

- Deep intimacy is founded in commitment and *permanence*.. Freely joining together in commitment is not to entrap the two of you **but to free you for intimacy and connection**. Only in the *safety* of a secure commitment is it reasonable to be naked and unashamed.

**Biblical Principle:** The loss of freedom that comes with the boundaries of commitment in marriage actually create new opportunities for a profound level of freedom through intimacy within those boundaries. HUA

**?Question:** Is your marriage safe where vulnerability is the key to intimacy ?

## DO | What are you going to do about it?

### **1 Peter 3:7**

*Likewise, husbands, **live with your wives in an understanding way**, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

- **Companionship is the other blessing given to us in marriage** What does it mean to be understanding? It means thoughtful of the needs and feelings of another. You've got to understand your wife's needs before you can consider her needs and meeting those needs. Top 5 include: **1- My Wife Needs My Affection:** *The love a man gives his wife is the extending of his love for himself to enfold her.*" (Eph. 5:28b) **2- My Wife Needs Conversation With Me** ". . . Live together in harmony and love, as though you had only one mind and one spirit between you." (Ph. 2:2) **3-My Wife Needs My Honesty and Openness:** *"Insincere talk hides what you are really thinking . . . it brings nothing but ruin."* (Pr. 26:23, 28) **4- My Wife Needs Financial Security:** *"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."* (1 Tim. 5:8) **5- My Wife Needs My Commitment to the Family:** *"Be faithful to your own wife and give your love to her alone."* Pr. 5:15)

**Biblical Principle:** A man loves his wife, by protecting, respecting, helping and staying with her! HUA

**?Question:** How would your wife rate your marriage against how Christ loved the church?? Rate, why, 3 things need to do to get to 10?

**Application:** Write out biblical defense of marriage!

## -----Stories from the Field-----

*There is a Gathering Storm over marriage. The secular has discounted marriage into a quasi-legal contract that, like other voluntary contracts, can be made or broken at will. The greater tragedy is the failure of Christians to take marriage seriously.*

According to the Bible, **marriage is not only designed by the Creator as an arena for human happiness and the continuation of the human race – it is also glorifying to God.** A divorce culture explains away obligation and sacred promises as temporary statements of emotional disposition. The goods of sex are severed from the vows and obligations of marriage. The feminist movement see marriage as oppressive denying them of their freedom. The LGBTQ movement seeks to redefine marriage and the human relatedness. A society that disbelieves in God will disbelieve in marriage.

**Procreation and the nurture of children mark an essential pillar of God's design for marriage.** Birth control and family planning give rise to the idea of childbirth as merely an option – a plan in which one can choose or not choose to participate. Having sex and having babies have become essentially separated. Procreation is not a basic moral issue it is a gift from God designed as the central unit of human society.

**Marriage is the means of channeling sexual desire into its proper context.** Secularization has corrupted the biblical sexual ethic and relegates that sexual intercourse should not be limited to marriage. Secularization has paganized the culture, speaking of holy things as if they were lowly while speaking of lowly things as if they were holy. God designed sex to flourish under the care of the covenant of marriage. The desire for sex is from God to drive us toward holiness in marriage – an adorned act protected by steadfast committed love. Adultery and pornography corrupt what God has



**Men of Valor**

### **Gathering Storm #4**

**Biblical Manhood:** To love and follow Jesus by being Men of the Word and Men of Prayer while Accepting Accountability, Taking Responsibility, Leading Intentionally, Persevering through Adversity in their domain to make God Known

perfectly designed for our good in marriage. We must protect our marriage bed, exemplify sexual purity and instill in our children the biblical vision of sex as a gift to be enjoyed in marriage.

**Companionship is the other blessing given to us in marriage, as the two become one and we live to glorify God. First, it is a divine ordinance** that man should not be left alone and that he is provided a helper. **Second it is complementarianism.** Both are created in God's image but complementing one another in different gender roles. Male leadership in the home, loving his wife as Christ loved the church and loving, disciplining and teaching his children brings glory to God. **The satisfaction and pleasures enjoyed by husband and wife praise God's glory.**

Divorce has now become common place in our culture and is a major moral problem. A stable functioning culture requires stable marriages and nurturing families. **Christians must defend marriage as a holy institution. It is incumbent upon Christians to show the world the glory of marriage so that pornography is inconceivable, divorce is eradicated from our vocabulary and same sex marriage is unthinkable.**

### **Talk about it:**

**Question for contemplation and discussion:** What did God enlighten to you in the text?

## **KNOW | What does God want us to know**

---

*Ephesians 5:28-29*

***Husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church***

- **Male leadership in the home is loving your wife as Christ loved the church.** Husbands, you are to provide a secure, warm, safe haven for your wife. Whatever she needs, you are obligated to supply as best you can. God chose you to provide for and protect her, to nourish and cherish her, and to do so "as Christ also does the church."
- **Marital Love should be unbreakable:** Husbands, your union with your wife is permanent. When you got married, you had to leave, cleave, and become one with your wife—never go back on that. Let your wife **rest in the security of knowing that you belong to her, for life.**
- **Marital Love should be indivisible.** As Christ is one with His church, you husbands are one with your wives. Why is submission as well as sacrificial, purifying, and caring love so strongly emphasized in Scripture? **Because the sacredness of the church is wed to the sacredness of marriage.**
- **Marital Love should be a testimony to the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church.** Your marriage will either tell the truth about that relationship, or it will tell a lie.

**Biblical Principle:** If you'll walk in the power of the Spirit, yield to His Word, and be mutually submissive, you can know that God will bless you abundantly and glorify His Son through your marriage HUA

**?Question:** What is your marriage saying to the watching world??

## **BE | How does God want us to become more like Him?**

---

*Genesis 2:24-25*

*Therefore, 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"*

- **The feminist movement sees marriage as oppressive denying them of their freedom.** What does being *naked and not ashamed* mean to you? I think this means that Adam and Eve felt completely accepted and loved. They had a deep emotional safety. I think this reflects the desire most of us have — to be accepted at the deepest level of our being. This is the type of love you can give to each other in marriage.