



January 31, 2021

Pastor Matt Doan

## Marriage Matters Hebrews 13:4

### What God Says About Marriage and Sexuality Hebrews 13:4a and Genesis 1 and 2

Hebrews 13:4a – *“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled.”*

- What God says about Marriage
  - Genesis 1:26-29; Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 10:5-8; Ephesians 5:31-33
  - Hebrews 13:4a
    - *“...held in honor...”* (precious, valuable)
    - *“...among all...”* (the important role of the church family in supporting individual marriages)
- What God says about Sexuality
  - Created by God (Genesis 2:24)
  - For enjoyment in marriage (Song of Solomon)
  - Reveals what we worship (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)
- Marriage and sexuality aren’t to be idolized but also aren’t to be minimized

### Truth and Lies Hebrews 13:4b and Genesis 3

Genesis 3:1 – *“Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”*

- Lie #1 - Did God really say that? (Genesis 3:1a)
- Lie #2 - God is holding you back from good things (Genesis 3:1b)
- Lie #3 - Go hide in your shame (Genesis 3:7-13)
- Truth #1 - God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers (Hebrews 13:4b)
- Truth #2 - On the cross Jesus took on the penalty and judgement for our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21)

### Holy and Healed 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

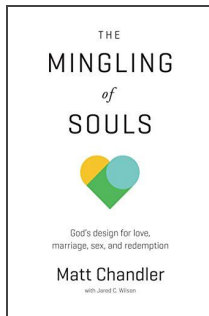
1 Corinthians 6:11 – *“Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*

- Repent of past sexual sin
- Receive forgiveness and grace from Jesus
- Renew your commitment to honor God with your body
- Resolve to walk in sexual holiness
- Reignite intimacy in your marriage

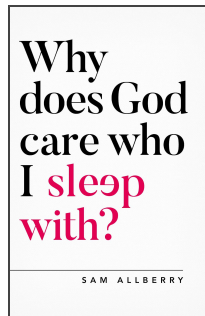
# DIGGING DEEPER - Part I

## Follow-up Resources from Today's Message:

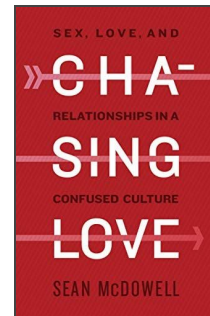
Visit Calvary's Corner Books & Coffee to find these titles, and more, to help you grow in this area.



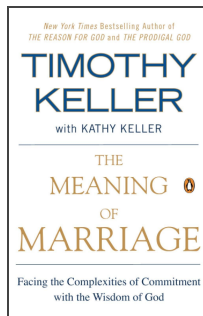
**"Mingling of Souls"**  
by Matt and Lauren Chandler



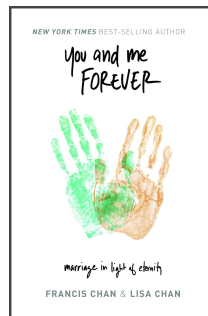
**"Why Does God care who I sleep with?"**  
by Sam Allberry



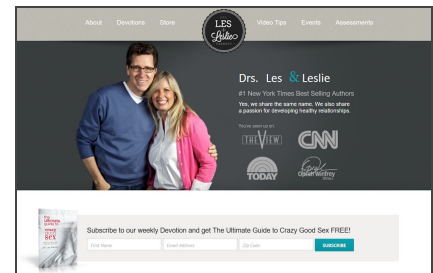
**"Chasing Love - Sex, Love and Relationships in a Confused Culture"**  
by Sean McDowell



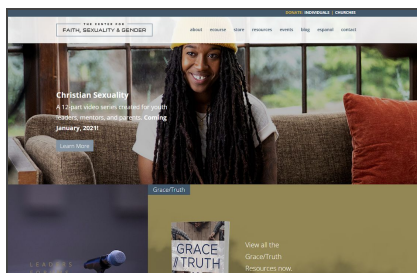
**"The Meaning of Marriage"**  
by Tim and Kathy Keller



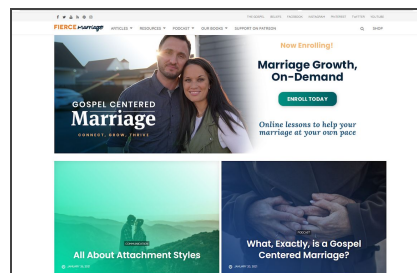
**"You and Me Forever"**  
by Francis and Lisa Chan



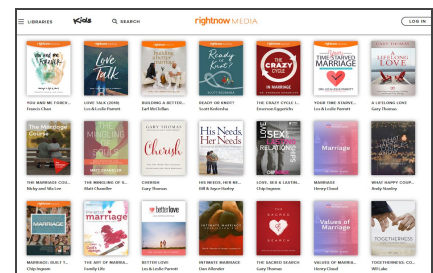
Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott  
[lesandleslie.com](http://lesandleslie.com)



