



BAEWATCH

GRACE TO SAVE US FROM A HOOK UP CULTURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- Downtown Worship Night, February 18, 6:30 Knox Church
- Downtown Launch, February 25, 6:30PM, Knox Church
- Child Dedication, March 4, during Sunday worship

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- God to help you strengthen and fight for your marriage.
- For Mosaic Downtown plans and strategies

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

In this study, we will look at marriage and how it is a reflection of the grace of God. We WILL talk about the marriage and why God instituted it. People should date with marriage in mind, as view marriage as God intended it to be: an adventure to look forward to, a relationship to be held in high honor and definitely worth fighting for.

Hebrews 13:4 (NIV) *Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*

Marriage is God's idea. Every marriage is a miracle which begins with strangers becoming friends, and friends become lovers, united in flesh and in spirit. From not knowing one another to not being able to imagine life without the other. As Christians, we must regain the proper view point on marriage.

As a church, we want to honor and fight for. It is one of the most beautiful portrayals of God's grace to us. When we listen to people talk about marriage, there seems to be contradicting viewpoints about it. Even Hollywood movies and romantic novels portray marriage as the pinnacle of human relationships; something people should look forward to the most. Yet, at the same time, it marriage is portrayed as a drag, no fun and a prison. Even amongst Christians, marriage is to highly desired, but we used phrases like "ball and chain," "settle down," "it's hard."

The devil opposes and perverts whatever God begins that is why, he attacks marriages and even makes people, even Christians, believe that marriage is not burden instead of a blessing. As God's people, we want to oppose the devil and begin to give honor and fight for marriage as we ought.

In order to honor and fight marriage, we need to first:

Look at marriage as a portrayal of grace. The marriage relationship teaches us about the reality of having authentic and intimate fellowship and a strong and unbreakable bond, the truest sense of community (Genesis 2:22-24). It is the most beautiful picture of sacrificial love and redemption (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Allow God to fill us with His Love and Word. God uses the marriage relationship to make us more like Christ. It allows us to experience how it is truly like to express unconditional love. When two disciples of Jesus, a man and a woman, marry, the wisest thing that couple will ever do is to not leave God at the altar but will invite Him into their lives. God watches and waits, eager to respond to hearts that call to him. Marriage is a great time to seek and serve God together in His Word and on mission for Him.

Guard our hearts from the devil's lies about marriage. When thinking back to the fairy tales we read as children, one thing is pretty evident: life isn't like that. It doesn't take long in a marriage to realize there will be some rough spots. These rough spots are good for the marriage; they help the couple work on their relationship. But these rough spots can become the devil's play ground if we allow him to (Ephesians 4:27). Learn how to smoothen rough spots with God's wisdom from His Word.

Choose to live for the eternal. Marriage gives us a partner to help build the church, spread the gospel of Christ and make disciples. In Pastor Rick Warren's book *Purpose Driven Marriage*, he explains that the main purpose in marriage should be to focus on being of the same mind in Christ, one desire to honor God, and see marriage as an opportunity to be a microcosm of the Body of Christ, united in its mission to worship God, to bond in true fellowship, to grow together in following Jesus as His disciples and as a family on mission to bring more people to Christ.

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Question:

What common “jokes” have you heard or said that devalue marriage?

Why do you think are there so many contrary statements (pros and cons) about marriage?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

Is love a good reason to get married?

What are some “real” reasons that people get married?

What is the best reason for getting married?

If you had to define “marriage,” what words would you use? What makes marriage unique and different from any other human relationship?

What do you think it means to have a “Christ-centered” marriage?

Read Proverbs 18:22. Do you consider your marriage to be a “good thing” from the Lord? Why or why not?

How has our culture hindered many people from seeing marriage as a gift?

We want to honor marriage at Mosaic, how can you help in his regard? (What jokes about marriage should we stop telling? What statements should we stop believing?)

How can we teach our young people to look forward to the joy of marriage?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

Is your role in your marriage bringing your spouse closer to Christ?

How can husbands lead in a way that makes their wives desire to follow them?

How can wives submit in a way that gives their husband the freedom and desire to lead?

How can a marriage look when a husband leads in a way that makes his wife want to follow and a wife submits in a way that encourages her husband to lead?

Does a healthy marriage require little or a lot of work? Is it easy? Is it worth it? Why?

What is the only way that husbands and wives can have this kind of relationship?

How can couples become more effective in evangelizing the community they live in?