

God's good plan for marriage

Genesis 1.26-31; Genesis 2.15-25; Ephesians 5.22-33

[Link into series of talks](#)

[Books to recommend for this talk](#) (all excellent Christmas presents!)

Christopher Ash, *Married for God* (IVP) (2007)

Tim Keller (with Kathy Keller), *The Meaning of Marriage* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2011)

John Piper, *This Momentary Marriage* (Desiring God) (2009)

An opening word about failure and grace

(1) Like singleness, marriage is an important subject for everyone in a church family

(2) Only as Christians can we fully embrace marriage

(3) The purpose of marriage is to serve God and glorify him

- a) Biblical foundations for marriage in Genesis 1 & 2 – marriage is to serve God and glorify him

- b) To serve God in marriage means:
 - i. Seeing your marriage as not primary about you (beware idolatry of self)

 - ii. Having children if you are able, nurturing them so they learn to serve God and glorify him

 - iii. Proclaiming Jesus Christ

 - iv. Modelling God's pattern for the marriage relationship because:
 - a. It is God's pattern
 - b. It is the best way to help your spouse and your marriage serve God and glorify him
 - c. it is beautiful and attractive
 - d. It mirrors and points to the beautiful relationship between Jesus and his Church

What is God's pattern?

Why do we find this so hard to accept and embrace?

- (4) Marriage depends on Intimacy and a couple cherishing one another** (beware the idolatry of selflessness)

- (5) The heart of marriage is faithfulness, because faithfulness is the heart of God**

- (6) Marriage can be very difficult and painful and some marriages fail**

- (7) This momentary marriage compared to an eternal marriage to Jesus**

A concluding word about failure and grace

Three concluding suggestions:

- (i) If you are married, and it's appropriate, set-aside an hour this week to talk about your marriage in light of the Bible's teaching and pray together.
- (ii) For everyone, talk and pray about how as a church family we might better support and encourage married couple and families at Chalmers.
- (iii) For everyone, please take time this week to pray for and encourage, as appropriate, people you know in the church family for whom marriage is, or has been in the past, very difficult or painful.