Preston Sprinkle:  
[centerforfaith.com](http://centerforfaith.com)



Ryan and Selena Frederick:  
[fiercemarriage.com](http://fiercemarriage.com)



Right Now Videos on Marriage:  
[rightnowmedia.org/Content/Channel/424](http://rightnowmedia.org/Content/Channel/424)

## Great thoughts from Author, Sean McDowell in

### *"Chasing Love: Sex, Love, and Relationships in A Confused Culture"*

**First**, the Bible begins and ends with a marriage. In the beginning, Genesis 2:24 describes how the man leaves his father and mother and becomes "one-flesh" with his wife. The word *wife* makes it clear that the context is marriage. The Bible also ends with the "marriage of the Lamb" in which the Church (the "Bride") is beautifully presented to Christ (the "Lamb").

**Second**, the longest chapter in the Torah is about marriage. Genesis 24 records the story of Isaac and Rebekah. These sixty-seven verses describe how the servant finds and convinces Rebekah to go with him to become Isaac's wife. This chapter is longer than any other in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy.

**Third**, the ten commandments value marriage. The fifth commandment is the first that involves human-to-human relationships: "Honor your father and your mother." The seventh commandment is not to commit adultery, which was between a woman and anyone else besides her husband. And the tenth commandment, which is to not covet, specifically mentions "your neighbor's wife" (Exodus 20:17). These three commandments indirectly highlight the nature of marriage and its importance for a civil society.

**Fourth**, Jesus believes God designed marriage. When asked about divorce, Jesus responds by pointing back to God's original design for marriage in the Garden (Matthew 19:3-6). After citing Genesis 1:27 and 2:24, Jesus concludes, "What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate" (v. 6b). Jesus affirms that God intended marriage between a man and a woman to be *for life*.

**Fifth**, God chose marriage as the primary metaphor to describe His love for the church. In the Old Testament, marriage is a metaphor describing God's relationship to Israel. God did not merely have a legal contract with Israel, but He created a loving covenant with them that was depicted through marriage. This is why Israel's unfaithfulness to God is often compared to adultery.

Yet in the New Testament era, marriage between a husband and wife serves to depict Christ and His love for the church. The union of a man and a woman depict the *greater* union of Christ and His followers. The apostle Paul cites Genesis 2:24 and indicates that there is a mystery behind the marital union: "Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:31-32).

Yes, Marriage Matters to God

Since marriage matters to God, it should matter to believers too. For starters, we need to get the *nature* of marriage right. If we misrepresent God's design for marriage, then we distort His means of revealing His love for the church. Second, if we want the world to understand God's faithful love, we need to *model* that faithful love in our marriages.

Marriage matters a great deal."

# DIGGING DEEPER **Hebrews 13:4 - Part II**

**1 Preparation** If possible, find a quiet and comfortable place. Rid yourself of distractions such as your phone, television, school work, interruptions from others, etc. Open yourself to God and intend to learn from Him. *"Lord, here I am, I present myself to You. Open my heart to the truth of what is going on in my life."*

**2 Read the Text:** Read **Hebrews 13:4** a few times until you have a clear understanding of the passage.

**3 Contemplate + Journal** Spend time thinking about and journaling your thoughts to the following questions. If you meet with a LifeGroup, you can also share your responses with them and have a great discussion.

- What is a word or phrase the Lord impressed on you in this time? Meditate on that.
- Ask the Lord, "Lord, what is my current view of marriage? Is it in line with your plan and purpose of marriage? How is it the same, how is it different?"
- Ask the Lord, "Lord, what is my current view of sexuality? Is it in line with your design and purpose of sexuality? How is it the same, how is it different?"
- How and what do you feel? Is there a specific situation in your life that relates to this passage today? Pray through this for a moment.

**4 Praise + Worship** Worship is an act or mindset shift that realigns us to the reality of who God is. Find this song on Spotify, YouTube, AppleMusic, etc. and the lyrics if you would like to read or sing along. Make this song your prayer and declaration of praise and worship as you hear truths being sung over you. Allow the Lord to minister to your heart in this time. **Song Recommendation:** ["Have My Heart" by Elevation Worship](#)

**5 Closing Prayer** Spend some time in prayer. Whether it is simply sitting in God's loving presence, expressing thankfulness and gratitude, and/or offering up supplication, pray what is on your heart.

**6 Blessing** *May you lean into God's perfect plan and design for marriage and sexuality and, as you lean in, may you trust His good purposes for you and your life.*

**Your Response Today:** Do you want to take a next step in your faith, ask for prayer, or learn more about following Jesus? Take a moment to fill out our online connection card by texting **"Card"** to **970-00**

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