

Saturday & Sunday, January 6 & 7, 2018 - "Resolve Week 1 - The Truth About Marriage" - Roc Bottomly

Key Passages: Ephesians 5:15-33

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- 3 things here at Grace: 1. Divorce Care 2. Love After Marriage (10 week workshop) 3. Getting God's Direction (work-sheet)
- Truth #1: Marriage is a very good thing
  - If we do it God's way, marriage can be very good
  - Jesus came to give us a new heart and to transform us from a taker into a giver
  - When we don't do it God's way it can be very painful
  - Wonderful Oneness
    - Peace - Devotion - Intimacy - Unity - Permanence
    - Submit = to place oneself under another
    - It's about priority. A husband/wife becomes the most important thing to the other
  - Resolution: GO FOR IT!
- Truth #2: Marriage is a very big thing
  - It is the first/primary way and place that God changes and grows us
  - It is a source of joy and delight (if we do it God's way)
  - Ephesians is really big picture about what God wants us to do in our lives
    - Being changed from children of evil → children of God
    - To be transformed and be part of the kingdom
    - The first place God goes with these ideas is husbands and wives
  - Reslution: FOCUS ON IT
- Truth #3: Marriage is a very hard thing
  - We need a new heart to even do it
  - We need to be taught and to learn
  - "because the days are evil" = watch out, it's dangerous out there
  - There are powerful things working against us
  - 3 Dangers: 1. Depravity (our sin and tendency to want to destructive things) 2. Damage: Things that have happened to us and prevent us from giving/receiving love) 3. Demons: Lies, temptation, discouragement ("the jungle is not neutral")
  - Resolution: DEAL WITH THE DANGERS
- Truth #4: Marriage is a very God thing
  - Allowing God to have His way in our lives
  - Asking God to speak to us through His word
  - Paragraph 1 in Ephesians 5 is all about us and God (that's where it starts)
  - Nominal religion or christianity s of no value whatsoever
  - Resolution: DRAW NEAR TO GOD
    - Deal with what's creating distance between us and Him
    - Make space to hear from Him

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does it mean that God has given you a new heart? How have you experienced this in your marriage or otherwise?
2. How is God calling you to GO FOR IT/FOCUS ON IT/DEAL WITH THE DANGERS in regard to your marriage?
3. What will it look like for you to draw near to God in 2018? What are some things you need to do or change?
4. When was a time you felt like God used your marriage or husband/wife to change or grow you?
5. If you're comfortable sharing, when was a time you didn't experience all God has to offer because you weren't doing something His way?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

**Mon: Romans 6 Tues: Romans 7 Wed: Romans 8 Thurs: Romans 9 Fri: Romans 10**