


THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

White board "panel"

- As you enter class today, please write your responses on the large white boards around the room: (Feel free to stay anonymous)
 - If married: When you were single, why did you want to get married? (Have your hopes been realized?)
 - If married: What is something about marriage you didn't expect. (List challenges AND joys!)
 - If single: What are some reasons to desire marriage?
 - If single: What are some reasons to desire singleness?



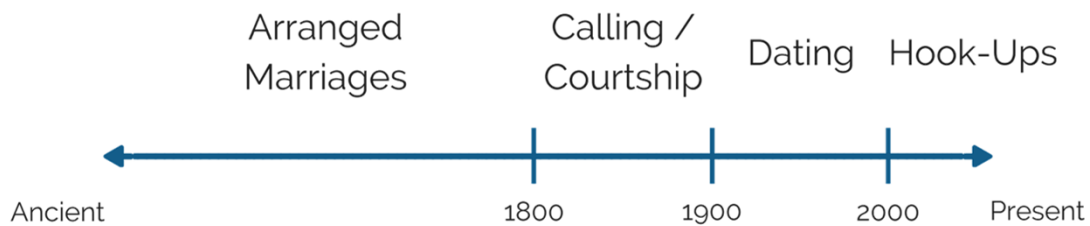
The slide has a white background with a blue triangular graphic in the top-right corner containing the text 'THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE' and a white cross icon in the bottom-left corner.

The Goodness of Seeking Marriage

"Let's face it: singleness is not an inherently inferior state of affairs... But I want to be married. I pray to that end every day. I may meet someone and walk down the aisle in the next couple of years because God is so good to me. I may never have another date... because God is so good to me."



The History of Dating




THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

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1. "Recognize that there are seasons for not seeking marriage."

To every thing there is a **SEASON** and a **TIME** to every purpose under the *heaven*

Ecclesiastes 3:1



THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

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2. "Understand the 'gift of singleness.'"



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3. "Get more serious about seeking marriage as you get older."



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4. "Do not allow yourself deep emotional involvement with a nonbelieving person."





THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

Activity: "Common Thread"

- Pull a piece of yarn from the wad.
- Find someone in the room with the same length of yarn as you.
- Talk with your "string partner" to discover what you have in common.
 - Every time you discover something you have in common, wrap the string around your finger once.
 - Can you find enough in common to wrap the string completely around your finger?



THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

Activity: "Common Thread"

- What do we have in common?
 - Hobbies/Skills
 - Work
 - Travel
 - Family
 - Food
 - Values/beliefs
 - Entertainment (TV, Movies, books, etc.)
 - Possessions
 - Background/childhood



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5. "Feel 'attraction' in the most comprehensive sense."



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6. "Don't let things get too passionate too quickly."



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7. "However, also don't become a faux spouse for someone who won't commit to you."

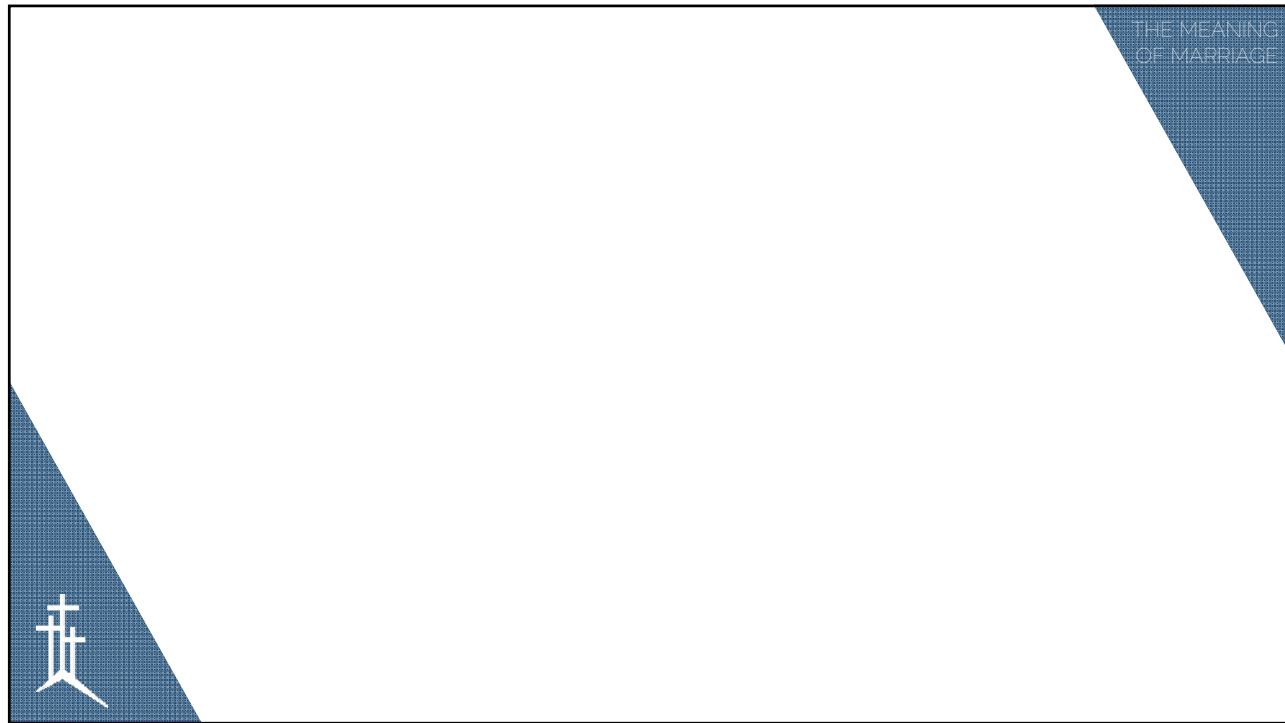


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8. "Get and submit to lots of community input."

**Be devoted
to one another
in brotherly
LOVE**
Honor one another
above yourselves.
ROMANS 12:10






THE MEANING OF MARRIAGE

Reflection Questions if Married:

- In what ways do you see aspects of the community we have been discussing in our congregation?
- How do you "engage" in, build this community as a married person?
- How can someone who is married promote the goodness of marriage and encourage other married couples in our congregation?



Reflection Questions if Single:

- In what ways do you see aspects of the community we have been discussing in our congregation?
- How do you "engage" in, build this community as a single person?
- How can someone who is single promote the goodness of singleness and encourage other singles in our congregation?



WE'LL SEE YOU
NEXT WEEK!



Singleness and Marriage Part 2

