

PARTNERSHIP AND PURITY

T H E
V O W

Genesis 2:18, 21-25, ESV – ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of October 27, 2019

Genesis 2:18, 21-25

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that marriage is not about division – your half, my half until we split. It is about union and giving each other everything. How is this truth counter-cultural? Why is it difficult to abide in this truth?
- 2 Describe the differences between a contract and a covenant. Why does God make marriage a covenant instead of a contract?
- 3 We were also reminded that we need to run from impurity. What are some practical ways that we can run from impurity?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *Eph 5:15-21, ESV – ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

- 4 Looking at the passage above, how is submission related to walking in wisdom?
- 5 How does the husband-wife relationship reflect Christ's relationship with the Church?

6 What role, if any, does emotions and feelings have in a marriage? Why or why not?

B **Eph 5:3-14a, ESV** – ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light.

7 Based on the passage above, what are we commanded to stay away from (and to not even speak of)? What is Paul's warning to those who do take part in these activities?

8 Why does Paul say we must 'expose' the unfruitful works of darkness?

C **Prov 28:13, ESV** – Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Psalms 119:9-11, ESV – How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! ¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

9 When reading passages about living in the light and living rightly before God, we see the importance of confession and studying Scripture. How often do you spend time studying the Bible? What holds you back from spending more time in the Scriptures?

10 Why does secrecy look so appealing to people when they sin? How do you feel when you have kept a sin secret from your spouse or someone else? Even though the act of confession can be difficult, how do you feel after the confession?

TAKING IT HOME

What are you going to do this week to improve your partnership with your spouse? What are you going to do to ensure purity in your marriage? Share with your accountability partner and pray for God's guidance within your marriage.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Exodus 34:13-14

Matt 6:33

Matt 19:5-6

Heb 3:13

James 4:17