Disciple Group Leaders,

When you get married, regardless of what music you use or the readings you read, you promise “til death do us part.” The reason marriage was intended to be permanent is because God’s love for us is permanent. In Duval county the divorce rate is over 75%. In 1973 no fault divorce became legal and the landscape of our country changed.

What does the bible have to say about “til death do us part?”

In our text Song of Solomon 8:1-7, the main thrust is about the permanence of marriage. This weekend I’ll unpack it verse by verse like I always do, but verse 6 is the heart of the text. Just like hell and death does not give up its dead so a marriage does not give up.

We’ll walk through how to fulfill “til death do us part.” That isn’t the goal, it’s the foundation. It’s not enough to just want to stay married for the sake of staying married. It’s much bigger than that. A lifetime of marriage is the foundation on which your relationship is built.

So what happens if we parted before death? What do the divorced people do? When is it ok to divorce?

We’ll hop out of Song of Solomon and go through 1 Corinthians 7, Matthew 5 and 19 to unpack divorce and remarriage.

It’ll be messy.

Pastor Joby
TEXTS: Mark 10:6-9

BIG IDEA: With faithfulness and fidelity as the foundation of your marriage, your love and intimacy will grow as a result.

One Degree Follow Up (5 minutes)

LAST WEEK: Tonight, pull out your calendars and plan a time of creativity and renewal of passion this week. Plan a creative date night with your spouse, an intimate time with Jesus that is outside of your normal schedule, etc. and execute the plan! Growing old together in your marriage or growing in your faith is not supposed to be boring and monotonous!

Accountability Questions

1. How was your time of passion renewal this week?

2. What did God show you through that time?

The Recap (10 minutes)
This past week, Pastor Joby walked through Song of Solomon chapter 8:1-7 to discuss the faithful commitment of “till death do us part” in a marriage covenant. Marriage is designed to be a permanent and transformative binding of souls between man and woman until death do them part. The very vows that are said at a marriage union are built on the foundation of lifelong faithfulness and love. Since two become one in the covenant of marriage, divorce is painful because it rips one soul from another. Whether married on a strong foundation, building one now, or living in the memory or pain of divorce, God is with you and is in the business of healing and restoring.

Questions (From the Weekend Sermon)

1. How can you do your part to lay faithfulness as the foundation of your marriage?

Teaching & Dialogue

*Have someone read Malachi 2:13-16 out loud.*

In the United States a divorce occurs every 10 to 13 seconds. Half of all marriages end in divorce and statistically faith shows no preference. The issue is not that people do not
love one another when they get married; but it is that the attitude of society toward mar-
riage and its longevity has changed. In today’s world, divorce is now a right that comes
with marriage. There is flexibility in marriage now that God never intended.

Unfortunately even with such a stern warning from God, marriage after marriage con-
tinues to end in divorce. Do a Google search and hundreds of titles pop up about the rea-
sons for divorce. Lack of commitment, poor communication, too much arguing, infidelity,
getting married too young, unrealistic expectations, etc… the list goes on and on. People
seem to have isolated the issues and clarified the problem but still can’t seem to plug the
proverbial hole in the sinking ship.

If God’s plan is for marriage to last until death, isn’t it safe to say that He doesn’t just
want our marriages to survive, but to thrive? Let’s look at a biblical model for a thriving
marriage.

*Have someone read Mark 10: 6 out loud.*

Jesus said that God created them male and female. He’s referring to Genesis 1:27 where
it also says they were created in God’s image. So we see that all men and all women
were created to be like God but also different from each other. He created us different
enough from one another for a reason, yet like Him for a reason as well. In order for a
marriage to thrive we must celebrate our image and commonality with God and our dif-
ferences and the uniqueness of our spouse.

*Have someone read Mark 10:7 out loud.*

The Bible instructs that a man should “hold fast” to his wife. With never ending tasks and
duties that fight for our time is it possible to stay connected to your spouse? Sometimes
marriage can seem like a walk on the beach on beautiful summer day. Sometimes mar-
riage can be like a walk on that same beach in the middle of August in a Category 5
Hurricane. Life ebbs and flows and storms come and go but through it all we must “hold
fast” to our spouse.

Holding fast is not just about a destination, but it’s about the journey. It is about doing
everything in order to hold one another up. It is not just about holding onto one another,
but even more importantly it’s about securing one another to God.

*Have someone read Mark 10:8 out loud.*

In this verse Jesus is again referring to Genesis in chapter 24 when He says they would
become one flesh. What He is saying is that not only would a husband and wife make
a life together, but the two would join together as one person. Marriages that thrive are
built on intimacy, balance, sacrifice, and oneness.
Have someone read Mark 10:9 out loud.

Finally, this verse tells us that man must not separate, destroy or break up what God has joined together. If we go into the covenant of marriage with the mindset that “divorce is not an option”, it tends to laser our focus on making our relationships work. Going back once again to the biblical definition of love is commitment. Love is an action, love is a choice, and love is a commitment.

Questions and Application

For those that are married:

1. How would you describe a thriving marriage? How is this different than surviving marriage?

2. How can our likeness to God and our differences from one another cause our marriage to grow?

3. What does it mean to “hold fast” to your mate? How do you practically do that?

4. Why do you think Jesus emphasized the importance of becoming one with your spouse?

5. How does the enemy attack your marriage to try to break you apart?

6. How do you think your view of divorce impacts your marriage?

For those not married:

1. How would you describe a thriving marriage? How is this different than surviving marriage?

2. How can you practice faithfulness in your life now that can prepare you for marriage?

3. How can you flee from sexual immorality now to prepare intimacy for a future marriage? Why is this important?

4. How do you think your view of divorce impacts your view of marriage?
As a group, read and discuss the following.

**Practical Aspects of Faithful Commitment**

1. **A Oneness of Identity**  
   - Understand your identity in Christ first, then your identity as one with your spouse.

2. **Sealed Together Permanently**  
   - Remove all things from life such as flirting, lust, etc.

3. **Righteous Jealousy**  
   - Wanting what is rightfully yours. A strong desire to keep others from taking away what God has given you. Guardrails that protect each other from sin with opposite sex.

4. **An Unquenchable Perseverance**  
   - Choose to persevere no matter what calamity; cling to one another.

5. **A Treasured Possession**  
   - No job, career, etc. is worth losing your spouse over. Fight for one another as you would a treasure. Marriage and your spouse are gifts.

6. **Foundation for “Till Death Do Us Part”**  
   - Faithfulness and fidelity result in growth of love and intimacy.

7. **Making One Self Totally Available**  
   - Not making plans without considering spouse  
   - Not dreaming dreams that exclude your spouse  
   - Not making decisions that don’t accommodate the needs of your spouse

**Moment of Truth:**
Staying married from death till us part isn’t about just surviving a marriage. God’s plan is that our marriages should be thriving. A thriving marriage is only possible with God at the center.

**One Degree Turn:**
Pick up a copy of The 5 Love Languages by Gary Chapman. If you’re married, getting married or in a dating relationship put a date plan together to read the book together. During each date spend some time discussing each aspect of the book and how you can implement these practices of communication in your relationship. If you are single, read the book on your own and consider ways you can communicate love to others in their language.