

Recapturing Your Dream for Marriage

Part 1: Why Marriage is so Challenging



Challenges to Marriage

∞ Sociological changes



∞ Sociological changes

1900s	AREA OF CHANGE	2000s
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Home & family were highly valued■ Religion was an esteemed part of the culture■ Local/national influence	Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Home & family are devalued■ Religion should be kept separate from culture■ Global influence

∞ Sociological changes

1900s	AREA OF CHANGE	2000s
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Judeo-Christian ethic■ Emergence of national media (television, radio, internet) as the primary influence of world view	World View	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Ethics are seen as relative and subjective■ Dominance of national media in shaping world view

∞ Sociological changes

1900s	AREA OF CHANGE	2000s
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Commitment is valued■ Marriage is seen as an interdependent relationship■ Marriages roles were commonly accepted	Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Increase in divorces■ Independence is valued over interdependence in marriage■ Marriage roles are confused and challenged

∞ Sociological changes

1900s	AREA OF CHANGE	2000s
▪ Present and active	Fathers	▪ Passive and/or absent
▪ Valued and esteemed	Mothers	▪ Devalued and disparaged
▪ Blessing	Children	▪ Burden

∞ Sociological changes

1900s	AREA OF CHANGE	2000s
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Family life was imperfect but intact	Result	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Family life is fragmented and facing difficult challenges

Challenges to Marriage

∞ Sociological changes

∞ Gender differences



∞ Gender differences

Males tend to be...	Females tend to be...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ More achievement oriented■ More theoretical and generalist■ More information oriented in communication■ More action oriented■ More facts oriented■ More goal oriented	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ More relationally focused■ More specific and detail oriented■ More emotion oriented in communication■ More verbal oriented■ More intuitively oriented■ More supportive and nurturing oriented

Challenges to Marriage

- ∞ Sociological changes
- ∞ Gender differences
- ∞ Personality differences



Challenges to Marriage

- ❧ Sociological changes
- ❧ Gender differences
- ❧ Personality differences
- ❧ Past baggage



Challenges to Marriage

- ∞ Sociological changes
- ∞ Gender differences
- ∞ Personality differences
- ∞ Past baggage
- ∞ Spiritual deficiencies
 - Mark 7:14-23



Mark 7:14-23

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a man can make him ‘unclean’ by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him ‘unclean.’”

¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸ “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him ‘unclean’?”

¹⁹ For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods “clean.”)

²⁰ He went on: “What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean.’ ²¹ For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean.’”

Mark 7:14-23

God's Dream for Your Marriage: Oneness

✧ Genesis 2:24-25



Genesis 2:24-25

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

God's Dream for Your Marriage: Oneness

✧ Genesis 2:24-25



Movement Towards Oneness

- World's Plan: 50/50 Performance Relationship
 - “You do your part, I’ll do mine”
 - Basis for love & acceptance: performance



Movement Towards Oneness

∞ God's Plan

- “The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10)
- Basis for love & acceptance: a commitment to God Himself
- Advantages:
 - Divine accountability
 - Divine transformation
 - Divine promise to meet our needs
 - Divine empowerment

Conclusion

Amidst the challenges of marriage, establishing a relationship with God is a crucial element in recapturing our dream for oneness

