

Biblical marriage
phillip boshoff

discussion question

How would you describe a Biblical marriage? / What makes a marriage "godly"?

starting blocks

a: God is into marriage

¹⁸And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him..." ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

genesis 2:18, 24

starting blocks

a: God is into marriage

²²He who finds a wife finds a good thing,
and obtains favor from the LORD.

proverbs 18:22

starting blocks

a: God is into marriage

b: You want to do it the Godly way

c: You want to be the best possible husband
/ wife

holiness, not (merely)
happiness

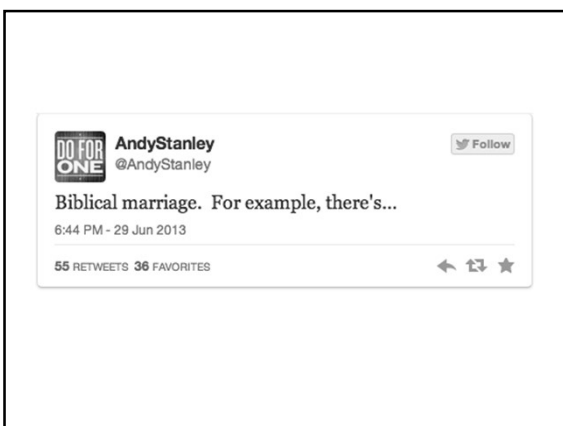
²⁵For husbands, this means love your wives,
just as Christ loved the church. He gave up
his life for her ²⁶to make her holy and clean,
washed by the cleansing of God's word. ²⁷He
did this to present her to himself as a
glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or
any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy
and without fault.

ephesians 5:25-27

holiness, not (merely) happiness

Questions

1. How has your marriage partner grown in holiness?
2. What are the areas your marriage helps you to realise you still need to grow in holiness?
3. Is there something in your marriage you'd like to speak so someone about?



1: initiated by God

... and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? ⁶So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

matthew 19:5

2: should be honoured by all

⁴Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled...

hebrews 13:4

3: marriage has order

²³For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

ephesians 5:23

4: marriage is temporal

²³The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, ²⁴saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. ²⁵Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother.

matthew 22:23-28

4: marriage is temporal

²⁶Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. ²⁷Last of all the woman died also. ²⁸Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her." ²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

matthew 22:23-28

4: marriage is temporal

A strange thing happened when Lisa and I started living with an eternal lens: it caused us to enjoy the here and now! Many people will tell you to focus on your marriage, to focus on each other; but we discovered that focusing on God's mission made our marriage amazing. This caused us to experience Jesus deeply—what could be better?

Eternal-mindedness keeps us from silly arguments. There's no time to fight. We have better things to pursue than our interests. Too much is at stake! God created us for a purpose. We can't afford to waste our lives. We can't afford to waste our marriage by merely pursuing our own happiness.

Francis Chan

5: marriage is a reflection of the eternal

³²This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

ephesians 5:32

implications

1. I can't expect my neighbour's marriage to look or work like mine. Similarly, my marriage doesn't have to look or work like my neighbour's
2. I can't expect my spouse to want our marriage to look and work like I want it to.
3. We have to see our marriage as a living relationship that we need to continually work out between the two of us and the Holy Spirit!

homework 😊

1. What strong feelings, thoughts or opinions do I have on marriage? Are these based purely on scripture, or on some other experience or book?
2. Do these strongly held views contribute to, or take away from, the joy in my marriage?
3. What eternal legacy would I like my marriage to leave?

Biblical marriage

"Even now, I am working to make sure that my family is set up for the future. When most people make that statement, they are talking about financial security for their last few years on earth. When I say it, I'm referring to the millions of years that come after that. People accuse me of going overboard in preparing for my first ten million years in eternity. In my opinion, people go overboard in worrying about their last ten years on earth."

Francis Chan
