

God's Love in Marriage

We love because he first loved us.

~ 1 John 4.19 ~

We have the ability to love only because
God has first lavished on us His Love.

Our capacity to love and intensity of love
is directly tied to:

our willingness to believe just how much
we are cherished and adored by our Father.

1. We're not loving our spouses well if we're not living loved by God.
2. We are all natural *grace resisters*.
3. The good news is that the Holy Spirit is transforming us into *grace resonators*.

To resonate:

*to be filled with a deep, full,
reverberating sound (love).*

(You too?)

My prayer for us:

Whether single, “talking”, dating,
engaged, or married,
that we would all resonate with God’s
“full of wonder” purpose for marriage.

God's Love in Marriage

Week 1

God's Purpose
for Marriage

Week 2

Cancer and
the Cure

Week 3

God's Love
in Marriage

Week 4

The Thorns
in Marriage

Week 5

Intimate
Friendship

Week 6

Deep Lasting
Change



Timothy J. Keller

1950-2023

Gospelinlife.com

	Title	Date	Author/Speaker	Scripture	Price		
1.	Marriage as Ministry Power	08/18/91	Timothy J. Keller	Ephesians 5:22-33	FREE	VIEW	★
2.	Overview; Marriage as Commitment	08/25/91	Timothy J. Keller	Ephesians 5:22-33	FREE	VIEW	★
3.	Marriage as Commitment and Priority	09/01/91	Timothy J. Keller	Ephesians 5:22-33	FREE	VIEW	★
4.	Marriage as Priority and Friendship	09/08/91	Timothy J. Keller	Ephesians 5:22-33	FREE	VIEW	★
5.	Marriage as Friendship	09/15/91	Timothy J. Keller	Ephesians 5:22-33	FREE	VIEW	★
6.	Marriage as Completion; One Flesh	09/22/91	Timothy J. Keller	Ephesians 5:22-33	FREE	VIEW	★
7.	Marriage as Completion; Gender Roles – 1	09/29/91	Timothy J. Keller	Ephesians 5:22-33	FREE	VIEW	★
8.	Marriage as Completion; Gender Roles – 2	10/06/91	Timothy J. Keller	Ephesians 5:22-33	FREE	VIEW	★
9.	Marriage Supper of the Lamb	10/13/91	Timothy J. Keller	Ephesians 5:22-33	FREE	VIEW	★



GOSPEL IN LIFE

2011

New York Times Bestselling Author of
THE REASON FOR GOD and *THE PRODIGAL GOD*

TIMOTHY KELLER

with KATHY KELLER

THE
MEANING
OF
MARRIAGE

Facing the Complexities of Commitment
with the Wisdom of God



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Epilogue:

At the end of the day,
Christ's love is the great foundation
for building a marriage that sings.
Some who turn to Christ find that
his love comes in like a wave that
instantly floods the hard ground
of their hearts.

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Epilogue:

Others find that his love comes in gently and gradually, like soft rain or even a mist.

But in any case, the heart becomes the ground watered by Christ's love, which enables all the forms of human love to grow.

Week 1

God's Purpose for Marriage

the two shall become one

~ Ephesians 5.31 ~

God's Purpose for Marriage

Some Questions to Start:

1. Why did or do you want to get married?
2. Why did you want to get married to your spouse?
3. Why did or does God want you to get married?
4. What is the current state of your marriage?
5. Are you aware of Satan's purposes for your marriage?
6. Do you believe your marriage can improve? (*Hope*)
7. Do you want it to improve? (*Desire*)

God's Purpose for Marriage

Some Questions to Start:

1. Why did or do you want to get married?

- He/she completes me...I found my "Soulmate".

Made: Spencer Crandall

I heard the same story growing up

That one day I'll just find someone

A match made in heaven,

it'll be perfect...but...

Soulmates aren't found, they're made

We choose each other every day

Work at it even when we get tired

Making ups out of downs,

doing all that it takes...cause...

Soulmates aren't found, they're made

God's Purpose for Marriage

Some Questions to Start:

1. Why did or do you want to get married?
 - He/she completes me...I found my "Soulmate".
 - I always dreamed of the perfect wedding.
 - I always wanted to have children.
 - Sex goes from very wrong to very right.
 - I feel really amazing when I'm around him/her.
 - I finally found someone who loves me as much as I do.

