

## Genesis 2 — Male & Female: Marriage

### **Warm-Up Question:**

How were your expectations about marriage different going in to marriage verses a few years after being married? How do Hallmark-type movies display accurate and inaccurate longings about love and marriage?

**READ: Genesis 2:7,15-25**

### **I. MARRIAGE: The Design**

- ▶ In what ways do you feel VS 18a is true about all humans? What heart longings did God give all of us that only relationships can fulfill?
- ▶ Describe the significance of God's design for marriage from these truths:
  - Man created from dust, but woman created from man (VS 21)?
  - Woman made while Adam slept, then being brought to him (VS 22)?
  - Adam's poetic response of adoration for Eve (VS 23)?
  - The calling to hold fast out of becoming one flesh (VS 24)?

### **II. MARRIAGE: The Counterfeits**

- ▶ In what ways is marriage misunderstood in our culture today? Which of those counterfeit views of marriage most influence Christian marriages?

### **III. MARRIAGE: The Grace**

- ▶ How did Genesis 3 and the Fall influence God's design for marriage? Name some specific ways sin has affected your marriage or view of it.
- ▶ Read Eph. 5:31-32. How does marriage reflect the work of Christ, and how can that bring healing and hope to those of us who have failed or still struggle in our marriages?

### **IV. MARRIAGE: The Response**

- ▶ What are some ways you'd like to better reflect Christ's love for us to your spouse if married?
- ▶ If not married, in what ways is Christ meant to satisfy that designed longing to not be alone?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

*But, of course, ceasing to be 'in love' need not mean ceasing to love. Love in this second sense — love as distinct from 'being in love' — is not merely a feeling. It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both partners ask, and receive, from God. They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself. They can retain this love even when each would easily, if they allowed themselves, be 'in love' with someone else. 'Being in love' first moved them to promise fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it."*

CS Lewis

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