

Marriage

6 GOSPEL COMMITMENTS EVERY COUPLE NEEDS TO MAKE

Marriage – Gospel Commitments – Lesson 11

Gospel Foundations

1. The gospel shapes my expectations for marriage (Ch. 1).
2. The gospel gives me reason to continue (Ch. 2).
3. The gospel teaches me about true love (Ch. 3).
4. The gospel compels me to live for the One who died for me, in all the little moments of life (Ch. 4).

Gospel Commitments

1. We will give ourselves to a regular lifestyle of confession and forgiveness (Ch. 5-6).
2. We will make growth and change our agenda (Ch. 7-8).
3. We will work together to build a sturdy bond of trust (Ch. 9-10).
4. We will commit to building a relationship of love (Ch. 11-12).
5. We will deal with our differences with appreciation and grace (Ch. 13-14).
6. We will work to protect our marriage (Ch. 15-17).

Chapter 15 – Eyes Wide Open

God’s Lifetime Warranty for Marriage: _____, _____, and _____

1. _____. God will give you everything you need to be what you are supposed to be and do what he has called you to do in marriage, but you must do it.
2. _____. God’s grace often brings us to places where we are beyond ourselves so we will learn to trust him.
3. _____. In those moments, we can either “cut and run” or we can go to work and do what he has called us to do.

Where things go wrong: _____

What it looks like to coast:

1. Visual _____

2. Habit _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. Responding in _____
6. Dining with the _____.

Chapter 16 – On Your Knees

What Marriage is Meant to Do: reveal your need for _____.

The Transforming Power of _____

1. Prayer reminds us of the _____ of marriage: God.
2. Prayer reminds us of the _____ of our marriage: We sin, God gives grace.

The Power and _____ of Marital Prayer

1. “Our Father in Heaven...” (p. 288).
 - a. You are never _____.
 - b. God is your _____.
2. “Hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (p. 290).
 - a. God’s purpose for your marriage is always _____ than your marriage.
 - b. Prayer reminds you of a _____ greater than you and a _____ better than your own.

3. "Give us this day our daily bread." (p. 291).
 - a. Prayer requires you to see yourself as _____.
 - b. Prayer yanks you out of your delusions of _____ - _____ and reminds you of how deeply needy you really are.

4. "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (p. 293).
 - a. Prayer reminds you of God's daily call to give the same _____ to your spouse as God has given to you.
 - b. Prayer calls you to celebrate _____ forgiveness and it requires you to offer _____ forgiveness as well.

5. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." (p. 295).
 - a. Prayer reminds you that your biggest marital struggles exist _____, not outside, of you.
 - b. Prayer calls us to quit _____ our husband or wife for our words and actions.

6. "For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."
 - a. Prayer reminds you that the key to marriages is an _____ to God's kingdom and not your own.
 - b. Prayer calls you away from the kingdom of self, which is so destructive to everything a marriage is intended to be, and welcomes you to the kingdom of God, where a God of love rules in love.

Continue to watch and pray – together – eyes wide open and on your knees before the Lord.

Discussion Questions:

1. Practically speaking, how can you tell the difference between a couple that is “standing as one to fight together the things that threaten [their] marriage” and a couple that is “standing separately and keeping a record of the things the other does that make marriage difficult”? How do these two stances show up in your marriage? What causes the shift from one to the other?
2. How can you remember that Satan is the enemy – not your spouse?
3. Why is prayer so helpful in life and specifically in marriage?
4. We often want to know God’s will for our lives and decisions. Yet, we often ignore the very things we *know* are God’s will for us. We know it’s God’s will for us to pray “without ceasing,” but we don’t do it. Discuss some practical ways you can obey God’s will in your marriage.