



COLLEGE GOLF FELLOWSHIP

THE MEANING OF
MARRIAGE
BY TIMOTHY KELLER

CGF Workbook

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CHAPTER 01

The Secret of Marriage

1. Though there has been a decline in marriage, what is the “surprising goodness of marriage”? pp. 13–20
2. When did marriage shift to more of an individualistic fulfillment? Why does this put a burden on those in marriage? pp. 20–27
3. How do my individual freedom and desires take away from the real purpose of marriage? pp. 27–31
4. Why does marriage require us to continue to “learn to love” our spouse? pp. 31–40
5. What is the true “secret” to marriage? Why do we need it in order for marriage to work? pp. 40–45

Date Questions

1. What are the commitments that we made towards God and one another at the altar?
 2. How have we both changed over our years of marriage?
 3. Does our marriage show others God’s love?
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NOTES

 ***Take Away***

“Marriage only ‘works’ to the degree that approximates the pattern of God’s self-giving love in Christ.” p. 43

CHAPTER 02

The Power of Marriage

1. What is the starting point to a God honoring marriage? Why is the word “submit” in Ephesians different than what our culture believes? pp. 47-54
2. What is the enemy of every marriage and why? pp. 55-64
3. How do we fight for our marriage by fighting against self-centeredness? pp. 67-77

Date Questions

1. Tell your spouse of a time or two when you believe your own self-centeredness has hindered your relationship.
 2. Tell your spouse of a time when you have seen them lay down their own desire for you and how that made you feel.
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Take Away

The Gospel fills our hearts, so we can fight our self-centeredness, and truly love our spouse.

CHAPTER 03

The Essence of Marriage

1. What is the difference in how the Bible speaks of love and how the culture speaks of love? pp. 79-81
 2. How does a “subjective understanding of love-as-passionate-feeling” distort the Biblical view of sex? pp. 81-83
 3. What is the difference between consumer and covenant relationships? How is a Biblical marriage a covenant with both God and your spouse? pp. 83-87
 4. Why does the binding covenant of marriage give us true freedom in our marriage compared to a false sense of freedom that a consumer marriage offers? pp. 88-93
 5. How do the promises in our life shape our identity? (i.e. God’s promise to us in salvation, and our promise in marriage) pp. 94-97
 6. Why does keeping the covenantal promise of marriage over the years make passion richer and deeper? 97-106
 7. How do “actions of love lead to feelings of love” with our spouse and others?pp. 106-113
 8. How does looking at Christ on the Cross give us the perfect picture of a parents love for a rebellious child and also give us fuel to love our spouse in all circumstances? pp. 114-117
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Date Questions

1. What can I do to serve you this week?
2. What can I do to help you love God and be refueled in his love this week?
3. Are there any big picture areas in our lives where I can serve you and our family?

Take Away

Our Covenant with God and our Spouse in marriage gives us true
freedom to love one another in all aspects of our marriage.

CHAPTER 04

The Mission of Marriage

1. How does the truth of the Trinity (God being Father, Son, Spirit) show us how we are to live? pp. 119-121

2. What are the 3 features/qualities of friendship? What is friendship “depicted as”? pp. 121-123

3. What is the “common vision and passion” that makes Christian Friendship much deeper? What are some of the things that you and your Christian friends do that are different than a regular friendship? pp. 124-127

4. How are we supposed to be both “Lover and Friend” to our spouse as Jesus is to us? pp. 127-131

5. How should I see my spouse? What is my role in the sanctification of my spouse? pp. 131-135

6. Why will my “marriage slowly die if [my] spouse senses that he or she [apart from Christ] is not the first priority in [my] life”? pp. 128-142

7. Why can we not “understand marriage without looking at the gospel”? pp. 143-146

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Date Questions

1. If your boss were going to reward you for a job well done, how would you prefer he or she do it? Why? (pick one)

- With a handwritten personal note and a gift care to your favorite restaurant.
- With a bonus check
- Acknowledgment at the next large company staff meeting
- Two words: vacation days

2. (Answer these questions separately, then discuss)

a. Complete this sentence: The way I will best receive a loving gesture is if it ... Why?

b. Complete this sentence: The way my spouse will best receive a loving gesture is if it... Why?

Take Away

God has created us to live in deep friendships to sanctify us, with
the deepest friendship being in marriage.

