

Recap of 11/5/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 10:6-12):

1. Seven Biblical guidelines for marriage:

- Be filled with the Spirit (yield control over your life to the Spirit) Ephesians 5:18ff
- Be forgiving Ephesians 4:32
- Be forgetful (keep no record of wrongs) 1 Corinthians 13:1-8
- Be committed Ephesians 5:33 (love & respect) Mark 10:9 (let man not separate
- Be faithful Hebrews 13:4; Proverbs 5:15-20
- Be available to each other (mind & body) 1 Corinthians 7; Song of Solomon
- Be communicating (return a blessing for an insult) 1 Peter 3:8-12

2. God intends for marriage to be a lifelong union. He desires forgiveness and reconciliation.

3. The effect of the Fall on the marriage relationship cannot be overstated. What was once a relationship of cooperation, harmony...oneness, now, because of sin, becomes a battle for control/domination, an epic battle of the sexes. No longer will there be a cooperative, reciprocal relationship between husband and wife, but a battle for dominance and control. "...the fall made existing obligations a pain rather than a pleasure "(McGrath). The good news is that with the Word of God and the influence of the Holy Spirit in believers' lives, we don't live at the level of the fall.

4. Make God the center of your marriage. Build your life and marriage on Him. Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27 that the wise man builds his house on a rock, not shifting sand. A house built on a rock can withstand the storms of life, whereas one built on sand is destroyed by those same storms. Too many build their marriages on the shifting sands of looks, sex, money, status, and career instead of on the Rock, Jesus Christ, and His Word.