

WHO NEEDS Marriage?

PART 3: THE POWER TO OVERCOME HURTS

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 5:32

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Ephesians 5:18

Matthew 22:37-40

Ephesians 5:21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been on a vacation somewhere (like a cruise or a resort) where people were there to serve you...clean your room, bring you food, etc? What was it like to be served? Did it make your vacation more or less enjoyable?
2. Pastor Will taught that having a servant heart is the hardest, yet most important function, of being a husband or wife. What makes it the hardest part of marriage? Why is it the most important part of marriage?
3. The biggest factor that causes us to be blind to our own self-centeredness is our past hurts. What are the past hurts you've experienced that have sabotaged (or tried to sabotage) your relationships, especially your marriage, when conflict occurs?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. According to these verses there is a change that ought to happen when we follow Jesus...from living for yourself to living for Jesus. The truth this teaches is that the essence of sin is living for ourselves rather than living for God and the people around us. How is living for yourself different from what Jesus teaches in Matthew 22:37-40?
5. When conflict happens in your marriage, the best approach is to acknowledge that your selfishness is a fundamental problem and treat it more seriously than you treat your spouse's selfishness. How can you own your own selfishness and deal with it?
6. Read Ephesians 5:21. According to this verse it's only out of reverence for the Lord Jesus that you will be liberated to serve your spouse selflessly. Reverence means to be controlled by and overwhelmed by the greatness of God and his love. How can you grow in reverence for Christ?
7. What step will you take this week to love and serve your spouse selflessly?