

THE COMMON REALITIES OF MARRIAGE

THE COMMON GROUND

1. The Foundation of Your Marriage—The Bible

Four basic approaches:

- a. The approach of *rationalism*.
- b. The approach of *traditionalism*.
- c. The approach of *pragmatism*.
- d. The approach of *Scripturalism*.
 - 1) We need the grace of God.
 - 2) We need to be humble and teachable.
 - 3) We need to think hard.
 - 4) We need to apply the truth.

2. The Fountain of Your Marriage—The Gospel

- a. The *possibility* of change (Eph. 2:1–10).
- b. The *pattern* for change (1 John 3:1–3).
- c. The *power* to change (Mark 11:22–24).

3. The Focus of Your Marriage—The Glory of God

Biblical Marriage

Lesson 3

THE COMMON REALITIES

1. A Common Created Dignity

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

27 So God created man
in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth” (Gen. 1:26–28).

- a. Man and Woman . . . Created in God’s Image
- b. Ruling as Representatives . . . to Display God’s Glory

2. A Common Poor Family History/Sin Nature

“This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in him for eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen” (1 Tim. 1:15–17).

- a. The problems in your marriage are caused by a war within your own heart.
- b. Dealing with the sin problem is the key to a thriving marriage. When sin becomes bitter, marriage becomes sweet.

Biblical Marriage

Lesson 3

3. A Common Redemptive Privilege

Marriage can be faithfully practiced and fully enjoyed only by those who have received the *gospel grace* of Christ and who, in dependence upon Christ, are actively appropriating and exercising *gospel graces*.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. 14 Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. 18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and don’t be bitter toward them” (Col. 3:12–19).

- a. You need the Savior, so check in at the cross.
- b. Remember that your spouse married a sinner in need of the Savior, and so did you.
- c. Seek Christ first in your marriage.
- d. Establish patterns of practice in your marriage that allow gospel graces to be cultivated and exercised.

Biblical Marriage

Lesson 3

THE COMMON RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Mutual Charity (Affection)

“In choosing a spouse one should look, not necessarily for one whom one does love, here and now, but for one whom one can love with steady affection on a permanent basis” (J. I. Packer).

2. Mutual Commitment (Attachment)

“Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death; jealousy is as unrelenting as Sheol. Love’s flames are fiery flames—an almighty flame! ∇ A huge torrent cannot extinguish love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If a man were to give all his wealth for love, it would be utterly scorned” (Song 8:6–7).

3. Mutual Complement or Care (Assistance)

4. Mutual Communication (Association)

5. Mutual Confession/Covering (Acknowledgement/Absolution)

“I pray you, next tell me my duty to my wife and hers to me. The common duty of husband and wife is:

1. Entirely to love each other; and therefore choose one that is truly lovely. . . .; and avoid all things that tend to quench your love.
2. To dwell together, and enjoy each other, and faithfully join as helpers in the education of their children, the government of the family, and the management of their worldly business.
3. Especially to be helpers of each other’s salvation: to stir up each other to faith, love, and obedience, and good works; to warn and help each other against sin, and all temptations; to join in God’s worship in the family and in private; to prepare each other for the approach of death, and comfort each other in the hopes of life eternal.
4. To avoid all dissensions, and to bear with those infirmities in each other which you cannot cure; to assuage, and not provoke, unruly passions; and, in lawful things, to please each other.
5. To keep conjugal chastity and fidelity, and to avoid all unseemly and immodest carriage [conduct] with another, which may stir up jealousy; and yet to avoid all jealousy which is unjust.
6. To help one another to bear their burdens (and not by impatience to make them greater). In poverty, crosses, sickness, dangers, to comfort and support each other. And to be delightful companions in holy love, and heavenly hopes and duties, when all other outward comforts fail” (Richard Baxter).

PREPARATION FOR NEXT LESSON

- Read “The Threefold Newness of Marriage” by Daryl Wingerd at bulletininserts.org/the-threefold-newness-of-marriage