God's Purpose for Marriage

God's Purpose for Marriage:

God's Purpose for Marriage

Genesis 2.18-24

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

God's Purpose for Marriage

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God's Purpose for Marriage

Genesis 2.18-24

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them.

God's Purpose for Marriage

Genesis 2.18-24

And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field.

But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

God's Purpose for Marriage

Genesis 2.18-24

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man,
and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up
its place with flesh.

And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man
he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

God's Purpose for Marriage

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God's Purpose for Marriage

Genesis 2.18-24

Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman, because she was taken
out of Man.”

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and
hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

God's Purpose for Marriage

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God's Purpose for Marriage

What is God's ultimate Purpose
in Marriage?

What was God's purpose in giving life to planet Earth?

Creational Glory

This is what I am like...only so much more!

God's Purpose for Marriage

What is God's ultimate Purpose
in Marriage?

What was God's purpose in giving life to Eve from Adam?

Relational Glory

This is what I am like . . . only so very much more!

God's Purpose for Marriage

What is God's ultimate Purpose
in Marriage?

Displaying a wondrous merging of His
Creational Glory and Relational Glory.

God's Purpose for Marriage

What is God's ultimate Purpose
in Marriage?

To deal with the “*not good*” malediction.

Loneliness

God's Purpose for Marriage

Loneliness:

the sense of not belonging

God's Purpose for Marriage

God dealt with Adam's loneliness
by bringing another lonely person
into his life.

*Adam's loneliness is cured
as God helps him help Eve with hers.*

God's Purpose for Marriage

And Eve's loneliness is cured as
God helps her help Adam with his.

(The best way to have a friend is to be a friend.)

God's Purpose for Marriage

Loneliness

Can you be married and still be
incredibly lonely?

(Thank you...)

God's Purpose for Marriage

Is there any hope?

Is there any help?

God's Purpose for Marriage

Lamentations 3.25

The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

God's Purpose for Marriage

Lamentations 3.24

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope...in him.”

God's Purpose for Marriage

Lamentations 3.22-23

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

God's Purpose for Marriage

Faithfulness to our spouse
is based entirely on
God's loving faithfulness to us.

God's Purpose for Marriage

There's a huge difference in wanting my marriage to be all that I want it to be...

and

We want God's Marriage to be
all He wants it to be.

God's Purpose for Marriage

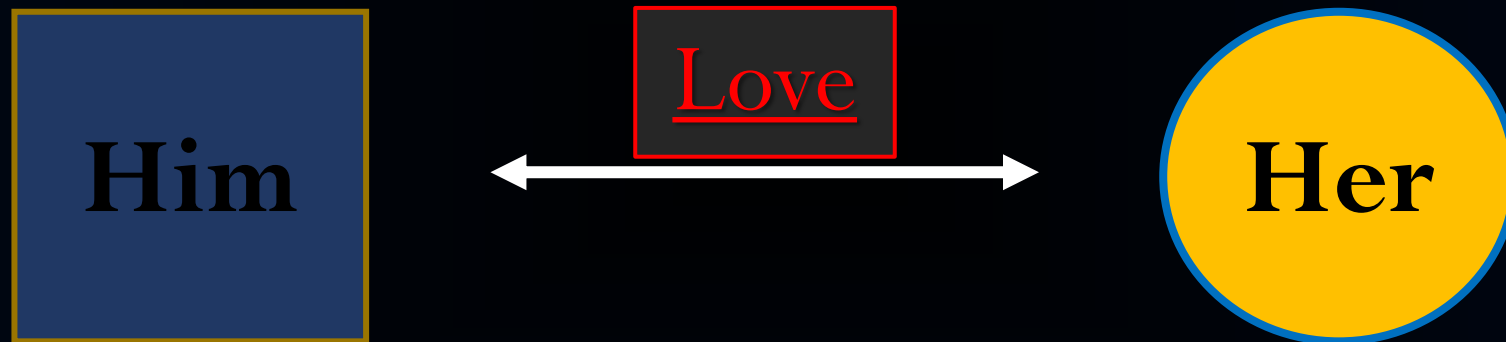
What is God's ultimate Purpose
in Marriage?

