**Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus: The Superiority of Christ In All Things**

**A Sermon Series Through the Book of Hebrews**

 **“Let Marriage Be Held in Honor Among All - Part 2”**

**Hebrews 13:4**

**The greatest testimony and the greatest opportunity in obedience to Hebrews 13:4 is seeking to hold my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ marriage in honor.**

**Many want marriage to do something that it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ intended to do and to give us things that it wasn’t intended to give.**

**Marriage is a wonderful and a beautiful gift from God but it was never designed primarily for our happiness, joy, or to complete us – those things only come to us through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Marriage was designed primary to make you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not happy.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a laboratory like no other where your faults are exposed and on display.**

**In a marriage, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - as God defines it - is not always something you feel but rather it is always something you must choose. Fundamentally, love is more action than emotion.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ love belongs in a marriage relationship but where we mess up is when we consider its presence as the only basis for our marriage commitment.**

**We must not define our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to marriage based on how ‘loving’ we feel at any given moment: feelings alone are destined to fail and fleet with time or just the day.**

**In order for our marriages to be what God intends them to be and to picture what God intends them to picture – His own love for us – we must give ourselves to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ love.**

**The marriage covenant between a husband and wife is to display the same things God shows for His people: grace, mercy, kindness, endurance, loyalty, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**For a married couple the wedding is not the finish line; it is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the real work to becoming less like ourselves and more like Christ.**

**Another way I can honor marriage by honoring my own marriage is by understanding who I am as a believer: a forgiven sinner always in need of God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The closer you get to the Lord and the more you are intimately walking with Him the more you are aware of your own sin and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for His grace.**

**Being aware of our sinfulness makes God’s grace \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to us. Being unaware of our sinfulness make God’s grace small to us. In a marriage if you are aware of your own sin and if grace is amazing to you then you are going to naturally be more willing to extend it to your spouse.**

**For the believer, gratitude (thankfulness) to God is the antidote and remedy to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**I cannot control what my spouse does but that’s not what God’s Word calls me to; instead God’s Word calls me to control what \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ do: love sacrificially and forgive like Christ.**

**Lastly, we honor marriage in your own marriage by putting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the center.**

**Marriage was designed by God to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in what Jesus has done, is doing, and will continue to do for those who are His.**

**I will love my spouse best when I love God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The power and motivation to keep loving and sacrificing, year after year, for a sinful imperfect husband or imperfect wife has to come from being so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in something outside of marriage: Jesus.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to have Christ at the center of your marriage: prioritize church for your family, prioritize Bible reading and study, prioritize prayer – for these are tools and modes that God has given to put and keep Himself at the center of our lives and our marriages.**

**God will bring all His people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. His goal for you believer is to make you less and less like self and more and more like Christ.**

**Marriage is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and beautiful gift, of which to praise God for.**

Blanks: own; was not; Jesus; holy; Marriage; love; emotional; commitment; covenant; perseverance; starting point; grace; need; amazing; sin; I; Jesus; rooted; most; satisfied; Fight; holiness; good;

**Congregational Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5: 22 – 33**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.