



Speaker: Wilson Adams

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Sacred Marriage

II Corinthians 7:1

A. When it comes to marriage, do we focus on the *symptoms* or do we address the real issue: *perfecting holiness out of reverence for God*? The meaning? God comes first.

1. Is marriage exempt from that or included in that?

2. Are you a _____-centered spouse or a _____-centered spouse?

B. The #1 motivating factor in all we do is reverence for God. Every decision I make (in anything) must flow from one holy motivation: _____.

I. The Call to Holiness

A. Why didn't God design marriage to be easier?

1. A big part of the problem is our tendency to base relationships only on romantic love. The problem? Romantic loves doesn't stretch very far. When stretched, it shatters (because it's all about *me*). On the other hand, holy love stretches farther than you think possible. Why? -Because it becomes all about *Him*.

2. That is why it is essential for both to embrace the higher calling to holiness.

B. Your relationship with God will outlast your relationship with your spouse.

1. Maybe marriage dissatisfaction runs so high because we expect too much. If you seek the largest proportion of life fulfillment from your spouse, you are asking too much.

2. Your spouse isn't God! -Only God can fill the eternal ache of the soul.

II. An Amazing Connection

A. Scripture often connects God's relationship with people to...*marriage*:

- Isaiah 62:5; Matthew 19:15; Matthew 22:1ff; Revelation 19:7
- Jeremiah 3:8
- Ephesians 5:22-33

B. The ultimate question— isn't what we think it is.

1. 2 Cor.5:9—is marriage exempt or included?

2. 1 Cor.10:31—is marriage exempt or included?

3. 2 Cor. 5:15—is marriage exempt or included?

C. The "ministry of _____..." 2 Cor.5:18

1. Does my marriage contradict my message?

2. A marriage that is God-honoring puts flesh to the picture of reconciliation because it models forgiveness, selfless love, and sacrifice. In other words, what we do for one another in marriage is but a small taste of what God does for us.

III. You Married _____

Do you really want trouble with your *Father-in-law*? (1 Pet.3:7)