

Recap of 10/29/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 10:6-12):

1. God's definition of marriage is found in Genesis 2:24: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

-Marriage is a monogamous, heterosexual, lifelong union.

-Marriage is not meant to be temporary

-Marriage is not meant to be easily broken

-Marriage is meant to be lifelong, a covenant, a promise before God.

2- "It is a mournful fact, that few steps in life are generally taken with so much levity, self-will, and forgetfulness of God as marriage. Few are the young couples who think of inviting Christ to their wedding! Happy are they, who in the matter of marriage observe three rules. The first is to marry only in the Lord, and after prayer for God's approval and blessing. The second is not to expect too much from their partners, and to remember that marriage is, after all, the union of two sinners, and not of two angels. The third rule is to strive first and foremost for one another's sanctification. The more holy married people are, the happier they are. 'Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify (make holy, set apart) it.'" (Ryle)

3- "A second flaw in our views of Christian marriage (and the whole Christian life) is the appealing emphasis on becoming happy and fulfilled.... We have become so conditioned to measuring the rightness of what we do by the quality of emotion it generates that a new version of relativistic ethics has developed that might be called the Morality of Fulfillment. 'Fulfillment' has taken on greater urgency and value than 'obedience.'...The only sure path to real and lasting joy is the steep, rugged road marked 'Obedience.'...How difficult it is to believe that a loving God with our deepest welfare in mind insists on painful conformity to the standards of His Word!" (Lawrence Crabb, *The Marriage Builder*).

4 - "Linda and I married just over a quarter century ago, and we had not a whit of an inkling of what those twenty-five-plus years would bring. How could we possibly have imagined what the winds of the years would blow into our lives? When we stood together at the altar that sunny afternoon, we couldn't have guessed a tenth of it. But we didn't need to. We made a promise. We recited a vow. Out of the whole world, we chose each other. And the power of that choice, that promise, has kept us." (Stu Weber, *Tender Warrior*)