

## Sermon: Uncovering Marital Wisdom [Proverbs Series, Choosing Wisdom]

TEXT: Proverbs 24:3-4 (plus others)

Introduction:

**What essentials must you go after in order to have biblical wisdom for marrying and staying married with passion and fulfillment?**

### 1. Pursue purpose before you pursue a mate.

- a. Where are you going in life? If you are unsure, how will you know when you arrive? Some say...I don't know, but I don't want to do it alone. We will figure this out together. And all of this sounds perfectly reasonable in our heads and in our emotions...almost. Don't be an idiot and don't marry an idiot. The most unloving thing you can do to someone else is to enter into a committed relationship with little or no direction.
- b. God gave Adam and Eve purpose before they were husband and wife. (Genesis 1:26-28; Gen 2:19-20)
  - They were first deployed to duties of dominion
  - Oneness followed responsibility
- c. Don't marry a person that is seeking their soul-mate. When you hear someone speaking this way, ... you are hearing "need", Why so foolish...because once you see what happens in Genesis 3 and beyond, you see that humans are messed up...and in great need of more. You will never be enough...why? Because you were never intended to complete another human being
- d. You were designed to glorify God as your ultimate purpose.

#### Matthew 5:16

<sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Your life whether single or married is for so much more than you. I'm convinced life and marriage seems so hard because we fail to realize on a moment to moment basis that God hardwired you for more than your happiness of "getting" ...and we constantly resist it..

### 2. You must build upon the only sure foundation of support.

Attitudes around marriage in today's culture is around extremes. One extreme is the minimization of marriage...that it is not important, has zero cultural meaning in a post-modern age.

Marital wisdom requires us to see that building marriage is like building a house. It requires getting the foundation established...the right one...NOT an emotional one, but one that flows from pursuing and working toward knowing and applying more truth. What did Jesus say..."if you abide in my word, you are truly disciples of mine and you will know the truth and the TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE!" John 8:32

### **3. Wisdom calls you to prioritize character over the Kool-Aid.**

Young and old, listen up – look for a generous woman and generous man. Do they serve others? Are they interested in giving time and attention with you in helping you and others? This is character...and the fruit of the Spirit is the best place to evaluate...

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; [Gal 5:22-23a]

### **4. You can build enduring passion through covenant commitment, not the fickleness of emotional desire.**

Get this down...your mate will change and to stay married...you will need to build on more than your changing emotions.

HOW do we build enduring passion with those we love?

#### **a. Get Love Rightly Ordered:**

- Love God – you are meant to fall in love and pursue love with someone far more beautiful than yourself, your girlfriend, your job. You have a vertical love that equips you to love others well.
- Love your neighbor (your closest neighbor) – Your spouse is your closest neighbor and quite literally may feel like the hardest person to love. You don't feel like it BECAUSE OF SOMETHING. Your vertical relationship with God will never be better than your relationships with others (even the most challenging ones),

The greatest gift you can give yourself if you are serious about life change in your marriage is for you to abandon the idea that your husband or your wife should love you more than anything or anyone else. Rather...pray and desire for God to draw your mate into a love relationship with HIM where he learns to love you best by loving God more.

#### **b. Keep Your Promise of Covenant Love.**

Christian marriage involves more than saying I do on your wedding day. Nearly everyone shows up at the alter in love. You will fall in love...but eventually in marriage you will face falling out of like. When you marry, you make covenant promises. This is an old word that means “bound together” — cleaving “like glue” ...it’s the chaining of the doors of every exit.

Lasting passion grows out of a tapestry of committed love.