

Marriage

6 GOSPEL COMMITMENTS EVERY COUPLE NEEDS TO MAKE

Lesson One

The Gospel

- Bad News: _____
- Good News: _____
- Response: _____

Gospel-shaped Expectations

- Bad News – I expect to be blind to the sin in my own heart. I expect to be affected by my spouse's sin, by a fallen world.
- Good News – I look to Jesus to save me from my sin, and the sin of those around me. I know Jesus loves me and helps me because He already took my sin, felt its pain and died for me.
- Response – I repent! My way is wrong. My selfishness is wrong. I created this mess. But, I look to Jesus. I trust Him to rescue me and my spouse. I trust Him to be present with me, to help me to grow into His image, and to help me show my spouse what is love is like.

Chapter One – What Did You Expect?

1. Recognize _____ expectations
 - a. Where do these unrealistic expectations come from?
 - i. Misuse of Scripture (p.16).
 - ii. Foolishness (p. 17) – No desire to listen to truth during the early romantic stages. “You are simply not interested in being realistic.” (p. 18)
 - iii. Blindness to self-worship.
2. Develop _____, gospel-shaped expectations
 - a. The gospel reminds us that we live in the _____ of our salvation.
 - i. We are saved from the penalty of sin, but not yet from the presence of sin.

- ii. We are given God's Spirit to dwell in us, but we are not yet conformed to the perfect likeness of Jesus.
 - iii. We have seen Jesus' victory over sin and death, but sin and death have not yet been eradicated.
 - b. The gospel reminds us to expect the _____. Life does not work according to my plan. (Acts 17:26-27.)
 - i. Prepared Spontaneity (p. 20).
 - 1. Expect potential problems. (p. 20) (Bad news)
 - 2. Expect promised provision. (Good news)
 - 3. Respond in faith (repent and believe!)
 - c. The gospel teaches us to expect the _____. (p. 21)
 - i. You are conducting Your Marriage in a _____ (1 Peter 1:6-7).
 - 1. You will not escape the *grief* of a fallen world.
 - 2. You will face *trials*.
 - 3. You will be "*tested*" and refined.
 - a. Most of us have a "personal happiness paradigm"
 - b. God has a "personal holiness paradigm."
 - c. God's goal is to change you – to "rescue you from you."
 - ii. You Are a _____ Married to a _____ (p. 24).
 - 1. If we minimize the heart struggle we have both carried into marriage, four things will happen:
 - a. You will tend to turn moments of _____ into moments of _____.
 - b. We tend to _____ what is not personal.

- c. We tend to be _____ in our response.
 - d. We settle for _____ situational _____ that do not get to the heart of the matter.
- iii. God Is _____, _____, and _____
- 1. God is faithful.
 - 2. God is powerful.
 - 3. God is willing.

Conclusion:

Summary: God has placed you in this marriage with a purpose: to glorify Himself by making you like Jesus, so you can show the world what Jesus is like.

In every moment, that's your goal.

- When your spouse sins – know that God is ready to make you more like Jesus and is giving you an opportunity to show your spouse what Jesus is like (or to ask for forgiveness for *not* showing your spouse what Jesus is like).
- When you face the grief, pain, trials, and testing of a fallen world – know that God is ready to make you more like Jesus and to help you show Jesus' love to others around you.
- When you sin, know that God is right there, ready to help you become more like Jesus. Crucify your flesh with its passions and desires (kill your selfishness), yield to God's Spirit, and show your spouse what Jesus is like.

Gospel Reflection:

- Bad News: I am a sinner.
 - Marriage Implication: I am the problem. My sin put Jesus on the cross, and I need to take full responsibility for my sin.
 - Reflection Questions: Where do I see my selfishness? What do my words reveal about my desires? What do

my desires reveal about my worship? Who or what is ruling my life?

- Good News: Jesus died for my sin and rose again.
 - Marriage Implication: Jesus loves me, and He offers me forgiveness for my sin. I can humbly admit my sin and embrace God's love and forgiveness. God has extended grace, love and mercy to me so that I can extend grace love and mercy to my spouse.
 - Reflection Questions: When was the last time I asked repented of my sin to God? When was the last time I repented of my sin to my spouse? Am I looking for love from my spouse, or seeking to show Jesus' love to my spouse?
- Response: I trust in Jesus!
 - Marriage Implication: Jesus rules my marriage, not me. Jesus is the Savior of my marriage, not me. I will walk by faith in His promises. I will live for Him who died for me.
 - Reflection Questions: What promises of Jesus am I not believing? For whom am I living?