

Marriage

6 GOSPEL COMMITMENTS EVERY COUPLE NEEDS TO MAKE

Lesson Two

Developing gospel-fueled worship.

Chapter Two – Reason to Continue.

Discussion: Select one of the seven couples listed on pages 32-34 (they each have one paragraph). Have someone in the group read it aloud. Then, discuss the following questions and be prepared to share your groups answers with the class:

1. In your own words, what happened that left one spouse feeling “no reason to continue”?
2. What does this reveal about what that spouse was *hoping in*?
Asked another way – what was it that had *formerly* given them a reason to continue?
3. Was the thing they were *hoping for* a bad thing?

Big Question: What do we do when we’ve lost our reason to continue?

1. **Recognize that the issue is _____ in _____ (p. 35).**
 - a. We are all _____ (Romans 1:19-25).
 - i. Every human being lives for _____.
All of us are digging for treasure. Behind everything we do is some kind of hope – goal.
 - ii. That hope, goal, or treasure reveals what we are _____.
 - iii. There are only two options in our worship:
either we worship the _____, or we worship _____.

Discussion: Select one of the three examples from pages 37-38 (Jeanie, Tony, or Abby). Read their story aloud in your group and answer the following questions:

1. What was the individual seeking from *creation* that they were only meant to get from the *Creator*?
2. Based on that observation, who (or what) is the individual worshipping?
3. How might things have looked different if the individual had been worshipping God?

2. Root your marriage in _____ of _____ (p. 38). (Romans 5:1-11).

- a. Find hope in the God who saved you while you were still a sinner.
- b. Only when we know God's love can we love God and others. (1 John 3:16, 4:7-21).

3. Worship God _____ in your _____ (p. 39). Notice Three ways we must worship God:

- a. A marriage of love, unity, and understanding will flow out of a daily worship of God as _____.
 - i. Recognize His _____ in your own life (Psalm 139).
 - ii. Recognize His _____ in your spouse.
 - iii. _____ God's divine artistry.
- b. A marriage of love, unity, and understanding will flow out of a daily worship of God as _____.

- i. Celebrate your different _____ – written by God – which have led to different cultural, social, and experiential influences.
 - ii. When you encounter these differences, you either:
 1. _____ God as Sovereign and celebrate the different way of looking at the world, or you
 2. _____ God by trying to rewrite His story.
- c. A marriage of love, unity, and understanding will flow out of a daily worship of God as _____.
- i. When you celebrate God as Savior, you are confronted with the reality of how much you are in desperate need of His grace.
 - ii. Worshipping God as Savior also means that you find joy in being part of the work of grace that God is unrelentingly committed to doing in your spouse's life.

Summary: Develop _____ - _____ worship.

- Marriage problems are worship problems.
- The gospel helps me to root my worship in God:
 - Bad News: God is my holy, sovereign, creator. My sin demands death.
 - Good News: Yet God set His love upon me and is completely committed to doing good in my life – so much so that He gave His Son for me while I was still His enemy.
 - Response: This restores my hope in God! Though I will encounter the troubles of a broken world, the sins of others, and especially the sins of my own heart, I am secure in God's love. He is redeeming those realities for my good and my joy. He is transforming me into the

image of His Son, and He has given me the perfect spouse to help me in that process so that we can more effectively show each other – and the world – what Jesus is like!

- So, we bow in worship of God. We repent of idolatry (worship of something else) and acknowledge God as Creator, Sovereign, and Savior. We delight in the evidences of His design, His rule, and His redeeming grace. He is the reason to continue.

Conclusion

Discussion: Look back at pages 37-38. As a group, focus again on the couple you selected previously. Reread the story again if needed, and then discuss the following questions. Be prepared to share your answers with the class:

1. Which spouse is the main problem? (Be careful, this is a trick question.)
2. In your own words, describe the *root problem* the first spouse mentioned is facing.
3. How might you help him or her see this problem? What next steps would you encourage?
4. What would you encourage the *other* spouse to do?

Personal Application:

Think about your own intense reactions (frustration, delight, etc.). What do your reactions reveal about what you are truly worshipping?

Think back to a recent intense reaction in your marriage. If you were worshipping something other than the Creator, what needs to happen next? How might the gospel help you in that process?

How might that scenario have unfolded differently had you been practicing gospel-fueled worship of God?

Next week: Chapters 3 & 4