



Marriage // The Struggle is Real // Part 1

Introduction:

This week Matt begins a new series called '**Marriage - The Struggle is Real**' with the message for **Part 1**.

What is this thing called marriage? Wedding ceremonies often use the Unity candle as a way to demonstrate the coming together of two individuals from separate families with all their differences. How that gets worked out is a challenge for all marriages. This week we begin looking at what the Bible says about marriage from God's perspective.

Questions:

1. What is a **Covenant Marriage**? What happens in a Covenant Marriage, what does it look like? How is saying yes in a Covenant Marriage saying no to a thousand other things? What is 'ahava' and how does that relate to a Covenant Marriage?
2. What is a **Contract Marriage**? How is a Contract Marriage different from a Covenant Marriage? How does this modern view of marriage make it all about individual gratification?
3. How is the first Biblical view that **Marriage is a Partnership**? What is the correct idea of the 'helper' God made for Adam? If God had already created all of the creatures on the earth, why wasn't it good for man to be alone? **Genesis 2:15-25; Genesis 1:26-28**

4. If the second Biblical view is that **Marriage is a Picture**, what is it a picture of? How is there a divine reality hidden in that metaphor? **Jeremiah 2:2; Ezekiel 16:8**
5. What's wrong with friendship with the world? What does God call turning your back on Him, being your own God, saying no thank you to His rule and reign in your life? **James 4:4**
6. How does God respond when you are unfaithful, does this response seem insane in a human relationship? Why is it important that God continues to pursue you, and renews His covenant, even when you turn your back on Him? **2 Timothy 2:13; Revelation 19:6**
7. Why did Matt say that you may not have a marriage problem, but you might have a Jesus problem? What can happen to your relationship with your spouse if you don't have an understanding of Jesus' love and grace and the identity that He alone provides? How does accepting the invitation from God free you to be the spouse God called you to be?

Key takeaway: *Are you putting a lot of crazy expectations on your spouse? Are you trying to get from your spouse what you can only get from God? You need Jesus on the throne of your marriage, only He can fill the void inside of you and help you tackle all that comes with the middle candle. Have you fully surrendered to Jesus?*

Summary:

- Covenant marriage, Ahava = the love of the will, giving of yourself
- Contract marriage, individual gratification is the focus
- Marriage is a partnership, why was it not good for Adam to be alone? A helper to make much of the truth, beauty and goodness of God in their union together.
- Marriage is a picture, human marriage is the earthly image of the divine plan.
- Turning your back on God is adultery not idolatry. Choosing the world over God.
- Where we are faithless He remains faithful, renewing His covenant.
- You don't have a marriage problem, you have a Jesus problem. You must find your identity in Him, not your spouse.

