

- I. How Theology Shapes Marriage Part 6: How does the biblical doctrines of ecclesiology help us have a more godly marriage?
- a. Establish the need: Why should we care about what the Bible say about church in regards to marriages?
 - b. Purpose: In this series we will explore how theology shapes marriage and here in our sixth session we shall consider the Bible’s teaching on the church and how it makes an impact for marriage.
 - c. Biblical Teaching about the church (For the purpose of instruction, we’ll cover only 4 truths):
 - i. Truth #1: The Church is a spiritual body made up of members who are Christians.
 1. Definition: The church “refers to the community of those who have been called out by God from their slavery to sin through faith in Jesus Christ.”¹
 2. “*To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.*” (1 Corinthians 1:2)
 - a. Note here that this epistle (letter) is written to the church in Corinth.
 - b. The church is further described as:
 - i. “*those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus,*”→They are positional “sanctified” even though they are far from perfect!
 - ii. “*saints by calling*”
 - iii. Those who “*call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*”
 3. “*Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*” (Acts 20:28)
 - a. In the context Paul was addressing the overseers of the church of Ephesus.
 - b. Notice the church belongs to God: “*church of God*”
 - c. What did God do for the church? “*which He purchased with His own blood.*”
 - i. This verse shows the divinity of Christ since Christ is God and paid for the church with His blood.
 - ii. This verse also shows the church is an assembly of believers.
 - ii. Truth #2: Church described as a bride
 1. “*For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.*” (2 Corinthians 11:2)
 - a. Paul is talking to and about presenting the church of Corinth.

¹ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue *Biblical Doctrine* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 740

- b. Here the church is described as “*betrothed*” to Christ.
 - c. Paul tells the church in Corinth that His intent in ministry is that He “*might present you as a pure virgin*” to Christ.
- 2. **Ephesians 5:23-32** parallel marriage with the relationship of Christ and the church
 - a. The head of the wife is the husband: “*the husband is the head of the wife*” (v.23a)
 - b. Analogously the head of the church is Christ: “*as Christ also is the head of the church*” (v.23b)
 - c. The rest of the section continues with the motif of marriage and the church, note **verse 32**: “*This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.*”
- 3. The Book of Revelation describes the Church as the Bride to the Lamb of God
 - a. “*Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.*” 8 *It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*” (**Revelation 19:7-8**)
 - i. There is a mention of “*the marriage of the Lamb*” (v.7) with the Lamb being Christ.
 - ii. There is a mention of “*His bride*” (v.7) being the church.
 - b. “*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”*” (**Revelation 21:9**)
- iii. Truth #3: The church has delegated leaders
 - 1. “*Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*” (**Acts 20:28**)
 - a. In the context Paul was addressing the overseers of the church of Ephesus.
 - b. Paul was speaking to those who were “*overseers.*”
 - c. Sobering to realize “*the Holy Spirit has made you ^{to}overseers*”
 - i. Verse shows the Holy Spirit here is a person and not just a force as the Jehovah’s Witnesses would have us believe.
 - ii. Overseers/Elders are leaders of the church that include a subset we now call pastors (more on this next week).
 - d. Note the Great Shepherd has under-shepherd in His church since overseers are “*to shepherd the church of God*”
 - 2. “*You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*” (**1 Peter 5:5**)

- a. Here we see the exhortation for “*younger men.*”
- b. The exhortation is “*be subject to your elders*”
- c. These “*elders*” are church leaders according to the context of **1 Peter 5:1-5**.
 - i. Peter is a leader of the church and in verse 1 he said “*I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder*” (v.1)
 - ii. These elders are leaders with the following responsibilities:
 - 1. “*shepherd the flock of God*” (v.2)
 - 2. “*exercising oversight*” (v.2)
- iv. Truth #4: The church serves the Lord
 - 1. “*4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
 - a. There are “*varieties of gifts*” (v.4) which in verse 5 parallel with “*varieties of ministries.*” Ministries involves serving the Lord.
 - b. God gives spiritual gifts “*for the common good*” (v.7) which shows that serving the Lord flows into serving others.
 - 2. Spiritual gifts are for service: **1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12**.
- d. Implications towards marriage: How does a biblical understanding of the church shapes marriage?
 - i. The requirement of church leaders to be godly husband and wife shows the importance of godly marriages and family:
 - 1. “*An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,*” (1 Timothy 3:2)
 - a. Notice the requirement of an overseer is that he be “*the husband of one wife*” (1 Timothy 3:2)
 - b. This shows the importance of a godly marriage.
 - 2. “*He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),*” (1 Timothy 3:4-5)
 - a. Notice the requirement of an overseer is that he “*manages his own household well*” (1 Timothy 3:4)
 - b. Rationale is given in **verse 5**: faithful in little, faithful in much.
 - c. This shows the importance of a godly parenting.
 - ii. At the same time our relationship to the church also is a gauge of whether or not our marriage or family is an idol
 - 1. We are not to neglect the local church: “*not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one*

another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25)

2. While family is important, if we are never with the church we can easily have marriage or something else as our idol when we neglect God’s commandment.
- iii. The analogy of Christ and the Church should move husbands to love their wives: *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,” (Ephesians 5:25)*
 1. Christ loves the church (Ephesians 5:2)
 2. Command for husbands: *“Husbands, love your wives,”*
 3. The verse itself then shows the basis: *“just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her”*
- iv. The analogy of Christ and the Church should move husbands to wash their wives with the Word: *“so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,” (Ephesians 5:26)*
 1. Husbands loving their wives means one must also wash the spouse with the Word of God.
 2. We can’t say we are Christian husbands and love our wives and yet not wash them with the Word.
- v. But where does a husband learn to wash their wife with the Word? The church! Husbands:
 1. Are you going to church to learn how to use the Word of God?
 2. Are you able to exhort and also motivate obedience with the Word, the Gospel and attributes of God?
- vi. Wives must submit to their husbands just as the church submit to Christ.
- vii. Just as wives are to submit to husbands, so Christian husbands as church men should know what submission is, as a member under the church leadership
 1. The most frightening truth is a husband who does not know how to submit to others; he would be tyrannical.
 2. How would a husband and father learn godly submission? The church!
- viii. The church as a help for marriages:
 1. The church is where discipleship for godly marriage and parenting takes place.
 2. The church is where modeling of godly marriages and parenting is found.
 3. The church is where godly correction of problems of marriages and parenting takes place.
 4. The church is where prayers for godly marriages and parenting takes place.
 5. The church is where the Gospel is preached which is the foundation for any godly marriages and parenting.