

## Solving the Marriage Mystery

"By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you will be happy. If you get a bad one, you will become a philosopher." - Socrates

We must never be naïve enough to think of marriage as a safe harbor from the Fall...The deepest struggles in life will occur in the most primary relationships affected by the Fall: marriage." - Dan Allender and Tremper Longman III

"God designed relationships to make us holy more than to make us happy." - Gary Thomas

### I. Popping the Question

#### What does my spouse owe me?

- Intimacy dies when dreams turn into \_\_\_\_\_.
- Most marriage partners start out as \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ and quickly move to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Most marriages move from a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. Emptying the Expectations Box

#### Who comes first?

Ephesians 5:21-26

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

- Submission says, your desires, wishes, and dreams are going to take \_\_\_\_\_ over mine.
- Christ wants to change your \_\_\_\_\_.
- Loving your spouse is a \_\_\_\_\_ way to love Jesus.
- Christian marriages put \_\_\_\_\_ first because Jesus puts \_\_\_\_\_ first.
- When husbands lay down their \_\_\_\_\_ for their wives, they are showing their gratitude for Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ in the most effective way possible.
- We don't conduct our marriage in the shadow of \_\_\_\_\_ but in the shadow of the \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Understanding the Mystery of Marriage

#### Why did God do it this way?

- God wants your spouse to feel his touch in her life, and he has chosen \_\_\_\_\_ to do it.
- God wants you to experience \_\_\_\_\_.
- You will never experience abundance in marriage until you empty the \_\_\_\_\_ box and drop the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Your decision to submit to your spouse out of reverence to Christ creates the potential for God to do something truly \_\_\_\_\_.