



The Secret of Marriage

Jeremy Peters ~ January 6, 2019

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom"

Proverbs 9:10

Growing in a healthy fear of the LORD requires that we choose to interpret our experience through the filter of God's Word, instead of interpreting God's Word through the filter of our experience.

The Historical/Biblical View of the Purpose of Marriage

1. **Reflect Christ** and His sacrificial love for humanity.
2. **Refine Character** and become more like Jesus.
3. **Raise Children** in a stable, nurturing human community.

The Post-Enlightenment View of the Purpose of Marriage

1. Find your **Soul Mate** as evidenced by a willingness to 'accept me without trying to change me.'
Assumption: *If it's meant to be, it will be easy.*
2. Fulfill your **Sexual Desires** without restraint or strings attached.
Assumption: *Cohabitation improves the chances of finding a compatible partner who will meet my needs.*

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God's intention is to use your marriage to **re-shape** your heart through self-sacrifice. Mutual **sacrifice** leads to mutual fulfillment.

The most important thing about us is who we are becoming... and to become like Jesus is the best way to strengthen your marriage and relationships.

Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Questions

1. Tim Keller writes: "Marriage used to be a public institution for the common good, and now it is a private arrangement for the satisfaction of the individual. Marriage used to be about 'us,' but now it is about 'me.'" What are the implications of this cultural shift?
2. Why is a healthy fear of the LORD foundational for a thriving marriage? (Choosing to Listen, Trust, Obey as though you are **not** the LORD of your own life.)
3. How has God used your marriage (or if you're not married, how has He used a challenging relationship) as a means to re-shape your heart? Are you currently yielding to this work of heart formation (if so, how)?

Further Resources:

www.nationalmarriageproject.org

Books:

- "The Meaning of Marriage" – Tim Keller
- "Love & War" – John & Stasi Eldredge
- "His Needs, Her Needs" – Willard F. Harley Jr.
- "The New Rules for Love, Sex, and Dating" – Andy Stanley
- "People to Be Loved: Why Homosexuality is Not Just an Issue" – Preston Sprinkle

Right Now Media:

- "iMarriage" – Andy Stanley
- "The Mingling of Souls" – Matt Chandler
- "Love and Respect" – Emerson & Sarah Eggerichs
- "Marriage: Built to Last" – Chip Ingram
- "Grace/Truth 1.0" – Preston Sprinkle

Podcasts:

- Preston Sprinkle – "Theology in the Raw"
- Jon Tyson (Church of the City New York) "Controversial Jesus" sermon series.