CHAPTER 05

Loving the Stranger

1. How have you seen your spouse change from the person you married? How have you responded to that change? pp. 147-150

2. How does “marriage itself” expose our sinfulness? pp. 150-155

3. How does seeing my spouse’s Godly attributes motivate me to tackle their sinful tendencies head on with them? pp. 155-161

4. How can the “power of love” in marriage heal “you of the deepest wounds and hurts of your life”? pp. 162-165

5. When has your spouse tried to love you in one way, but you took it the other way? What do I think is my spouse’s “love language”? What particular things can I do to show my spouse that I love him or her? pp. 165-179

6. How can love without truth or truth without love in marriage be so destructive? pp. 179-182

7. What is the only way we can effectively be both truthful and loving in marriage? Why? pp. 183-186

8. Though, years after marriage, we may be “wasting away” physically, how does truth and love through grace in marriage make us “spiritually gorgeous”? pp. 186-189



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Date Questions

1. When was a time that you felt unloved, when I thought I was actually loving you?
2. What do you think your main “love language” is? What is one specific thing I can do this week to love you in that way?
3. Pray together for humility, a right understanding of one another, and a diligent pursuit of one another.

Take Away

Truth and Love expressed through the lens of the Gospel in
Marriage over time makes us truly beautiful.

CHAPTER 06

→ ***Embracing the Other***

1. What is the mandate that God gives man and woman in Genesis 2? Why can this mandate only be fulfilled together as man and woman? pp. 193-196
 2. How does looking at Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11 give us a better picture of a wife's role in marriage? 196-199
 3. How does Jesus's "servant-leadership" in John 13:1-17 change the idea of the man's use of authority over his wife in marriage? 199-202
 4. Why is it so hard for men and women to understand one another? How does the biblical view of marriage and Jesus on the cross address the chasm between sexes? pp. 202-208
 5. How does seeing our gender roles as a gift from God help us to nourish our weaker abilities rather than deny them? Where is your weakness? pp. 208-213
 6. What are some of the ways, or particular times, in which your spouse has helped you grow in wisdom over the years? pp. 213-215
 7. Why is it a problem to abandon a Biblical view of gender roles? How do I act out my appropriate Biblical gender role even if my spouse does not agree with the Biblical viewpoint? pp. 215-217
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Date Questions

1. Tell your spouse of a time that you were really proud of him or her
2. Tell your spouse what your favorite quality is about him or her.
3. Talk about how y'all met and some of the highlights in your marriage so far.

Take Away

“Both the headship role of a husband and the submission role as a wife are servant roles.”

CHAPTER 07

Singleness and Marriage

1. How does the “overlap of the ages” show us a proper view of marriage and family? pp. 219-222

2. How is Christianity’s view of singleness radically different from any other world religion? pp. 222-225

3. How is marriage “penultimate”? Why is that important for both the married couple and a single? pp. 225-227

4. How does the Church make us “complete”? pp. 227-230

5. What is the biblically balanced view of marriage and singleness for a single? pp. 230-233

6. What are some of the practical counsel points for marriage seekers that stood out to you? How does this help you guide your single friends/family in this pursuit? pp. 237-249

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Date Questions

1. What did the roles of husband and wife look like in the home you grew up in?

2. Based on what we've read and discussed, what do we believe the Bible says about the roles of husbands and wives?

3. In our marriage, what one or two steps can we take to help each other start to live our our roles in our marriage (For example: What family decision is in front of you? How can the wife foster her husband's leadership in family decisions? How can the husband cultivate an atmosphere that empowers his wife to be a true helper in this decision? How might the current division of labor be shifted to make better use of your respective gifts and help the other fulfill their role?)

Take Away

Both singleness and marriage can only be played out the way God intended by being rooted in Biblical Community.

CHAPTER 08

Sex and Marriage

1. What are the 3 worldly (non-Christian) views of sex? pp. 251-253
 2. Why is the Bible not for the “prudish”? pp. 253-254
 3. How is sex a crucial part of the marriage covenant? pp. 255-257
 4. How does sex create such a deep bond of unity and commitment? Why is this further proof that sex should only be used in marriage? pp. 257-260
 5. How can/should singles battle sexual temptation? pp. 260-265
 6. Why is sex most satisfying when we focus on “giving” to our spouse? pp. 266-269
 7. Why is it so important for us, as married couples, to make it a priority to work on our sex life? pp. 269-271
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Date Questions

1. Who are a few single people in our church we could invite to a meal sometime in the next month as a way to cultivate new friendships?

2. Who in our church is in a life stage we see ourselves entering in the future? How might we connect with them? (i.e. couples in the life-stage ahead of us)

3. Who in leadership at our church can we ask to learn more about encouraging interaction between single and married people in our church?

4. What is the next step of involvement in our local church for us as a married couple?

Take Away

Sex is what God has given married couples to enjoy, use as a means of worship, and to physically express commitment to one another



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