

# MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

#5 'Confession & Forgiveness'  
Speaker: Auke Rienstra



# THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

The Biblical marriage is about:

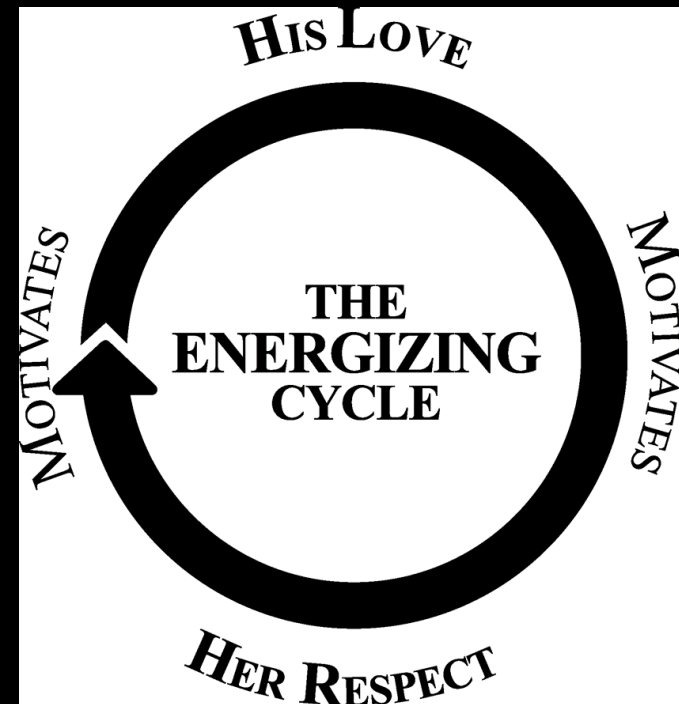
1. Reflecting God's image
2. To have (sexual) intimacy, friendship, partnership, fun and faithfulness *in service of God*
3. To display the Gospel



# LOVE & RESPECT

Love – Respect  
To Honor – to Submit

The opposites are Hostility and  
Contempt



# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Today we are going to talk about the power of confessing our sins and forgiveness



# WORLDLY VS GODLY GRIEF

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. – 2 Cor. 7:10

Godly grief and worldly grief produce very different things: repentance and salvation or death



# WORLDLY GRIEF

- Horizontal – sorry for being busted
- Emotional, not spiritual – impulsive, guilt feelings, lots of tears
- Passive towards the cause of sin – training instead of killing the lion
- Coward – full of pride, avoiding any responsibility and consequences (blame shifting, I'm sorry that you feel ...)





# ACCURATE DIAGNOSES ALWAYS PRECEDES EFFECTIVE CURE

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. – James 1:22-25



# ACCURATE DIAGNOSES ALWAYS PRECEDES EFFECTIVE CURE

- A thermostat, gauge and the Bible
- Any change in your marriage has to begin with confession
- Confession is the doorway to growth and change in your relationship
- 1 John 1:8 'If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.'





# GODLY GRIEF/REPENTANCE

- Has sight (prodigal son, Hebr. 4:12-13)
- Griefs (Jeremiah, Ezra, tax collector, Isaiah etc.)
- Is quick to admit wrongs (Ps. 32:5)
- Leads to action (Zacchaeus)
- Is ashamed (Ps. 31:1-4, Hebr. 12:2)
- Does not return to past



# FORGIVE

We are called to forgive as Jesus has forgiven us:  
Eph. 4:32, Col. 3:13



# FORGIVENESS IS:

Thomas Watson:

Q: When do we forgive others?

A: "When we strive against all thoughts of revenge; when we will not do our enemies mischief, but wish well to them, grieve at their calamities, pray for them, seek reconciliation with them, and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them."



# FORGIVENESS IS:

1. resisting revenge, (Rom. 12:9)
2. not returning evil for evil, (1 Thess. 5:15)
3. wishing them well, (Luke 6:28)
4. grieving at their calamities, (Prov. 24:17)
5. praying for their welfare, (Matt. 5:44)
6. seeking reconciliation so far as it depends on you, (Rom. 12:18)
7. coming to their aid in distress (Ex. 23:4)



# **FORGIVENESS IS NOT:**

1. Forgetting what has happened
2. The absence of anger at sin
3. The absence of consequences for sin
4. Ignoring what has been done to you
5. Keep placing yourself in harms way





# THE HARVEST OF UNFORGIVENESS:

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. – Gal. 6:7

- Immaturity
- Comfortable patterns
- Nurturing dislike
- Envy of other couples
- Bitterness



# SO WHY DON'T WE JUST FORGIVE?

Because debt:

- Is power (to get what you want)
- Is identity (you can be the superior one)
- Is entitlement (you owe me)
- Is weaponry (it's like carrying a loaded gun around)
- Puts us in God's position (of judging and punishing)



# WHAT FORGIVENESS REQUIRES

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.  
– Eph. 4:26-27



# WHAT FORGIVENESS REQUIRES

- Humility (we're part of something bigger than ourselves)
- Compassion (Rom 7, we're all wrestling)
- Trust (faith in God)
- Self control (not retaliation)
- Sacrifice (hard work instead of comfort)
- Remembering (our own sins and forgiveness)





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