

It's complicate^d

Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 1

We begin the month of February with a new series entitled “**It’s Complicated.**” The theme is from Romans 1:21-25 - They knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools... As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. (NLT)

C. S. Lewis said “Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.” In this series, PC aid he wants us to redefine our relationships based on what God says we need to do. When we talk about relationships and godly marriage, we’re going to bring truth, clarity, and un-complicate what we’ve made complicated.

This first message focuses on the marriage relationship. Marriage is a covenant, not a contract. In a contract we protect our rights and limit our responsibilities. In a covenant: we give up our rights and pick up our responsibilities. We must give up: 1. Right of **Priority** = our spouse becomes our #1 human relationship 2. Right of **Ownership** = what was mine is now ours. 3. Right of **Privacy** = no secrets are kept, share openly together. PC focused our attention on this statement - **In order for relationships to work, let the One who designed them define them.**

Discussion Questions

- How have you developed your concept of marriage? What has it been based on?
- What does the Bible say about the first marriage as recorded in Genesis 2:21-25?
- PC said, “Marriage is a covenant, not a contract.” How did he define a covenant and a contract? What is the difference between them?
- Has marriage been more complicated than you expected? Why or why not?
- What do the three rights that PC addressed look like in your marriage? Do you find one area to be more of a struggle? Discuss this.
- What next step are you willing to take to make your marriage more of a covenant instead of a contract?

Prayer Focus

Father God, please show me any areas in my relationships where I drifted away from good practices. Help me to value and appreciate my relationships, investing in them as I should. You designed relationships and I surrender to Your definition of what they should be.

Next Steps

Relationships take work in order to be successful. Neglected, we can expect poor results. But if we work at them, we should expect God’s blessing. We have an online date night as well as an online marriage conference offered soon, both will be good for your marriage. Check our website for details!

Leader Tip

Lead your group in prayer specifically for the relationships. Ask God to bless your relationships, and to protect against any attacks or temptations. Pray for unity, harmony, love, and lots of fun this semester!