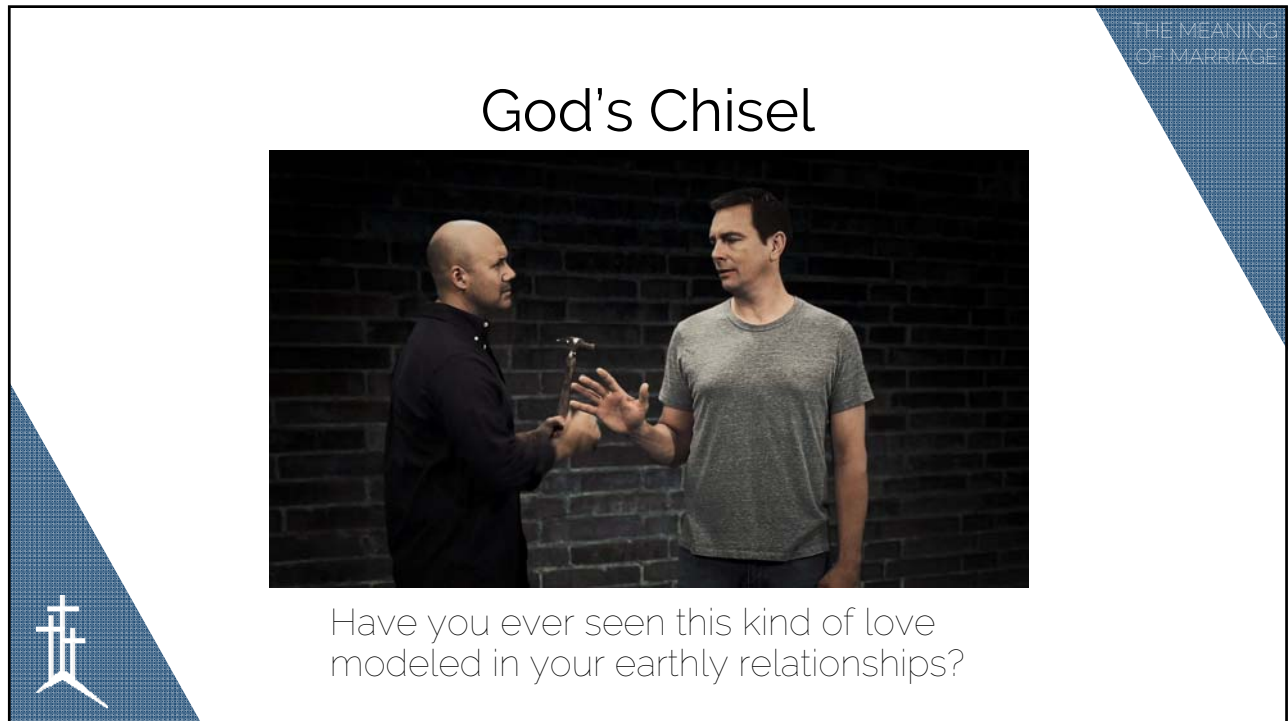




# THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

The Mission of Marriage (Part 2)



## God's Chisel

THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

Have you ever seen this kind of love modeled in your earthly relationships?

## A Message for Our Culture

- "Your spouse has got to be your best friend, or be on the way to becoming your best friend, or you won't have a strong, rich marriage that endures and that makes you both vastly better persons for having been in it."



## A Message for Our Culture

- "Screen first for friendship. Look for someone who understands you better than you do yourself, who makes you a better person just by being around them. And then explore whether that friendship could become romance and a marriage."



THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

## Top 10 Must Haves

- Comfortable giving and Receiving affection
- Can always count on for support
- Responsible/finances
- Emotionally healthy & able to share life
- Marriage & family minded
- Express feelings in A mature way.
- Willing to share sexual desires/understanding
- Handle setbacks/patient, steady manner
- Good at talking and listening.
- Handles stress & frustration/maturity
- Must feel deeply in love/attracted to partner
- Knows right from wrong
- Find humor in any situation
- There for you through trials & tribulations
- Honest/strong enough to do the right thing
- Gentle and kind
- Emotionally available & able to deal/past hurts



THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

## Top 10 Can't Stands

- Uses illegal/recreational drugs
- Couch Potato
- Takes advantage of people/manipulative
- Is lazy
- Continually unhappy about life
- Lies, especially to me
- Yells, screams, loses control
- Has a devious nature/mean to others
- Can't manage anger, bottles it up
- Is not clean
- Unreliable/flaky
- Engages in sex outside committed relationship
- Is unfaithful (infidelity)
- Belittling, impatient or hateful to people



## The Priority of Marriage

- "Your marriage must be more important to you than anything else. No other human being should get more of your love, energy, industry, and commitment than your spouse. God asks that a man leave his father and mother, as powerful as that relationship may have been, to forge a new union that must be an even more important and powerful force in his life."



## Case Study: Group Discussion

- Read through the four case studies on your journal pages.
  - What is the misplaced priority in each case study?
  - What is the consequence?





## Pseudo-Spouses

- "You have failed to leave your parents if you are more driven by their wishes and expectations than by your spouse's. But you can also fail to leave your parents if you resent or hate them too much."



## Pseudo-Spouses

Quoting a counselor, "The best way for you to be a great mother to your daughter is by being a great wife to your husband. That is the main thing your daughter needs from you."



## Journal/Personal Reflection

- What are the most likely things in your life to slip into that "pseudo-spouse" seat, and why do they present such a threat to your marriage?
- If you are not married and want to be, what priorities in your life do you expect will have to change to keep them from turning into pseudo-spouses?



## The Power of Marriage

- "Marriage is so much like salvation and our relationship with Christ that Paul says you can't understand marriage without looking at the gospel."



## The Power of Marriage

- "...the key to giving marriage that kind of priority is spiritual friendship."
- "Spiritual friendship] is eagerly helping one another know, serve, love, and resemble God in deeper and deeper ways."



## The Power of Marriage


- "When Jesus's love, wisdom, and greatness are formed in us, each with our own unique gifts and callings, we become our 'true selves,' the persons we were created to be."



THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

## The Power of Marriage

- "If you come to understand what holiness is, you come to see that real happiness is on the far side of holiness, not the near side. Holiness gives us new desires and brings old desires into line with one another. So if we want to be happy in marriage, we will accept that marriage is designed to make us holy."



THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

## At home discussion: Marriage Plan

- In this marriage plan you are going to write out a profile for who you see God making your spouse into—a specific description of their great horizon. Answer the following questions about your spouse and then have a conversation with him/her this week about what you wrote:
  - I see the love of Jesus on display in your life when you \_\_\_\_\_. (This is where you see the gospel alive and at work in your spouse)
  - God has clearly gifted you in \_\_\_\_\_. (This is where you see your spouse really flourishing.)
  - As believers, we are promised a future glory—freedom from all our sins and agonies—where we encounter Jesus face to face. What particular kind of joy, redemption and freedom do you envision for your spouse?