Displaying a wondrous merging of His
Creational Glory and Relational Glory.

God's Purpose for Marriage

2 Corinthians 2.8-11

So I beg you to reaffirm your love...



*so that we would not be outwitted by Satan;
for we are not ignorant of his designs.*

God's Purpose for Marriage

What are Satan's Purposes in
your Marriage?

To mar and corrupt the reflection of God's
creative and intimate beauty.

(To mar: to spoil, damage, or disfigure)

God's Purpose for Marriage

What are Satan's Purposes in
your Marriage?

To tarnish, smear and disgrace God's glory.

God's Purpose for Marriage

What are Satan's Purposes in
your Marriage?

In the spirit of C.S. Lewis' "Screwtape Letters",
How can we help accomplish Satan's purposes?

God's Purpose for Marriage

1. Begin to question God's goodness in your life.
2. Compare your spouse to another.
3. Keep all conflict buried and unresolved.
4. Never look for the sin behind the sin.
5. Never say: "I was wrong - will you forgive me?"
6. Never try to see things from her point of view.
7. Never be open or vulnerable or seek out help.
8. Above all, do not read your Bible or pray together.

God's Purpose for Marriage

Satan is a Bully.

He is seeking to devour
our marriages.

God's Purpose for Marriage

Is there any hope?

Is there any help?

God's Purpose for Marriage

What is the Power
for Marriage?

Ephesians 5.21...submitting to one another
out of reverence (*fear, awe*) for Christ.

God's Purpose for Marriage

What is the Power for Marriage?

Tim Keller:



(6 min)

God's Purpose for Marriage

Fear:

“to be awed before the reality of”

God's Purpose for Marriage

Paul assumes you have
a spirit created ability
to be unselfish.

God's Purpose for Marriage

The main problem in
any marriage is
self-centeredness.

God's Purpose for Marriage

The gospel is:

“You are more sinful and evil and weak
than you ever dared believe...
but you are more valued and accepted
and loved than you ever dared hope.”

God's Purpose for Marriage

Permissive message:

“This is a great arrangement,
God enjoys forgiving sin
and I enjoy committing it.”

God's Purpose for Marriage

Legalistic mindset:

“I know I’m in God’s will,
because I’m miserable.”

God's Purpose for Marriage

The Christian repents out of gratitude for what Christ has done and out of a desire to be like Christ.

God's Purpose for Marriage

When you have gospel-love,
it makes you more able to repent.

God's Purpose for Marriage

Strong and yet humble...
able to put the needs of your spouse
above your own.

God's Purpose for Marriage

What is God's Purpose
for Marriage?

God's Purpose for Marriage

Genesis 2.24-25

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

God's Purpose for Marriage

1. Deal with the malediction (loneliness).

God's Purpose for Marriage

1. Deal with the malediction (loneliness).
2. Leave father and mother (priority).

Tim Keller:



(4 min)

God's Purpose for Marriage

Marriage is a fresh start.

God's Purpose for Marriage

“This is how your father
loves me.”

God's Purpose for Marriage

“This is how I love your father.”

God's Purpose for Marriage

Finder's keepers

God's Purpose for Marriage

I was reading what she was asking
through the filter of my family...

I hadn't left.

God's Purpose for Marriage

She heard me saying:
“I don't love you.”

God's Purpose for Marriage

What is right for you and me?
How will you feel loved?

God's Purpose for Marriage

1. Deal with the malediction (loneliness).
2. Leave father and mother (priority).
3. Commitment to hold fast (vows).
4. Become one flesh (union).
5. Fully known – fully loved (naked).
6. Reveals the worst in us (not ashamed).
7. Cultivate God's beauty in the other (gospel).

God's Purpose for Marriage

Marriage gives us the chance to
love someone as they are...
rather than as they should be...
just like how God loves us.

God's Purpose for Marriage

Let's pray for our Marriages:

Deep Oneness

Soul Nakedness

Intimate Friendship

Sacrificial Love

God's Purpose for Marriage

the two shall become one

~ Ephesians 5.31 ~