



Grace Multiplied

New Relationships



Impacting the World and Reaching Highly Resistant People

Using our Freedom to act redemptively
in situations of division and conflict

1

Praying effectively \leftrightarrow Godly
Relationships

2

Explaining the good new of Jesus with
Words

Class Outline

October 1
Class Introduction

October 8
New Birth
(1 Peter 1:1-12)

October 15
New Life
(1 Peter 1:13-2:3)

October 22
New Purpose
(1 Peter 2:4-12)

October 29
New Freedom
(1 Peter 2:13-25)

November 5
New Relationships
(1 Peter 3:1-12)

November 12
New Confidence
(1 Peter 3:13-22)

November 19
New Urgency
(1 Peter 4:1-11)

November 26
New Reality
(1 Peter 4:12-19)

December 3
New Humility
(1 Peter 5:5-7)

December 10
New Destiny
(1 Peter 5: 1-4, 8-14)

1 Peter 3:1-7

3 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Theme

We exhibit our Christian Freedom first in our marriages and close relationships before we can impact those who are resistant to the Gospel

Agenda

What is the context of this teaching

Marriage is missional

Our relationships affects our prayers

Peter's teaching on marriage

Likewise



- This is a continuation of Peter's discussion of Christian Freedom
- The first application Peter gives for living out our Christian Freedom is our Marriages
- The things Peter is calling us to do, we do out of our Christian Freedom
- While God calls every marriage to how he designed it, this message is for those in Christian marriages



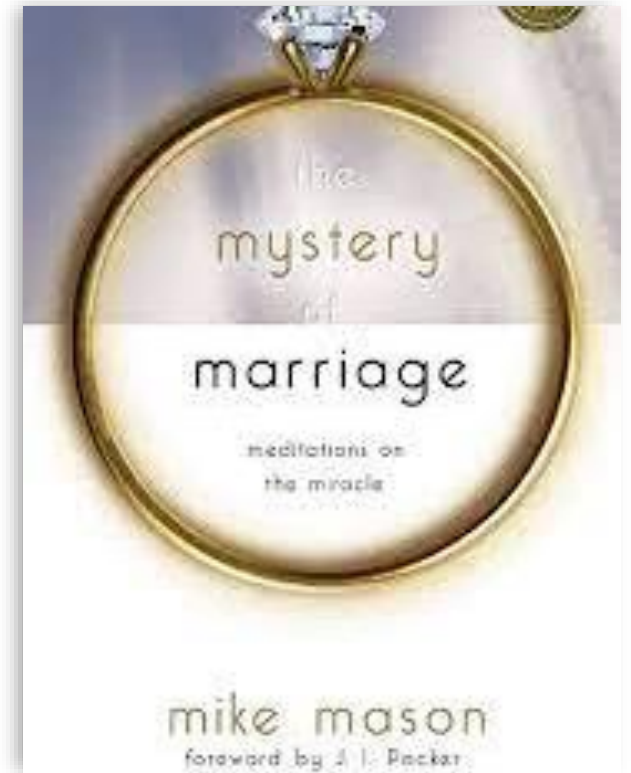
Marriage is Missional

- God has designed marriage to be an earthly reflection our relationship with Jesus
- If we can't act redemptively with the person we have chosen – we won't be able to do it with friends, strangers or enemies

