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Davis Wedding

Matthew 19:4-6

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

Why are you here? Why are you standing here in front of this beautiful fountain with your closest friends and relatives? You’ve heard it from your friends, parents, siblings, co-workers, and many more. You hear them complaining about their spouses—they joke about how horrible marriage is, and how they are completely miserable, or how they can’t stand the one they’re with. And you know they are kind of joking around, and aren’t all that serious, but you also realize that what lies behind their comments is real to some extent, they do feel that way at least a little bit. You realize that every marriage has problems and there are many of them that don’t end well. “So why bother” some are tempted to think, “why even get married, it just causes problems and often ends in heartbreak.”

And yet, you are here today to get married. Why? Because you realize that it’s God’s will for you to be married. And you could have done this any numerous ways. You could have gone to Vegas, you could have been married by a justice of the peace at a courthouse. But you didn’t.

Here you stand in front your many of your friends and relatives and you have graciously invited me to be part of your special day. Not because I’m so cool, or funny, or simply because you like me. But you wanted me to share God’s Word with you. You want Christ to be the center of your wedding as he will be in your marriage.

It is the Lord who realized that it is not good to be alone, nor is it good to burn with passion. And so he instituted marriage for our benefit. It is he who joined Adam and Eve together in the Garden of Eden, And he made you, Kevin and Jennifer, to be perfectly compatible for each other. And so it is the Lord who also joined you two together for your benefit.

And as Jesus says, **at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one**

Holy Cross, Standish, MI

June 18, 2016

flesh.’ That is the very definition of marriage—two becoming one, becoming united together. The word that is translated as “united” there means to bind closely, to fasten. It has the connotation of gluing something together. You take two boards, two pieces of wood and glue them together—and they are united together, the two separate pieces are now one piece, stronger, more durable, able to do more things. That is you now that you are married. No longer two separate human beings, but one. You are inseparably connected. There is no longer a “Me and You” but a “we and us.” Your two have become one, for the rest of your lives you are together. The Lord has graciously bound you together in this one-flesh relationship.

Everyone wants their marriage to be nothing but fairytales and fantasies. But as you already know all too well, you are marrying a sinner, and you yourself are a sinner. You won’t always get along, you won’t always see eye to eye. There will be disagreements, arguments, and at times, fights. 20 years from now you won’t look the same, you’ll probably gain some weight, lose some hair, and have a health problem or two. You may have to endure financial issues, or other problems are going to come up that put stress on your relationship and cause burdens in your lives.

But those aren’t excuses, those are opportunities. Today, you stand before God and a hundred witnesses and promise to be faithfully united as husband and wife until death. And that is what a marriage is—the commitment to live together as one for the rest of your lives. And because that is the basis of marriage you know that your marriage will last. Attraction may fade. Love comes and goes. Something may happen that leads to little joy in your marriage—but your commitment before the Lord still stands. You remain one in flesh with each other. So you use those hard times to strengthen your marriage, to grow closer together. For it’s never you against her, or you against him; it’s not you vs. me, but us together. There is no “winning” an argument with your spouse. Because you are now one flesh, you are only arguing against yourself; when you hurt your spouse you only hurt yourself. You are now in this together till death, and you will work together as a couple to grow together.

And the best place to start is in the Lord! When you sin against each other—and you will do that on numerous occasions—instead of

retaliating, looking to get even, or start yelling and complaining at each other, instead show love—not really so much a feeling or emotion as it is an attitude that leads to action. It is love that led Christ to die on the cross. Sin separates us from God. But Christ removed all of our sins by suffering our eternal damnation as he took our sins upon himself. And so he restores you to a right relationship with the Father; and makes you at-one with him once again as his forgiven—pure and holy, dear child.

Your love for each other models this love that Christ has for the Church. That is a selfless love that led him to give up his life so that we might live. It is a selfless love—caring about each other more than anyone else, and being willing to put yourself and your wants behind those of your spouse and what is good for your marriage together. It is a love that starts with forgiveness. Forgive each other freely and often—whenever you are sinned against. Assure each other that your sinful actions will not be held against one another.

And there is another way you can be in the Lord—especially with your family: worship together, read God’s Word together, have family devotions, and pray together. No couple has ever said to their pastor, “you know, our marriage started falling apart when we started reading God’s Word together.” That just doesn’t happen—the opposite is actually true. Those who drift away from the Lord often start drifting away from each other, but the family that grows in the Lord grows closer together. Think of Christ as the glue that holds you two together. In him you are united and in him you remain as one. As you grow in knowledge and in the love of the Lord, the love you have for each other will only increase and your bond becomes even tighter.

Why are you here—with all the problems facing a marriage, and everyone who gives marriage a bad name—why are you here? Because the blessings far out-weigh the issues. Christ has united you two together as one. You know that, that is why you desired to share God’s Word and focus on Christ for your wedding. Since he has united you together as one, continue to make him a priority in your life together, continue to live in his love all the rest of your days. And when you do the Lord will bless your marriage both now and for the rest of your lives. Amen.