

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. ²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to 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 _____.