



# CONNECTION

May, 2017

## “The Mystery of Marriage”

*31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (Eph 5:31–32 ESV)*

We are about to enter into the wedding season. Yes, people get married all year round, but most of them tie the knot during the summer months. Maybe you will be blessed to be a part of a wedding ceremony for someone close to you this year. I hope so!

Have fun! Delight yourself in the company of others! Enjoy the reunion with distant cousins and the music and the food! These are good gifts from our good God. In order that we may appreciate this blessing more fully, I encourage us to do these three things.

Honor marriage. It is an essential institution, ordained by God for the good of all people. A man and a woman are joined together by God, and all the world is to bear witness. *Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.* (Heb 13:4 ESV) We honor marriage when we keep our vows and encourage others to do so as well. We honor marriage when we uphold God’s design instead of our efforts to redesign. Let everyone pray for the couple standing before us, and for God’s hand to shape and to protect this precious institution.

Renew your vows. If you are married, listen carefully to the vows, and let them remind you of the promises you made to your spouse before God. Sometimes, the pastor leading the service will encourage people to do so. We celebrate anniversaries, and that’s a good thing. Some couples even schedule a public renewal of vows. That can be very meaningful to. Just remember, they are binding, even if we don’t formally repeat them. We remember that we stand in daily need of God’s grace, and we pray for His strength to remember our marriage covenant and to keep it.

Think on Christ. In Ephesians 5, Paul talks about marriage, and the mystery of two becoming one. The profound truth that is revealed in marriage is our union with Christ. He is the perfect Bridegroom. He pursued us when we were unlovely, unloving, and unlovable. He won us by giving His life for ours on the cross, and rising from the grave in victory. He has changed our hearts and filled them with new and growing love for Himself. Day by day, he is helping us grow into the people he has made us to be, while also causing us to become more and more like Himself.

So, enjoy the wedding. Look at the couple and honor them with your prayers and support. Look at your own spouse, if you are married, and renew your vows. And look into the eyes of Your Savior, who loves You with a redeeming love that changes all other relationships. Give thanks that He has made you His own, and that He will never leave you nor forsake you. This mystery is profound!

Yours, in Him

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave".

Pastor Dave

## Men' First Saturday Bible Study

May 6 at 9:00 am, in the Lounge.  
Galatians 2:10-21

Come join us for Bible study, sharing,  
spiritual conversation and prayer!

## Upcoming Sermons

May 7

Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
Luke 18:9-14

### **"The Poison of Self-Righteousness, and Its Cure"**

*But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:13-14)*

May 14

Luke 18:1-8

### **"Persistent Prayer"**

*And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" (Luke 18:1-5 ESV)*

May 21

Luke 19:11-27

### **"A Godly Investment Strategy"**

*As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. (Luke 19:11-15 ESV)*

May 28

Luke 20:9-18

### **"Rejection and Rebellion in God's Vinyard"**

*But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." (Luke 20:17-18)*

June 4

Pentecost Sunday

John 16:4b-15

### **"The Rich Man and Lazarus"**

*Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:7-11 ESV)*