

Alderwood Community Church
January 29, 2017

Honoring Marriage (Part 2)
Colossians 3:18-19; Hebrews 13:4

(Pages 1167 or 1184, and 1194 or 1214-1215 in chair Bible)

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

Big Idea: We honor marriage when we see marriage as being sacred and we hold marriage as being sacred.

1. See marriage as being a sacred relationship.

- A. We live in a culture that has cheapened marriage.
- B. Jesus’ clearest teaching on the sacredness and permanence of marriage is found in **Matthew 19:3-12**. (See also **Genesis 1-2**)
- C. Why has God designed marriage to be permanent?
 - (1) For the benefit of the married couple
 - (2) For the benefit of the children
 - (3) To reflect the love Christ has for His church (**Ephesians 5:22-33**)
- D. There are only two Biblical reasons for divorce:
 - (1) Adultery/Sexual Sin. (**Matthew 5:31-32, 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2-3**)
 - (2) Abandonment by an un-believing spouse. (**1 Corinthians 7:13-15**)
 - (3) In all other cases, a believer is to remain single or be reconciled to their spouse. (**1 Corinthians 7:10-11**)
 - (4) Divorce can be forgiven (**1 John 1:9**) but God’s grace should not be exploited.

2. Hold marriage as being a sacred relationship.

- A. We must develop a _____ mindset!

*“Don’t be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” **Romans 12:2***

- B. We must develop an _____ mindset!

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ.” **Philippians 2:3-5***

C. We must _____ our God-given role.
(Read: **Colossians 3:18-19**)

(1) The role of the wife: *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.” (Colossians 3:18)*

(a) What does it mean to “submit”?

(b) Why does God command the wife to submit to her husband?

(c) How is the wife’s submission to be expressed?

What do I say or do that makes you feel respected?

(2) The role of the husband: *“Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.” (Colossians 3:19)*

(a) What does it mean to “love your wife”?

(b) Why does God command the husband to love his wife?

(c) How is the husband’s love to be expressed? (**1 Peter 3:7**)

What do I do that makes you feel loved?

Resources:

Love and Respect Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

His Needs, Her Needs Dr. Willard Harley

The Five Love Languages Dr. Gary Chapman

The Meaning of Marriage Tim Keller

Sermon Questions:

1. What did you find either encouraging or challenging from Pastor Brad’s message?

2. When Paul instructs husbands and wives in **Ephesians 5:22-33** he precedes his teaching by the command, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (**5:21**). How do you think this sets the pattern for the relationship between a wife and husband?
3. What does the phrase "as is fitting in the Lord" (**Colossians 3:18**) mean for a wife?

Are there times when a wife must not submit? If so, when?

How can a wife that does not respect her husband rekindle that respect and submission that the Lord instructs her to show?

4. What do you think a husband should do in response to his wife's disrespect or lack of submission?

5. What does it mean to be “harsh” or “embittered” against one’s wife?

How does a husband’s love for his wife turn into bitterness?

What should a husband do to prevent this? Or, how can a husband move from bitterness to Christ-like love toward his wife?

6. What do you think a wife should do in response to her husband’s harshness or lack of love?