

"Marriage By Design: Happily Ever After?"
February 13, 2011

1 Corinthians 7:28 *"But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this."*

Eccles. 4:12 *Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

MESSAGE: Protect your marriage! *Husbands, be a loving leader. Wives, be a respectful completer.*

A. Protect your marriage from death: Genesis 3

1. **Enemies** (1-6) – Satan & our own ungodly desires
2. **Role Confusion** (6c) – Ephes. 5 21-33
 - a. Husbands – loving leader; protect & provide
 - b. Wives – respectful completer; submit & influence
3. **Shame** (7) – cover up and protect wounded hearts.
4. **Fear** (8,10) - hiding our selves from God & one another.
5. **Blame** (12) – irresponsibility; refusal to change.
6. **Insecurity** (16) especially for women with the husband.
7. **Insignificance** (17) especially for men in their work.
8. **Spiritual Separation from God** (23-24) banished from Eden and shared intimacy with God.

B. God's Design for Marriage Restored: Jesus' death and resurrection brought restoration to God's design for marriage, and the power to experience it through the Holy Spirit!

Application:

1. Protect your marriage by praying for your spouse.
2. Protect God's design for husbands and wives through learning about role and gender differences. Read 1 Corinthians 7; Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7
 - a. Buy *"For Men Only"* & *"For Women Only"* by Jeff and Shaunti Feldhahn
3. Protect areas of intimacy where you may be vulnerable (spiritual, working together, emotional, sexual, financial, etc.). Come up with a plan and commit to it.

"Marriage By Design: Happily Ever After?"
Review Last Sunday: February 6, 2011

REVIEW: Why Marriage? *What is God's plan?*

* Listen to last Sunday's message online: www.firstfriends.org

Genesis 2:24 *"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."*

First some Myths about Marriage:

1. Measures personal worth; value.
2. Primarily about happiness; personal fulfillment.
3. Must find the one Mr. or Mrs. "Right"; soul-mate destiny.
4. Love is all we need; love conquers all.

Why do marriages die? *Crime scene investigation*

1. Failure to experience God's original design and purpose.
2. Failure to protect our marriage from the danger of our own sinful nature.

God's Original Design for Marriage: Genesis 1-2

1. **Spiritual Intimacy:** Representing God's Image (1:27)
2. **Family Intimacy:** Procreating & Parenting (1:28a)
3. **Partnership Intimacy** (1:28b) – working together.
4. **Emotional Intimacy:** Soul Companionship (2:18-25)
 - a. Exclusive – priority relationship.
5. **Sexual Intimacy** - Naked and unashamed – innocent,

Application: Work toward God's design

1. Connect with God in praying out loud together.
4. Find a way to work & serve God together.