

THIS SERIES CONTAINS CONTENT THAT MAY NOT  
BE SUITABLE FOR IMMATURE BELIEVERS.



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**June 22 & 25, 2023**  
**Week 3 – Maturing in our Marriage**

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### **Introduction:**

According to Scripture, marriage is the most foundational human relationship for civilization.

Presented as analogous to the intimate love between Christ and His Bride.

Because the institution of marriage is so vital, we can expect Satan to attack it.

### **Maturing in Marriage: Five Realities**

1. Marriage is not a \_\_\_\_\_ for your problems
2. Marriage is not \_\_\_\_\_ about you
  - See Ephesians 5:21
3. You don't find a soul-mate, you \_\_\_\_\_ one
4. Marriage is a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship

Contract = based on distrust  
Covenant = based on trust

5. Grace abounds for those who \_\_\_\_\_ in marriage

### **The Big Idea:**

Marriage is a sacred, foundational relationship. Expect Satan to attack it, and don't give in to the world's misinformation about marriage. God's ideas, thoughts and plans are always better than anyone else's.

## **QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

### **Personal Life:**

1. How were your views about marriage shaped (positively or negatively) by your role models growing up? How has a relationship with Christ impacted the way you understand marriage today? Discuss...

### **Ponderings:**

2. Read Ephesians 5:21-31 as a group, and discuss the following thoughts and questions...
  - This passage begins by highlighting the concept of "mutual submission" in a marriage. Why is sacrificial love so critical for a wife to receive from her husband? Why is respect so critical for a husband to receive from his wife?
  - Review the five realities shared in the weekend message, and discuss why one or more of them correlates with this passage...
  - Have you seen this kind of marriage modeled, where a wife submits herself through respect, and a husband submits himself through sacrificial love? If you're married, in what ways are you growing toward this in your own marriage? Discuss...
3. How has the pain of divorce touched your life either directly or indirectly? What have you learned through these experiences and how has God shown His grace and mercy to you?

### **Promptings:**

4. No matter where you're at in life (married, single, divorced, widowed) which of the five realities can you apply to a specific relationship in the days ahead. If appropriate, share confidentially with your group and pray for each other in this area...