

Marriage

6 GOSPEL COMMITMENTS EVERY COUPLE NEEDS TO MAKE

Marriage – Gospel Commitments – Lesson 12

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 17 – Worship, Work, and Grace

Your Marriage and Worship (p. 302).

Notice the connections between love for God and love for spouse:

1. When your life is shaped by the worship of God, you live with his _____ and _____ in view (p. 303).
2. When your life is shaped by the worship of God, you live _____ (p. 305).
3. When your life is shaped by the worship of God, you don't shrink your world down to the size of your _____, _____ and _____. (p. 306).
4. When your life is shaped by the worship of God, you don't try to do _____ (p. 308).

5. When your life is shaped by the worship of God, you want to _____ the other the same _____ you have received (p. 309).
6. When your life is shaped by the worship of God, people and things are in their _____ (p. 310).
7. When your life is shaped by the worship of God, you _____ his work in your spouse (p. 312).
8. When your life is shaped by the worship of God, you don't live in _____ (p. 313).

Worship and Work (p. 314).

Tripp gives the following list as examples of love in the details of marriage. Read through the list and consider:

1. Which ones stand out to you as areas for improvement? Circle three you'd especially like to improve. What practical steps can you take?
2. Has this list reminded you of any ways your spouse has loved you, for which you can express gratitude to him or her?

Worship will infiltrate the details of your life (p. 314-316):

- Be willing to lose sleep so an important conversation can be completed.
- Listen and consider when you have communicated a concern.
- Care about your spouse's true needs and gladly work to meet them.
- Work to communicate with your spouse in a way that is patient and kind.
- Look for concrete ways to support and encourage your spouse.
- Do the daily work of forgiveness and reconciliation so that you and your spouse can live in peace.
- Deal with your marital differences in a way that communicates appreciation and respect.
- Make time to enjoy your physical intimacy and friendship.
- Look for ways to help your spouse bear the burden of the responsibilities that he or she carries.
- Partner with your spouse in the daily work of maintaining your physical surroundings.

- Never stop pursuing your spouse romantically.
- Do not let the sun go down on a moment of hurt, misunderstanding, or anger.
- Look for ways to encourage and develop your spiritual communion.
- Daily commit to overlooking minor offenses.
- Studiously avoid conflict over things that are unimportant.
- Speak in a way that gives your spouse grace.
- Encourage and support your spouse in areas of interest that you do not share.
- Be willing to make the sacrifices necessary to keep your marriage a priority.
- Daily search for verbal and nonverbal ways to communicate your love.
- Do not leave a conversation until you have reached unity and understanding.
- Never demand of your spouse what you are unwilling to give.
- Continually remind your spouse that he or she is not alone in the marriage.
- Do things you wouldn't normally do simply because they make your spouse happy.
- Fight the busyness that would get in the way of giving your marriage attention.
- Be willing to sacrifice personal activities and leisure for the sake of your marriage.
- Work so your spouse has the downtime, rest, and retreat he or she needs.
- Work to build relationships of love and respect with your family.
- Do not stop working until your marriage is all God intended it to be.

Driven to Grace (p. 317).

1. We are _____.
2. God's grace is _____.
3. He gives grace to the _____.

Using this resource with others:

1. Read a chapter in advance.
2. What stood out to you (take turns sharing)?
3. Share any other important ideas/quotes that weren't yet mentioned.

4. Share how God used it in your own marriage (be transparent about any repentance and reconciliation that took place).
5. Ask How God is using it in their marriage. What challenges are they facing? How does the most basic marriage commitment - “Love one another as Christ has loved you” – impact that challenge? [Remember, you are not there to fix their problem. You are fellow sinners there to show love by listening to understand. God may use you to help – and He often does that by giving you an opportunity to share how He has helped you.]
6. Close with gospel hope:
 - a. Bad news: we are sinners, and we must admit it.
 - b. Good news: Our sin does not *disqualify* us from God’s help. It was *while we were yet sinners* that Christ died for us. He has not abandoned us. He is present, powerful, and committed to helping our marriage.
 - c. Response: We will love Him more for His incredible love for us. Grateful for His love, we will seek to obey Him by loving one another in the little moments of marriage.

Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, why is proper worship so crucial to a healthy marriage?
2. If you were counseling an engaged couple, how would you describe the purpose/goal of marriage to them?
3. As you look back over the six marriage commitments from this book, to which one do you need to give special attention to develop in your marriage?
4. What practical steps can you take to work on that commitment?
5. When could you and your spouse sit down to review these commitments, assess your marriage, and work together to grow? Does something like that need to be regular?
6. Think back over this course. How did God use these sessions in your life? What points of “conviction” do you remember? Have you followed through by making changes in those areas? What habits can you implement to help you yield to God’s work in your life?