

Today's Message: "Trading Best Part 2: Healthy Marriage"

³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." (Ephesians 5:31-33, ESV)

Marriage Myths

- 50% of marriages end in divorce.
 - That is based on outdated projections. The real number is 20%.
- The divorce rate is the same for Christians as it is non-Christians.
 - Church matters to your marriage.
- Most marriages are unhappy
 - Very happy – 65%
 - Pretty happy – 32%
 - Not too happy – 3%

"One of the key factors that is identified by social researchers as to whether a marriage succeeds or fails is whether the couple has a sense of hope or a sense of futility."

**"The Good News About Marriage" by Shaunti Feldhahn.
Goodnewsmarriage.com**

"I do not believe that divorce is the greatest threat to marriage; I believe discouragement and loss of hope is." – Shaunti Feldhahn

²⁴ "For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."
(Romans 8:24-25, ESV)

Today's Message: "Trading Best Part 2: Healthy Marriage"

³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." (Ephesians 5:31-33, ESV)

Marriage Myths

- 50% of marriages end in divorce.
 - That is based on outdated projections. The real number is 20%.
- The divorce rate is the same for Christians as it is non-Christians.
 - Church matters to your marriage.
- Most marriages are unhappy
 - Very happy – 65%
 - Pretty happy – 32%
 - Not too happy – 3%

"One of the key factors that is identified by social researchers as to whether a marriage succeeds or fails is whether the couple has a sense of hope or a sense of futility."

**"The Good News About Marriage" by Shaunti Feldhahn.
Goodnewsmarriage.com**

"I do not believe that divorce is the greatest threat to marriage; I believe discouragement and loss of hope is." – Shaunti Feldhahn

²⁴ "For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."
(Romans 8:24-25, ESV)

Develop Godly Character

"We have to become the type of person that the person we're looking for is looking for. In every other arena of life, we prepare. But somehow when it comes to love and romance, there is an assumption that we don't need to *prepare*, but just *commit* ourselves. That somehow commitment will trump the needs for preparation. This is not simply a book for people who want to get married; it is for anyone who wants to have successful, long term relationships. I hope the primary takeaway of these teachings is that: people should focus on becoming someone instead of finding someone." - "Love Sex and Dating" by Andy Stanley

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:12-15, ESV)

3 Keys to a Life Giving Marriage

If you think something good, **say** it.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue,..." - Proverbs 18:21

If you think something special, **do** it.

- Purposeful time together
- Thoughtful acts

If you want something to be different; **be** it.

Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. React to this statement: "No matter our demographic, '**best**' fuels our addictions and our affairs, our dysfunctions and our disappointments, our anxieties and ambitions." Is there currently an area of your life that trying to be **best** has gotten the **best** of you?
2. Scott identified three Marriage Myths (they are on the flip side of this outline). Had you heard them before? Where? In your circles (work, school, neighborhood, etc.) what are people saying about marriage?
3. Read Romans 8:18 – 25. Why is hope such a powerful force?
4. What are your thoughts to this quote from Andy Stanley; "We have to become the type of person that the person we're looking for is looking for."
5. Scott mentioned three Keys to a Life Giving Marriage. Of the three which do you need to work on? Which do you tend to do best?

Develop Godly Character

"We have to become the type of person that the person we're looking for is looking for. In every other arena of life, we prepare. But somehow when it comes to love and romance, there is an assumption that we don't need to *prepare*, but just *commit* ourselves. That somehow commitment will trump the needs for preparation. This is not simply a book for people who want to get married; it is for anyone who wants to have successful, long term relationships. I hope the primary takeaway of these teachings is that: people should focus on becoming someone instead of finding someone." - "Love Sex and Dating" by Andy Stanley

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:12-15, ESV)

3 Keys to a Life Giving Marriage

If you think something good, **say** it.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue,..." - Proverbs 18:21

If you think something special, **do** it.

- Purposeful time together
- Thoughtful acts

If you want something to be different; **be** it.

Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. React to this statement: "No matter our demographic, '**best**' fuels our addictions and our affairs, our dysfunctions and our disappointments, our anxieties and ambitions." Is there currently an area of your life that trying to be **best** has gotten the **best** of you?
2. Scott identified three Marriage Myths (they are on the flip side of this outline). Had you heard them before? Where? In your circles (work, school, neighborhood, etc.) what are people saying about marriage?
3. Read Romans 8:18 – 25. Why is hope such a powerful force?
4. What are your thoughts to this quote from Andy Stanley; "We have to become the type of person that the person we're looking for is looking for."
5. Scott mentioned three Keys to a Life Giving Marriage. Of the three which do you need to work on? Which do you tend to do best?