Course Schedule

Class 1: The Purpose, Power, and Paradox of Marriage
Class 2: The Shape of Marriage (Gen. 2, Eph. 5:22-33)
Class 3: Marriage and Sin (Gen. 3)
Class 4: Beauty in a Fallen World (1 Pe. 3:1-7)
Class 5: Grace in Marriage
Class 6: Communication
Class 7: Conflict
Class 8: Sex in Marriage
Class 9: Money in Marriage
Class 10: Children and Marriage
Class 11: Infertility
Class 12: The End of the Dream?
Class 13: Panel Discussion

Extra, Extra

A few really good books on marriage which you can get and read on your own…

- *Love that Lasts* by Gary & Betsy Riccuci
- *This Momentary Marriage* by John Piper
- *What Did You Expect?* by Paul Tripp
- *When Sinners Say I Do* by Dave Harvey

If you have questions or comments on this class, please contact Jamie Dunlop at jamie.dunlop@capbap.org or Mark Kalenak at mdkalenak@gmail.com.

Marriage Core Seminar, Class #1
The Purpose, Power, & Paradox of Marriage

I. Introduction

Goals for the course
1. To align our thinking about marriage with Scripture
2. To see the beauty of God's gift of marriage

How to make use of this class

- If you're not married

- If you are married

II. The Purpose of Marriage

The purpose for humanity

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" – Genesis 1:26-28

Three observations from this passage:

1. Our purpose as human beings
   - Perceive the glory of God
   - Portray the glory of God

2. This purpose applies to man and woman *together*.

3. We work out this purpose through filling the earth and subduing it (Gen. 1:28).

Implication: the purpose of marriage is deeper than the things it produces (e.g. children, companionship, community, etc.)

Marriage as a portrayal of God's love for us (Eph. 5:32). Who is watching this portrayal?
- You
- Your spouse
- Children
- Those around you

If God would be at the center of your marriage, you must remember that the purpose of your marriage is to perceive and portray *his* glory.

The purpose of marriage isn't fundamentally in what it produces but in what it shows—about God—to the two of you.

III. The Power of Marriage

"Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." – Genesis 2:18

The differences are the point of marriage…

…and yet the differences are what will drive you crazy.

A key task in the early years of marriage: learn to trust the differences between you.

IV. The Paradox of Marriage

They are different (Gen. 2:18, 20)…yet one (Gen. 2:24).

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed." – Genesis 2:24

- Leaving

- Holding Fast
  - Implication: fidelity to one another
  - Implication: reorienting to make your spouse primary

"It is not the same to say that you approach marriage as a lawyer, teacher, architect, or whatever you do. Married people are not to balance career with marriage, but to approach career as a married person." – Mike Gilbart-Smith

Three tools to bridge from Genesis 2:20 (husband and wife are different) to Genesis 2:24 (husband and wife are one flesh):
1. Roles
2. Communication
3. Sex

V. Conclusion