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 and Marriage
Class 10: Children and Marriage
Class 11: Infertility
**Class 12: The End of the Dream?**
Class 13: Panel Discussion

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A few good books on these topics

- *Divorce Recovery* by Winston Smith
- *Marriage: 6 Gospel Commitments Every Couple Needs to Make* by Paul Tripp
- *When Sinners Say I Do* by Dave Harvey (esp. the last chapter)
- *This Momentary Marriage: A Parable of Permanence* by John Piper

*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 #12
## *The End of the Dream?*

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Why consider this material?

- Your future might include these challenges.
- Others you love will face these things.
- We must keep mortality in view if we are to enjoy marriage as Jesus intends.

**I. Divorce**

God despises divorce (Mal. 2:16)

- As someone who knows this pain personally (Jer. 3:7-8)

A. What is divorce?

Biblically: the public and formal acknowledgement that the one-flesh union has been broken and the marriage covenant dissolved.

B. Why does God oppose divorce?

1. Because God is a covenant-keeping God. Mal. 2:14.

2. Because one of God's purposes for marriage is to produce Godly offspring (Mal. 2:15).

3. Because divorce destroys a picture of God. Matt. 19:1-9.

C. When does God allow for divorce?

When divorce would be a formal recognition that the marriage covenant has been broken.

Examples in Scripture:

- Sexual immorality (Matt. 19:9).
- Abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor. 7:15).
- Neglect (Ex. 21:10-11).

Applying Biblical teaching on divorce to an individual's situation requires a great deal of judgment and should always be done under submission to one's church, led by one's elders.

**II. Disillusionment**

Our culture's answer: admit "irreconcilable differences" and divorce.

The pain of a difficult marriage.

God's purpose for us to portray his goodness is not undone by a difficult marriage.

Example: 1 Peter 3:1-6.

Two ways our lives show off the goodness and glory of God.

- Thankful enjoyment when things are going well.
- Joyful trust when things are difficult.

*Reasons for hope in a difficult marriage*

- God will use all things for our good—no matter the source of the difficulty (Heb. 12:10-11).
- Faith-filled perseverance in love is deeply precious to God (Ps. 56:8).
- God will provide all that we need (1 Pe. 5:6-7).
- God may choose to intervene in this life (1 Cor. 7:16).

*Ways to help those in difficult marriages*

- Persistent prayer and friendship.
- Understanding.
- Encourage their faith (Heb. 10:24).

**III. Death**

How does this consideration change a marriage for the better? (Ecclesiastes 7:2).

A. Reminds us that we are **stewards**, not owners

1 Cor. 4:1-2.

B. Reminds us to **savor** the gift of marriage right now.

Ecclesiastes 9:9

1 Timothy 4:4

C. Helps us to **see** the eternal beauty that God is working into your spouse.

Changes how we view weakness (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

Grieving with hope (1 Thes. 4:13).

Death reminds us that true love always points beyond itself, to the one who gave it.