

The Perfect Marriage

In The Ring, Part 1

Connect:

If you are at a friend or relative's house for dinner and your spouse finds a dead insect in his/her salad, what would they do?

If your spouse could do one thing over again this past week, what would they do differently?

Hook:

Think of that couple who you believe has a strong marriage. What makes their marriage strong? Is it a "perfect" marriage? Why or why not?

When God created man and woman, He arranged the perfect marriage with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Sin marred His perfect design, but the design is still there to give us a target we strive to hit. The foundation for a good marriage begins with understanding that this covenant relationship of marriage is to mirror the covenant relationship found in the Holy Trinity.

Book:

Then God said, "Let Us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. – Genesis 1:26-27

Look:

In what ways is the image of God reflected in the marriage union?

1. There is both a plurality and a unity in the Trinity. Is this also reflected in marriage? How?

Read Genesis 2:21-24.

In a strong marriage, how should a couple deal with being both an individual and "one flesh" at the same time?

2. There is perfect submission in the Trinity.

For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under His authority." (Of course, when it says "all things are under His authority," that does not include God Himself, who gave Christ His authority.) Then, when all things are under His authority, the Son will put Himself under God's authority, so that God, who gave His Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere. I Corinthians 15:27-28

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me. All that belongs to the Father is Mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever He receives from Me.' John 16:13-15

According to these two passages of Scriptures, is there an understanding of submission within the Trinity?

Read I Corinthians 11:3

Using the Trinity as our model (image), how should we define and reflect "submission" in marriage?

3. There is love in the Trinity.

I am in them and You are in Me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that You sent Me and that You love them as much as You love Me. Father, I want these whom You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they can see all the glory You gave Me because You loved Me even before the world began! "O righteous Father, the world doesn't know You, but I do; and these disciples know You sent Me. I have revealed You to them, and I will continue to do so. Then Your love for Me will be in them, and I will be in them." John 17:23-26

In Jesus's prayer for His disciples and for us, He stresses that the great love that His Father had for Him could be found in us...and of course in our marriages!

Read Ephesians 5:25-33 and discuss these questions:

How did Christ love the church?

How does a husband love his wife?

How does a wife love her husband?

Took:

When it comes to love, submission, and unity, what is your challenge right now in this season of life?

What first step do you need to take to better reflect the image of God in your life? In your marriage?