

# WHO NEEDS Marriage?

## **PART 4: THE ESSENCE OF MARRIAGE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Marriage was designed and created by God. We should trust him and follow his instructions and principles for marriage to be healthy, because it's through the gospel that we get both the power and pattern for marriage.

### **BIBLE VERSES**

Ephesians 5:31

Ephesians 5:28

Malachi 2:14

Ephesians 5:25

1 Peter 3:7

Luke 23:34

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Many people are either in a committed relationship with no romance, or passionate, romantic relationship with no commitment. Which one of these has ever described your marriage?
2. A consumer relationship is a relationship in which the individual's needs are more important than the relationship. Thinking about yourself, describe a time when you have approached your marriage as a consumer. What effect did it have on the relationship?
3. Pastor Will taught that in a covenant relationship the circumstances can change, but the covenant never changes. What circumstances have you experienced in your own marriage that have made it difficult to stay committed to a covenant relationship?
4. Read Malachi 2:14 and 1 Peter 3:7. According to these verses there is a direct connection between how you love your spouse and your relationship with God. When you don't love your spouse with a covenant relationship type of love--a sacrificial commitment to the good of your spouse--it drives a wedge between you and God. Describe how you have experienced this truth in your life.
5. Read Ephesians 5:28. Paul is teaching here that love is fundamentally an action more than an emotion...it's a mistake to think that you must feel love to give love. Why is it so hard to give love even when you don't feel love? Why is it so important to give love even when you don't feel love?
6. Read Ephesians 5:25. What kind of love (consumer or covenant) does Jesus model for us? Describe what that love means to you personally.
7. Where have you been operating out of a consumer rather than a covenant relationship with your spouse?
8. How can you put the good of your marriage ahead of your immediate needs this week?