

Sacred Marriage (Part 1): *The Real Purpose of Marriage* (5:21-33)

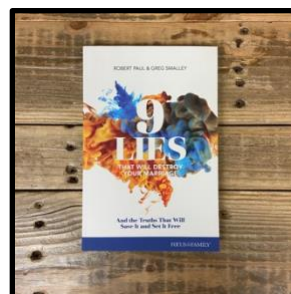
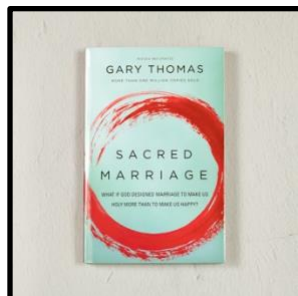
²¹ And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. ²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. ³⁰ And we are members of his body. ³¹ As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." ³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

For 20 Years Brittany and I have Enveloped Ourselves in Marriage Counseling.

- We've sought it as much as we have taught it
- We've needed it as much as we've shared it
- We've gained more from it than the cost of time, energy, and sacrifice to pour it into others
- We still seek it because of the unceasing blessings it offers in all of our relationships

Two Important Books

- **Sacred Marriage** by Gary Thomas
- **9 Lies That Will Destroy Your Marriage and the Truths That will Save It and Set it Free** by Robert Paul & Greg Smalley



Why do people get married?

The Purpose of Marriage is to Make You _____

“What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?”

1 Peter 1:13-16

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But **just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”**

- Set apart for a specific purpose...not common...but for a higher good or use
- To sanctify/purify you in a way that you can be light

Philippians 2:15-16

Become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

If you want to be free to serve Jesus, there’s no question—stay single. Marriage takes a lot of time. But if you want to become more like Jesus, I’ can’t imagine any better thing to do than to get married. Being married forces you to face some character issues you’d never have to face otherwise.

Gary Thomas
Sacred Marriage

Marriage _____ and _____

“Many marriages end in divorce largely because one or both partners are running from their own revealed weaknesses as much as they are running from something they can’t tolerate in their spouse.”

John 3:19-21

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Marriage is a Life of Practicing _____

“Couples don’t fall out of love so much as they fall out of repentance.”

Isaiah 30:15

This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, God, You will not despise.