of marriage is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. The reason we are miserable in our marriages is because we have idolized them. But the glory of God is more important than our domestic happiness.”

Gary Thomas

“I think most of us who have been married for any length of time realise that the romantic roller coaster of courtship eventually evens out to the terrain of a Midwest interstate long, flat stretches with an occasional overpass. If the purpose of marriage was simply to enjoy an infatuation and make me happy, then I’d have to get a ‘new’ marriage every two or three years.”

B. MARRIAGE IS ORDAINED OF GOD FOR OUR SANCTIFICATION

CJ Mahaney

“The key question is this: will we approach marriage from a God-centered view or a man-centered view? In a man-centered view, we will maintain our marriage as long as our earthly comforts, desires, and expectations are met. In a God-centered view, we preserve our marriage because it brings glory to God and points a sinful world to a reconciling creator.”

Gary Thomas

“If my marriage contradicts my message, I have sabotaged the goal of my life: to be pleasing to Christ and to faithfully fulfill the ministry of reconciliation, proclaiming to the world the good news that we can be

reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. If my 'driving force' is as Paul says it should be, I will work to construct a marriage that enhances this ministry of reconciliation - a marriage that, in fact, incarnates this truth by putting flesh on it, building a relationship that models forgiveness, selfless love and sacrifice."

C. GROWTH IN HOLINESS REQUIRES CONFRONTATION

Dave Harvey

"Who can play the Nathan role for your spouse? Who will take on the ministry of reconciliation? This needs to be someone appointed by God, close enough to see, and humble enough to be concerned more about God's righteousness than about people's opinions. There's really only one likely candidate: you."

D. PRINCIPLES IN CONFRONTATION

Matthew Henry

"The three qualifications of a good surgeon are requisite in a reprovor: he should have an eagle's eye, a lion's heart and a lady's hand; in short, he should be endued with wisdom, courage and meekness."

1. Confronting with Wisdom.

2. Confronting with Courage

Dave Harvey

"If we sow loving honesty and courageous care we will reap growth in Godliness. If we avoid confrontation, we'll just get confrontation anyway, because sin unaddressed is sin unconfined. In an attempt to preserve peace we sow war."

Dave Harvey

"To truly care for your spouse in the moment of confrontation, your words and manner of delivery must be designed to encourage repentance. The word is often misunderstood, so before you entertain images of your spouse exchanging weekend wear for sack cloth and ashes, let's be clear what God is looking for."

3. Confronting with Meekness

- a. Being annoyed is not an invitation to speak. (Prov. 12:16)
- b. A soft answer has more power than a wrathful tongue. (Prov. 15:1)
- c. Gentle speech encourages life, whether in conversation or in conflict. (Prov. 15:4)