

Homework (continued):

2. What lies do you tell yourself that distract you from God and hurt your marital relationship? (Things like: our marital problems are all my spouse's fault; I don't need to change, that's just how I am, etc.) How are you specifically justifying and rationalizing sin?
3. In what ways do you try to act like God in your marriage? Confess this to both God and your spouse.
4. What sins plague your marriage (blame shifting, self-centeredness, pride, anger, control, self-sufficiency, self-exaltation, hopelessness, condescension, self-righteousness, etc.)?
5. Are there any sins that you are concealing that are causing you to pull away from your spouse and try to hide from God?
6. Husbands – How are you falling into passivity or leading tyrannically rather than servant leadership? In what areas would you like your wife to be more of a help?
7. Wives – How are you seeking to lead or control the marriage? Have you given into the tyrannical leadership of your husband? In what ways do you feel like you have to take the lead because of your husband's passivity?
8. Take some time with your spouse to reflect on how God has been merciful to you both in response to your sin (both individual sin and sin that affects the marriage).

Next Week: A Biblical Theology of Marriage Part 3—Redemption



Marriage
Week 3

A Biblical Theology of Marriage *The Fall (Genesis 3)*

Review

- Biblical theology of marriage – creation, fall & redemption.
- Both men and women are made as image-bearers, which means they have equal dignity and value in God's eyes.
- Marriage has a God-designed structure built into it. Men are called to lead, and women called to come alongside of their husband to be his helper and partner.
- In marriage we are called to leave and cleave. Marriage was meant to be one man, one woman, for life.

Marriage and the Fall

Sin Enters the World: Gen 2:25, 3:1-7

- At first, no shame.
- The serpent contradicts God and persuades Adam & Eve.

Two takeaways:

1. Competing Voices that Threaten Our Marriages (Devil, world, and our flesh)

2. Our Desire to Be Like God

Sin Corrupts Vertical and Horizontal Relationships: Gen 3:8-15

- Adam and Eve hide from God.
- Adam blames Eve; Eve blames the serpent.

Two Takeaways:

1. Sin Corrupts Our Relationship with God (Vertical)

2. Sin Corrupts Our Relationships with our Spouse (Horizontal)

The Curses: Gen 3:16-19

- Desire and Rule.
- Work is now painful and hard.

Two Takeaways:

1. Sin Corrupts the Marital Order Established by God

2. A Fact of Life: Spouses are Sinful, so They will Fail

God's Merciful Plan: Gen 3:15, 21-24

- God shows mercy to them.
- God denies them access to the tree of life and expels them from the garden.
- Redemption is coming (and has now come).

Homework:

As a couple, spend some time answering and then discussing your responses to the following questions. Also, pray together and for each other in areas of struggle, purpose to put to death the sin that you see in your lives, and give permission to your spouse to hold you accountable in areas where you see change is needed.

1. What are the competing voices that are ruining your marriage? (Things like: Marriage is first and foremost about you, your needs, and your happiness; my spouse can and should meet all my needs, etc.) Either talk with your spouse or write out a list. What does the Word of God say in contrast to these voices?