



CROSSROADS NEWLYWEDS
The Meaning of Marriage
05/05/2024 – Introduction & Chapter 1

1. Read Ephesians 5:18-33 Re-write these verses in your own words

2. The book says, “Plenty of people who do not acknowledge God or the Bible experience happy marriages.” Why is that, or how is that possible?

3. What were / are some of the expectations you have had about what marriage should be like? How have these expectations helped or hurt your understanding of marriage?

4. Why do you think there is such a pessimistic view on marriage in our culture today? Did you experience any negative opinions about you getting married and if so, how did that effect you?

5. On page 27, it says, “It almost seems oxymoronic to believe that this new idealism has led to a new pessimism about marriage, but that’s exactly what has happened.” Explain this in a few sentences.

6. Explain the “Flow-o-Matic” and why this is unrealistic.

7. “Love shouldn’t be so hard” is a very common phrase and belief in our culture today. Is this true? Explain why it is true or why it isn’t true.

8. In the Stanley Hauerwas statement, particularly “we always marry the wrong person”, but also the entire statement as a whole, do you agree with him? Why is this concept rarely discussed? Have you thought about this idea before?

9. In Ephesians 5:31-32, Paul says that this is a “great mystery” or “secret”. Explain what this secret is. (Phil2:5; Romans 6:5; 2 Peter 1:4; Romans 15:1-3)

10. Practically speaking, to the men, how can your marriage demonstrate the gospel? Be as specific as possible

11. Explain why marriage is both painful and wonderful at the same time. Have you found this to be true in your own marriage, even in these early stages?

12. Summarize Chapter 1 of the book in 3 sentences or less. Bonus point if you can do it in one sentence.

Scripture for this Chapter

Ephesians 5:18-33 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

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Philippians 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus

Romans 6:5 For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

2 Peter 1:4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Romans 15:1-3 We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.