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August 13-14 05
Avoiding Desperate Households
Colossians 3:18

Pastor Johnson reviewed for us this weekend what the state of marriage is and can be. Many marriages are hurting and seem to be unable to solve the problems they are facing whether they are spiritual, mental, emotional, financial, relational, or physical. He suggested the following out of the text:

1. Many of the troubles of marriage are related to our misperceptions of marriage. The fantasy's we create about sex and beginning a home together sometimes overshadow the reality of life together. There is pain as well as joy.
 - Pain of exposure of the real us to our mates.
 - Pain of the personal loss of our autonomy or our independenceUnderstanding the reality that marriage is not about happiness but about holiness.
2. Many of the troubles of marriage are related also to our rejection of sound marital advice.
 - We find ourselves somewhere on the grid by Gushee called Status of a Marriage
 - i. Ecstatic Union
 - ii. Intimate Partnership
 - iii. Cordial Friendship
 - iv. Peaceful Coexistence
 - v. Tense Silence
 - vi. Active Hostility
 - vii. Full Scale Belligerence
 - viii. Irreconcilable Brokenness
 - We ignore the advice of the designer of marriage.
 - i. Verse 18 – Submission of a wife (which is related to order not power). It is there to benefit the follower of Christ and to be done correctly.
 - ii. Verse 19 – Love of a husband, an elastic love, stretching, expanding with life's circumstances. It involves the giving up of rights, accepting differences, loving toward potential in Christ.

In light of this discussion, discuss the following with your self, your spouse, or your life group:

1. What misconceptions did you bring into your marriage? How have these affected you?
2. Examine Gushee's grid, where are you located on it? What could you do to move to the more biblical model suggested in Colossians 3:18-19?
3. What false views of submission and love are out in world? How can we release them from our lives?
4. What of the biblical model have you already incorporated into your relationship with your spouse?