

I WANT A NEW MARRIAGE

Big Idea

This weekend we continued the series with a message called **Busting the Culture Mold**. The way to a new marriage is not getting rid of your current spouse for a new one. A new marriage will take a new **YOU!**

Culture's attack on God and specifically on Godly marriage is not new. *The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." ...Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? The 'foolishness' of God is wiser than man's 'wisdom', and the 'weakness' of God is stronger than man's 'strength.'* (single quotes added for clarity) 1 Corinthians 1:18-20, 25

PC said that some of the teaching would sound foolish to some in the world and would call it "being progressive" which becomes prevailing thinking. Some in the church may even have embraced culture's view on marriage. How can we distinguish foolishness from wisdom regarding God's standard? *Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools...They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen...Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, He abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done....They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.*

Romans 1:22-23, 23...32

Three reasons for the prevailing thinking or culture's view of marriage are:

1. We gave up on God's wisdom and settled for the world's ways. 2. We followed feelings instead of faith. 3. We trusted ourselves more than we trusted God.

Six culture-busting principles are:

1. Hurry home by prioritizing quality time with spouse and family.
2. Cultivate communication with the aim of understanding your spouse.
3. Nourish romance
4. Celebrate differences and God-designed special uniqueness.
5. Finish together.
6. Trust God in all things.

Discussion Questions

- What are the differences between culture's view of marriage and God's view of marriage?
- What are some specific ways to implement the culture-busting principles in our lives?
- What is your next step for you to become a more like Christ as a husband or wife?

Prayer Focus

Invite Jesus to be involved in all aspects of your life, especially your marriage and key relationships. Thank Him for the good aspects of your relationships, and pray for His guidance in areas where you are struggling. Give everything to God and ask for His help as you continue to improve how you love and invest in the people in your life.

Next Steps

Assess your relationships with those closest to you, and identify ways to improve these relationships. Be intentional and consider how you can better show your love for them. Consider doing Serve Team together. Step Four of the Growth Track is your opportunity to get connected to an area of the team that fits your interests and abilities.

Leader Tip

Pray for your group members by name every day. If anyone in your group is struggling with their relationships, contact them this week to encourage and pray with them. If you have room in your group, encourage your group members to invite a friend who needs to be connected in healthy community.