

SUMMER OF LOVE **Week 6**
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

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WEEK 6 - ONE FLESH (SOS 2:8-17)

INTRODUCTION

She says ***“My beloved is mine, and I am his”*** - He gave himself first to me. She says ***“My beloved is mine”***, which means he went first, and then she says ***“and I am his”***. She gives her whole self to him because he went first; that is biblical marriage.

DISCUSSION

After the message, describe the line, *“My beloved is mine, and I am his”*

EXPLANATION

Read Hebrews 13:4

In what ways is marriage dishonored today?

What keeps a marriage pure?

Why do think faithfulness in marriage is so important to God?

APPLICATION

Read John 3:16

Based on this verse, what type of love does God have for the world?

(hint: it is sacrificial and action oriented)

What is the best way to love those around us?

How can we begin to display action oriented and sacrificial love to those closest to us?

How do you think you love someone *“until they are beautiful”*?

MISSION

If the husband is suppose to lead his home and our larger culture doesn't understand that, how can people who follow Christ display true headship in a relevant way?

How can understanding God's love teach and enable us to live richer and fuller relationships?



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Week 6 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES

Song of Solomon 2:8-17
Ephesians 5:31-33
Ephesians 5:17-28
1 Corinthians 7:3-4
John 3:16

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WEEK 6 - ONE FLESH (SOS 2:8-17)

Ephesians 5:31-33 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Sex is a gift given by God to be freely engaged in, in marriage. Mark Driscoll writes, “The question is not where is the line, the question is when is the time?” The time is marriage.

Human sexuality was of divine design (Gen 1-2). Marriage was instituted by God (Gen 2) and was pronounced good. That evaluation never changes (Prov 5:15-20; Eccl 9:9; Prov 31) and sexual joy is encouraged.

The Old Testament Hebrew doesn’t even have a word for a bachelor. There were not supposed to be any. Every patriarch was married. The priests were all married. Every prophet was married, as far as we know, except for Jeremiah. Even the high priest in Israel was to be married, since the office was to be hereditary. Instead of marriage and the cohabitation that normally goes with it being a hindrance to communion with God, this was a prerequisite for the person who was to enter the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement. Only a married man could experience the most intimate communion with God Almighty.

The most symbolical fact of all is that from Abraham to Paul, circumcision, the mark that a man was in covenant with Yahweh, was at the point of intimate contact of his body with his wife.

Jesus reaffirms the sanctity of marriage in Matthew 19:3-9. Hebrews 13:4 tells us that the marriage bed is pure and that marriage itself should be honored by all. Paul insists that it is desirable for elders and bishops to be married and to be model family men (1 Tim 3:4; Titus 1:6-7). History began with a wedding (Gen 2:18-25) and will climax with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev 19:6-10). It is no accident then that Jesus began his earthly ministry blessing a wedding. John the Baptist, when quizzed about Jesus’ ministry, described it in nuptial terms (John 3:29-30). Jesus himself, when interrogated as to why His disciples did

not fast, pictured his stay among us in terms of a wedding announcement party. A case can easily be made that the biblical philosophy of history is to be described in nuptial terms.

MUTUAL BELONGING AND OWNERSHIP IS THE ESSENCE OF A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE. If one person gives themselves and the other does not, that is an abusive relationship. A biblical relationship is two givers because our God is a giver. To be in a Christian relationship means you give. A husband gives himself to and for his bride like Christ does for the church.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Christ’s “headship” comes from His giving Himself up for the church. His sacrifice. His surrender. His willingness to give Himself away for her. His death. The authority the word **head** carries with it is rooted in the sacrifice of Christ, and therefore the sacrifice of the husband. The husband is commanded to lay down his life for his wife, and the wife is commanded to submit to herself to her husband.

The goal of a husband should be to be like Jesus to his wife so she can trust him and feel safe with him; to build intimacy around his Christ-likeness. Too many men have taken this verse and made it barbaric, about ownership. That is misuse and abuse because it is nothing like Jesus treats the church.

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