



Over the coming weeks we will dive into some Biblical principles that will help navigate those ups and downs in every relationship. The truth is every relationship, not just in marriage, has ups and downs.

How do we handle conflict in our marriage, because conflict will happen? How do we avoid the snares that are all around us, waiting to destroy our marriage?

This morning, I want to dive in and see that Marriage is a blessing!

Text: **Proverbs 18:22**

Why is marriage a blessing? Because...

I. It is God's idea not ours. – Vs. **Genesis 2:18-25**

A. It is a sacred covenant, not an invention of the church.

*“If God instituted marriage, then God is the one that defines marriage. When Jesus was asked about marriage in the gospels, he responded by referencing **Genesis 2**.”*
(Ref. **Matthew 19:4-5**)

B. It is a sacred covenant, not a contractual agreement.

“The marriage covenant was instituted before the fall of man into sin. It is a blessed union.”

II. It demonstrates Christ's love for the church.

– Vs. **Ephesians 5:22-33**

A. Human marriage points to our covenant with Christ.

“Now, here's what I mean by significance. God offers to husbands and wives the highest possible significance for their marriage relationship by showing them what its greatest and most glorious meaning is — namely, the replication in the world of the covenant relationship between Christ and his bride, the church.”

- John Piper

B. Human marriage points to the sacrifice of Christ.

(Ref. **Ephesians 5:26-27**)

“Do you know that he sees you this way right now? In Christ you are spotless under the shed blood of Christ!”

NOTE: Do you see yourself this way? Do you see your spouse, in Christ, this way? How much different would our marriages be if we saw one another as a new creation in Christ?

Application:

While marriage takes work and can be difficult, because we do not always walk as the Lord leads us to walk, as fallen man. Marriage is a blessing and should be celebrated as a gift! Start today to see your marriage as a blessing!

Also, because of the love and sacrifice of Christ, start seeing yourself as a new creation, cleansed of all sin, living in an eternity-long covenant with the Lord!