



“God’s Road to a Happy Marriage”

Pastor Bob Botsford

Message available at www.horizon.org/archive

Main Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Referenced Scripture: Acts 20:35, Genesis 20:6, Ruth 2:9, Proverbs 6:28-29, 2 Timothy 3:1-6 (NLT), Romans 13:8, 1 Corinthians 13:1-2, Philippians 2:1

OPEN:

1. What in particular spoke to you from Pastor Bob’s message?
2. In what way is marriage intended to be godly, sacred, holy, and righteous?

DIG DEEPER:

1. Pastor Bob shared a 9-point definition of marriage, pointing out that if we have no definition of marriage there can be no “guardrails” to protect us and marriage. Compare and contrast the world’s view and God’s view of marriage.
2. Included in our definition of marriage we find “Partners that support a God-honoring marriage-love & respect, forgiveness & grace, patience & praise, Christ & His Word”. What hinders people from applying these in their marriages? Which of these challenge you the most?
3. In **1 Corinthians 7:1-2** Paul addresses the issue of sex being meant for marriage. Why does God call those who are married to fidelity and those who are single to purity?
4. Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 7:3** that husbands and wives are to “render (give) affection (translated “debt”) to each other. What are some practical ways to “pay” that “debt” to your spouse? In what way is the power of love found through giving, and the proof of our love found in what we give?
5. Pastor Bob showed us that when giving stops loving stops; when loving stops caring stops; when caring stops living stops. How important, then, is giving? How have you seen the truth of this in your own life?
6. In **Philippians 2:1** Paul points us to consolation (encouragement), comfort, fellowship, affection and mercy. How do these serve to strengthen unity in the bond of marriage? Which ones challenge you the most?

REFLECT:

1. How has your marriage, or if single your attitude about marriage, been shaped more by our culture or by God’s perspective? What new understanding has the Lord given you about marriage or singleness through this study?
2. In what way are you, or not, making the most of who God has called you to be in marriage or in singleness?

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 20:25

“And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

