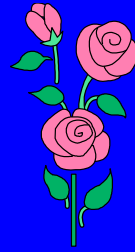


# Biblical Reflections on Marriage

## Session 4: Marriage Redeemed in Christ



Second Presbyterian Church

Greenville, SC

Rev. Richard D. Phillips

Sept-Oct 2007

# The Marriage Redeemed

- If Marriage is so broken by sin, why even bother?
- The glory of Christianity – we are saved from our sin!
- God does more than give us advice – he redeems us with power
- Our marriages are able to reflect the love between Christ and his church

# The Relationship Redeemed: God First!

- Our core problem: alienation from God
- The redeemed relationship starts where the story of the Fall ended – redemption in Christ
- The Cross is essential to Christian marriage; our individual relationship to Christ is vital
- Individually we must:
  1. *Trust in Jesus Christ*
  2. *Submit to God in obedience*
  3. *Seek our satisfaction in and from God (from idolatry to worship)*
  4. *Repentance, Forgiveness, New Obedience*

# Psalm 16: Finding Satisfaction in God

## Psalm 16:1-6, Faith to Discernment to Submission

- A Statement of Faith,  
vv. 1-2
- Faith's Discernment on  
Life, vv. 3-4
- Faith's submission to God's  
provision, vv. 5-6

Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. I said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.'  
vv. 1-2

As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips. vv. 3-4

Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance  
vv. 5-6

# Psalm 16: Finding Satisfaction in God

## Faith

Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." vv. 1-2

## Hope

As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.  
The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations  
of blood or take up their names on my lips. v. 3-4

## Submission

LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.  
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. vv. 5-6

## Worship

I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have  
set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. vv. 7-8

## Joy

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you  
will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. vv. 9-10

## Fulfillment

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. v. 11

# From Manipulation to Ministry

- Under sin we *manipulate*
- What do we worship? (*what we worship, we rely on & serve*).
- Worship always determines how we relate to one another. Under idolatry, we manipulate to get what we want and serve one another.
- Name some false gods. How are they worshiped?
- What happens when the man and woman are worshiping different gods? *Conflict!*

# From Manipulation to Ministry

- Manipulation Strategies:
  - *attention, criticism, threats, romance, giving or withholding sex, complaining, complimenting*
- The goal: to manipulate partner to doing what your idol demands
- Women's idols often *inward* to the marriage
- Man's idols often *outward* from the marriage
- Idolatry always produces conflict and resolves conflict by acting upon the other person to get him/her to change
- Since idols never satisfy, but always demand more, conflict is ensured

Bel bows down,  
Nebo stoops low;  
their idols are borne  
by beasts of burden.  
The images that are  
carried about are  
burdensome,  
a burden for the  
weary. They stoop  
and bow down  
together;  
unable to rescue the  
burden,  
they themselves go  
off into captivity.  
*Isaiah 46:1-2*

# From Manipulation to Ministry

- Putting God first changes how we relate to one another.
- Under sin we *manipulate*; under redemption we *minister*
- A new compatibility: shared worship of the one true God
- Whereas idols demand from us so that we demand from one another; the true God gives to us so that we can give one to another.

Bel bows down; Nebo stoops; their idols are on beasts and livestock; these things you carry are borne as burdens on weary beasts. They stoop; they bow down together; they cannot save the burden, but themselves go into captivity. Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all you who remain of the house of Israel, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. *Isaiah 46:1-4*

# “Put On Love”

## Mutual Love and Ministry

1. The *Resources* of Grace:
  - a. God’s Saving Work *for* Us (chosen, made holy, dearly loved, forgiven)
  - b. God’s Saving Work *in* Us (peace of Christ, gratitude, Word of God)
  - c. *Obligation* to Christ
2. The *Response* of Grace
  - a. Clothe *yourselves* with... Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience
  - b. Bear with *others*... Forgive... Love – **our response to conflict with ministry**
  - c. Called to peace, encouragement, and worship
  - d. *Offering* to Christ

*The Vertical Determines the Horizontal: “We love because He first loved us” (1 Jn. 4:19).*

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Col. 3:12-17

# Love Is... 1 Corinthians 13

## Love is

- Patient
- Kind
- Rejoices with the Truth
- Protective
- Trusting
- Hoping
- Persevering

## Love is *not*

- Envious
- Boastful
- Proud
- Rude
- Self-Seeking
- Easily Angered
- Record-Keeping
- Delighting in Evil

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is *patient*, love is *kind*. It *does not envy*, it *does not boast*, it is *not proud*. It is *not rude*, it is *not self-seeking*, it is *not easily angered*, it keeps no *record of wrongs*. Love *does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth*. It always *protects*, always *trusts*, always *hopes*, always *perseveres*.

Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 2:2-5*