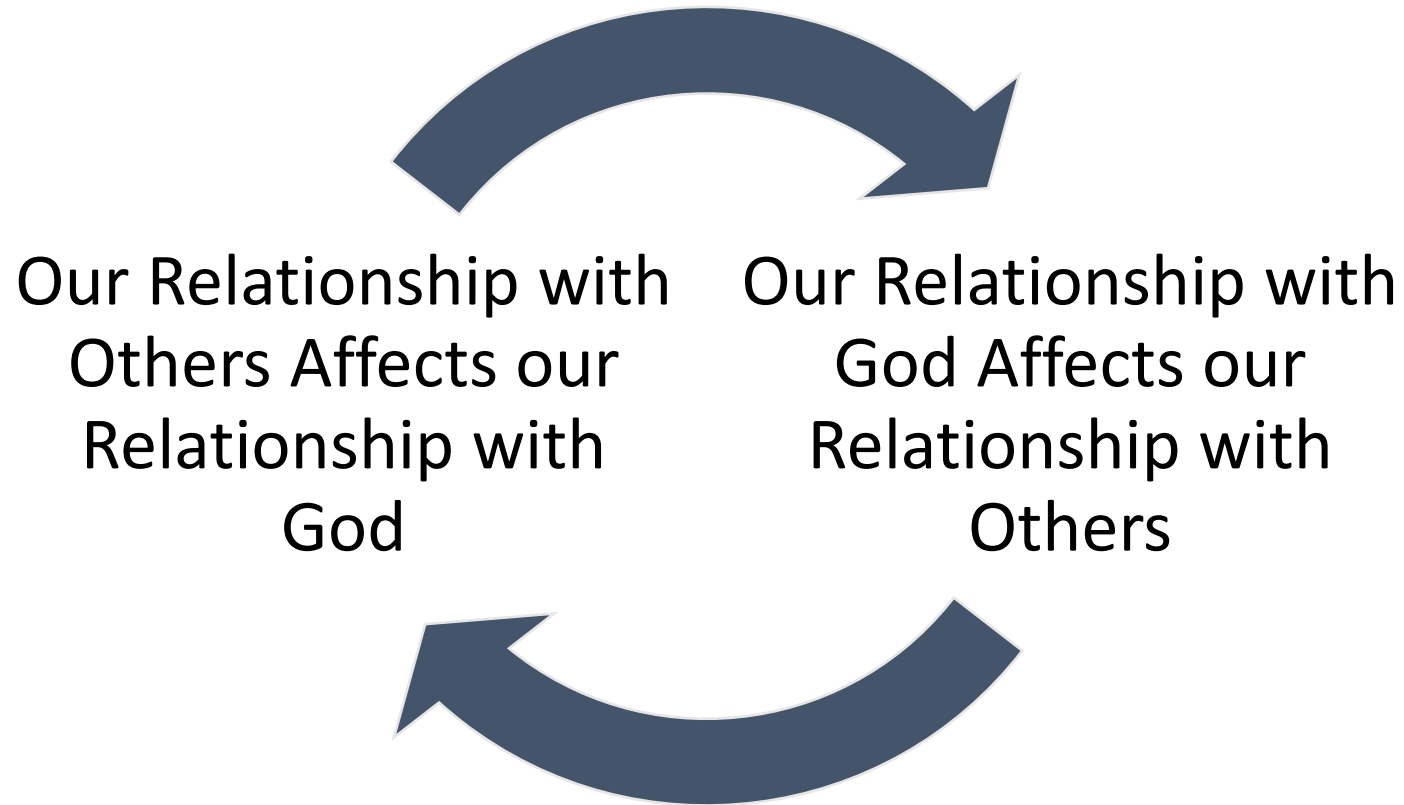
Marriage is Missional

- “That is how we must love one another with the vowed love not dependent upon happiness nor any of the external hallmarks of success. Where is such a love to begin if it does not begin with the one nearest to us, the life’s partner we ourselves have chosen out of all the other people in the world as the apple of our eye? If we cannot love our own favorite person through all the ups and downs and trials and changes than how will we ever love the poor and the unlovely and the forgotten of the world?”

Mike Mason – Mystery of Marriage



Our Relationship and Our Prayers



Does God sometimes tune out our prayers

- Does God hear any prayer offered by any person in any way at any time?
 - ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16
 - If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened; (Psalm 66:18)
 - ²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Keeping the channel of prayer open

- The way we treat other people affects our prayers with God
 - ⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)
 - ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (1 Peter 3:12)



Marriage Matters

- You don't have to be married to apply this teaching
 - Peter v. Paul
- You don't have to have a great marriage – John Wesley
- God's calling is start to impact the by honoring God in the unique setting of your home

Peter divides his advice to Women and Men

- God has created Men and Women with a vast variety of personalities, traits and talents
- Individuals and Marriages will differ in the degree that these characteristics apply to them.
- These differences can be manifested in very different ways within individual Christian marriages.



Similarities Between Men and Women

Equal before God

Both are to submit to God

Both are given the initial job description

- “Be fruitful and increase in number. Fill the earth and subdue it.”

Both reflect God’s characteristics

Both heirs to God’s Inheritance

- “since they are heirs with you of the grace of life”

We Split God's Qualities

Men

- Power and strength
- Moves into chaos to create order
- Sees the chaos in the world and enter it to create, shape and form
- A man courageously creates
- A man is to plant his stamp on ideas, objects, and institutions

Women

- Tenderness and mercy
- Shapes order into a connected beauty that reflects the relational heart of God
- Created with the physical and internal makeup to receive, nurture, and shape
- A woman is to incubate relationships

How do our
differences
translate into
how we relate?

