

MAIN POINT

No marriage is perfect, but every marriage has hope for restoration because of the gospel.

INTRODUCTION

What do you think are some of the most common misconceptions about marriage? What are some factors that contribute to these misconceptions?

What do you understand to be the purpose of a Christian marriage? How does that purpose compare with the goal of the Christian life in general?

God designed marriage to symbolize Jesus' commitment to and love for His church. As such, it is important that Christian marriages include specific traits that help them display the gospel to a watching world. But even when our marriages fall short of God's intention we have hope for healing and restoration through the gospel.

DISCUSSION

> READ GENESIS 2:18-25 AND 3:1-15.

The first relationship between created beings was the marriage relationship between Adam and Eve, which we read about in Genesis 2:18-25. Why do you think God referred to Eve as a "helper" in verse 18?

What does this tell us about the purpose of marriage in God's kingdom?

What basic aspects of marriage are noted in verse 24? Why is each one important?

What impact did the entrance of sin into the garden have on Adam and Eve's relationship?

What deeper issue did Adam and Eve's shame about their nakedness reveal?

How has the entrance of sin into the world impacted every marriage since Adam and Eve?

Where do you find gospel hope in these passages?

How does the truth of the gospel offer hope for every marriage?

The last two weeks we have reflected on Ephesians 5:22-33. How does marriage as a picture of the gospel change the way you think about the broken parts of your marriage?

How has Christ restored you to Himself in the midst of your brokenness? How do you need to extend this grace to your spouse?

APPLICATION

How has today's study given you new hope for the broken places in your marriage? How is God calling you to engage in the process of healing and restoration?