

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19, 2017 - THE DOCTRINE OF MARRIAGE

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Give four reasons why God designed marriage.

3. What is at stake in your family, in your community, in the national culture, or in the testimony of Christ if the scriptural definition of marriage becomes altered or denied?

4. Use your concordance to find how Scripture defines love (start with 1 Corinthians 13:1-13). How is that different than our culture, and why does that matter?

5. How would you respond to someone who made the accusation that the Christian view of marriage is unloving or bigoted?

6. Make a list of the top three things which are necessary for a healthy marriage. Why those three?

7. For those who are married, what support do you think would be most helpful to your marriage? For those who are single, what support would be most helpful to you in your singleness?

8. No matter what your relational status (single, dating, married), what safeguards can you put in your life to protect the purity and sanctity of marriage?

9. What about your parents' marriage do you think has most strongly shaped your own relationships, positively and negatively? Have you made any changes or commitments in your life because of this?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller gives a compelling vision of what marriage should be, according to Scripture.

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas explores the purpose of marriage as producing holiness (as opposed to happiness) in a winsome and applicable way.

Messy Grace by Caleb Kaltenbach is written by a pastor who was raised by LGBT parents and learned to engage that community with grace and truth.

The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert by Rosaria Butterfield tells the story of a lesbian college professor who found Christ and radically transformed her life.

The Exemplary Husband by Stuart Scott is a study into the biblical blueprint for husbands – a companion book to *The Excellent Wife*.

The Excellent Wife by Martha Peace is a study into the portrait of a biblical wife – a companion book to *The Exemplary Husband*.

The Nashville Statement (online at cbmw.org/nashville-statement) is a statement of faith relating to human sexuality and gender roles, signed by many of VBC's leaders.