Survey Question:

- “When you are in a conflict with your spouse, do you feel unloved or disrespected?”

MEN – 83% disrespected

WOMEN – 72% unloved

Biblical Authority (Ephesians 5)

Humility

- ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Sacrificial Service

- ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Never demanded always earned

Accountability

- ²⁷ and to present her

Prayer

Biblical Submission (Ephesians 5)

Humility

- ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Helper

- Working for them vs working through them

Respectfully confront bad behavior

Graciousness

Prayer



For Women

- What is God saying about submission through Peter and what does it look like in practice
- It is significant that Peter picks Sarah as his model for Christian wives.
 - She was strong-willed
 - She knew how and when to draw the line
- Both Abraham and Sarah made mistakes and she was put in many situations that must have seemed impossible



Ishmael & Isaac

- One mistake was her suggestion that Abraham should have a child by her servant Hagar
- It was born out desperation – God had promised that they would have a child but since she was old, she found that idea laughable
- She recommended the practical way and Ishmael was born
- God stepped in and fulfilled his promise and Isaac was born

Ishmael & Isaac

- This created great family conflict and Sarah decided it was time for Hagar and Ishmael to make their home elsewhere
- Abraham didn't like the idea at all
- Sarah was right
 - ¹² But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. (Genesis 21:12)



Sarah's example

- God does not want women to give unthinking, slavish obedience to their husbands
- God does not want wives to be cheerleaders when your husband is headed in the wrong direction
- There are times when wives need to say “I think this is wrong”
- What husbands need is the respect of their wives

Winning a Captive Audience

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

(1 Peter 3:1-2)

- Peter addresses the difficult situation that of a Christian Wife whose Husband Does not believe.
 - If a husband does not believe, he may accept your faith but can't understand your new life
 - The wife has an intense desire to share her faith with her husband

Winning a Captive Audience

- Peter makes it clear that the best strategy to winning someone close to you to Christ is through your actions not your words
- This can be applied to all close family members
- The fact that they are a “captive” audience make it a pressurized situation.
 - Don’t abuse the privilege of the captive audience
 - Pull back on your words
 - Let the quality of your life speak the Gospel to them

Lasting Beauty

³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

- Peter is not banning fancy hairstyles, jewelry or designer-label clothes
- Sarah as an example again:
 - ¹⁴ When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. (Genesis 12:14)



Lasting Beauty

- He is saying that your beauty should not depend on them.
- How you dress and how you keep your hair are important
- They will attract the attention of people
- However, the unfading beauty of gentle and quiet spirit will attract God's attention



For Men

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

- Your job is to know her and understand her
 - She has struggles, fears, hopes and dreams
 - What makes her happy and what hurts
- Don't let a friend or Counselor understand her better than you do
- Understand what God is doing in her life and live with her according to that knowledge



Strength & Honor

- Honor your wife with both time and money
- Speak to her in a way that makes her feel loved
- Be gentle, take initiative, be active in-home life
- Examine your relationship with your wife so nothing hinders your prayers
- Your relationship with your wife most times reflects your relationship with God

How to Spell Love to Your Wife - COUPLE

Closeness – she want you to be close

Openness – She wants You to open up to her

Understanding – Don't try to “fix” her, just listen

Peacemaking – She wants you to say “I’m Sorry”

Loyalty – She needs to know you are committed

Esteem – She wants you to honor and cherish her

How to Spell Respect to Your Husband - CHAIRS

Conquest-Appreciate his desire to work & achieve

Hierarchy-Appreciate his desire to protect & provide

Authority-Appreciate his desire to serve & lead

Insight – Appreciate his desire to analyze & counsel

Relationship – Appreciate his desire for shoulder-to-shoulder friendship

Sexuality – appreciate his desire for sexual intimacy

Our Relationships Matter

Marriage

God's blessing rests
on His family when
our relationships
are in good order
If we have broken
relationships, repair
those before
impacting the world

The Cross

If we treat those, we
love poorly, how does
it show others what
Christ has done for us
on the Cross

The Church

If we have damaged
relationship in the
church, how are
people able to see
what it will be like
when Christ returns

Next Week

Topic: New Confidence

Passage to Study - 1 Peter 3:13-22

Passage to Memorize - 1 Peter 2:16

- ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.