

# Proverbs

## *A Gospel Marriage*

### Introduction

Marriage is a profound mystery. It is desired by some and dreaded by others. Proverbs gives indications that there is more to marriage than two people agreeing to live together.

### Discussion Questions

- Marriage is a covenant between two people and God [2:16-17]. A covenant requires more than a contract. It is not just seeking equal treatment from another, but obligates self-sacrificial service for the sake of another. What makes marriage attractive to you? What makes marriage unattractive to you?
- Steadfast love and faithfulness are the marks of the wise [3:3]. They certainly represent God's dealings with us. They are also necessary components of our relationships with others. Why do you value these qualities? How have you been frustrated or hurt by the lack of these qualities?
- Sexual intimacy is reserved for covenanted marriage [5:15-20]. It is described as life giving water that can be wasted or polluted. What is the most common view of sex that you hear? Why is the temptation to pursue sex outside of marriage alluring for singles? For married?
- Many want to reduce sex to an appetite or a sort of ultimate recreation. They do not see what the fuss is all about [30:20]. In what ways is sex overvalued in our culture? In what ways is it undervalued? Which error do you tend toward?
- The misunderstanding of the nature of sexual intimacy brings great pain to those who forsake its intent and purpose [7:21-23]. Those involved become isolated souls and spouses are devastated by the deep betrayal. How have you seen hurt by sexual abuse or misuse? What hope is there for healing? Why is it so powerful in our psyche?

### Think About It

While marriage is meant to be fulfilling and sex is given to reenforce that fulfillment, infidelity can destroy the relationship. Scripture says that marriage is a reflection of God's relationship with his people. When we give our hearts away to other things, we have shown ourselves to be adulterous and unfaithful. What destroys our earthly relationships indicates what is devastating to our heavenly one.

### What Will You Do?

Seek steadfast love and faithfulness in your relationship with God and with others. Pursue covenantal commitment instead of contractual limits. Repent of self-centered consumerism with regards to marriage and sex. Receive the gospel of sacrifice for you as the beginning of living a life of fulfillment with others.

### Renewing Your Mind

*Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. [Proverbs 3:3]*

*A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. [Genesis 2:24-25]*

*"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. [Ephesians 5:31-33]*

*He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD. [Proverbs 18:22]*

*Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. [Proverbs 5:18-19]*

*Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. [Hebrews 13:4]*

*Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." [1 Corinthians 6:15-16]*

### Prayer Requests

