

Grace Groups Homework
“Marriage, God’s Way—Again”

Ephesians 5:18–33

18 June 2017

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you had to redo any part of your wedding day, or if you have specific plans for your wedding one day, what would you ensure was included in the proceedings?

WORLDVIEW

2. Discuss the significance of marriage in relation to many of the social ills prevalent in society (delinquency, child abandonment, abortion, crime, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.)

INTO THE BIBLE

3. Marriage is given great significance throughout Scripture because it reflects the relationship between the Lord Jesus Christ and his bride, the church. What do the following passages teach you about this relationship, and how does that translate into our marriages?
 - a. **Genesis 1:26–28**—Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
 - b. **John 6:35–40**—And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. This is the will of the Father who sent me, that of all he has given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of him who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”
 - c. **John 17:20–24**—“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in me through their word; that they all may be one, as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And the glory which you gave me I have given them, that they may be one just as we are one: I in them, and you in me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them as you have loved me. Father, I desire that they also whom you gave me may be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory which you have given me; for you loved me before the foundation of the world.”
 - d. **Revelation 19:6–8**—And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

GOING DEEPER

4. Do you agree with the following statement? The longer a couple is married, the more they should begin to look like each other.

5. Discuss the dynamic that exists between a husband's significance and a wife's security in a marriage relationship. How do we encourage this dynamic and increase its benefit?

6. Discuss the not infrequently encountered situation, where a couple remains together merely "for the sake of the children."

7. In a marriage that is struggling, what is the responsibility of the individuals in the marriage to each other and to the church community that they are a part of? What is the church's responsibility to them? How much of our difficulties in these scenarios relates to a sentimental and skewed perspective on the very nature of marriage—two sinners made one flesh?

PRAYER ITEMS

Prayer Psalm: 36

Praise: The safe birth of Krystah Rae Kennedy (14 June 2017)

Church Families: Keri Swift; Lee Taylor

Special Needs: Hannah Murphy; Darryl Starkey; Unemployed & underemployed

Expectant Couples: Andrew & Sandhya Lear; Gareth & Debbie Payne; Angelo & Nikita Tokalon; Quintin & Denna Starkey; Ryan & Nadia Butterworth; Michael & Gillian Varughese

Adoptions

Ministry: Preaching ministry

The Great Commission:

- Caleb & Ruth—North Africa
- St. Helena (South Atlantic Ocean)—The community is becoming more materialistic, and church attendance is declining. Most are indifferent to the Gospel. The Way International has grown, but not enough. Pray for revival for the weakened church, which will result in evangelising this generation.
- Unreached Focus: Turkey (80.7 million people 99.8% Muslim; 0.2% Christian)

Sister Churches: Moletsani Baptist Church (Soweto)—Sammy Leballo

Our Country: Mpumalanga Provincial Premier—Mr David Mabuza

As you do your regular grocery shopping, please remember to add something to your trolley to donate to the Food for the Family ministry. Regularly used items include: rice (1kg or 2kg); juice; washing powder (auto or hand wash); cooking oil (750ml or 2-litre); peanut butter; syrup; jam; tea; coffee; sandwich spread; pilchards; tuna; cake flour; baked beans; butter beans; mixed vegetables; tomato and onion mix; other canned foods; Cremora or long life milk; pasta; noodles; condiments (tomato sauce, mustard), etc.; sugar (1kg or 2.5kg); mielie meal; bath soap; deodorant (roll-on); toothpaste. Speak to Patson Ngidi for more information.