

Discussion Questions

1. Why did you choose to get married (or why do you want to get married)? Is this a biblical reason?
2. How do you think most Christians would describe the purpose of marriage?
3. Were you encouraged or discouraged by the premise that marriage is a crucible in which we can learn more about ourselves and about God? What has been your personal experience in this regard?
4. What do you think of the critique of romantic love as the basis – or measurement of success – for marriage? How have your attitudes toward romantic love changed over time?
5. Do you agree that, in one sense, moderns ask too much of marriage? If so, in what way?
6. What has your marriage revealed to you about your sinful attitudes, selfish behaviors, and other character flaws? Why do you think marriage brings so many character issues to the surface?
7. If God is the One who ultimately fulfills us, not our mate, what contribution does our mate make to our life?
8. How do you react to the idea that God may have designed marriage to make us holy even more than to make us happy?
9. What aspect, event or element of your marriage has taught you the most about how God loves us?
10. How can a discouraged spouse directly apply the admonition to seek God in the midst of disappointments rather than to obsess over where the spouse falls short? What mental exercises would you suggest?
11. We contrasted a human-centered view of marriage (staying put as long as our desires and expectations are being met) and a God-centered view (preserving the marriage because it brings glory to God and points a sinful world to a reconciling

Creator). What most motivates you to maintain and preserve your marital commitment?

12. In your own marital experience, are you motivated more by what makes you happy or by what pleases God? How can churches support and encourage this latter and higher motivation?

13. What aspect of God's character would you most like your marriage to reveal to the world? How can you accomplish this?