

HTPC Marriage Class
Week 3: Sunday, April 3, 2022

Introduction/Brief Review

1. Vertical and Horizontal Intimacy

2. As If Not

3. Implications

Introduction to Doug Wilson's *Reforming Marriage* (pp. 9-12)

- A. Have you ever witnessed a true Gospel aroma in someone's home? What stood out?

- B. What have you noticed about counterfeits to such an aroma?

- C. Why the accent by Wilson on husbands? Men, pray we will take heed!

- D. What is the (honest, specific) spiritual aroma of your home? Gospel traffics in reality. It is big enough for the reality of our homes.

- E. PRAY.

Chapter 1 A Practical Theology of Marriage

1. **Foundations** (pp. 13-14). Wilson says a biblical view of marriage is an aspect of a biblical view of all things. How might this truth challenge ways in which we actually live our lives?

2. **The Covenant** (pp. 14-18). A. "Paul teaches us that we ought self-consciously to think of our marriages as dim pictures of the central marriage, that of Christ to His church. Depending on the marriage, that declaration is made poorly or well, but it is always made" (p. 12). This statement is a two-edged sword. Discuss its positive and convicting nature. B. Without getting into the details of the last name discussion, what important point does Wilson drive home? (esp. 1 Corinthians 11:11-12) (pp. 13-16)

3. **Purposes of Marriage** (See Westminster Confession of Faith, 24:2: "Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with legitimate issue, and of the church with an holy seed; and for preventing of uncleanness.")
 - A. **Helpful Companionship** (p. 19). "Marriage was created by God to provide companionship in the labor of dominion. [The man] needs a companion suitable for him in the work to which God called him. He is called to the work and must receive help from her. She is called to the work through ministering to him. He is oriented to the task, and she is oriented to him." (p. 19) This quote likely raises some questions. Taking into consideration the biblical freedoms and parameters that exist for married couples, what important truth does Wilson drive home which is increasingly forgotten in our day?

 - B. **Godly Children**. When you exchanged vows (or if you do exchange vows), did you think of yourselves that day as a new family which would, Lord willing, add other members? (p. 20)

 - C. **Sexual Protection**. (pp. 20-21) 1 Corinthians 7:2-5: "2 But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control." A. Discuss qualitative and quantitative protection. B. A Christ-centered marriage is one in which physical intimacy is rightly defined. How does this reality accent both Christ and life in his creation?