



Real Good Marriage: Part 2 | Shawn Johnson | 3.5.23

Weekly Study

SHARE

This week Shawn continued our series “~~Real~~ Real Relationships” with part 2 of what it looks like biblically to have a “Real Good Marriage.” He got into the importance of communication, serving one another, sex and the crucial importance of cultivating a relationship with Jesus to truly love your spouse as we are called to do. After a decade of highlight reels, everybody’s ready for some behind the scenes. People want authenticity and real. And it’s truer in relationships than anywhere else. It’s time to be real about the struggles of relationships. And it’s time to let God be real with us about what he wants for our relationships.

GROW

Read Colossians 2:10; Galatians 5:22,23

Just as Shawn said this week, we were never meant to complete each other, especially in marriage. We need to take the expectation off one another and lean into Jesus Christ who is the only one who will truly complete us.

Have you ever believed the lie that you will not be complete without finding that in a spouse? How did that work out for you? Or currently, how is that working out for you?

When we pursue the perfect God and the things of him, we become more like him as the Holy Spirit produces the fruits within us. When we cultivate this relationship by spending time with God, we begin to emulate his character and will love as he loves. We become more kind and patient, self-less and gentle, quickly forgiving and asking to be forgiven. It is a win-win in relationship, and this is where it all begins as we pursue Jesus and pursue our spouse. Jesus said that the world will know him by the way we love one another (see John 13:35).

What are some places in your life that you want to ask God to uproot and replace with fruit? What fruits do you need to ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate within you so that you can love better?

Can you imagine a world filled with men and women who do this and the powerhouse couples that will go change the world by simply leaning into the completeness of Jesus Christ and loving our spouses the same?

Do you know a Holy Spirit powerhouse couple that is an example of how to love well?

M O V E

Read Proverbs 11:14

We were never created to pursue the plans of God alone and just as Shawn reminded us of this week, we were created to pursue the plans of God with the people of God. As we ask for wisdom from God, he also provides direction to wise godly counsel. This is to help us navigate our relationships as broken people pursuing a perfect God. Counseling is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of wisdom. And when we have godly counsel, we are much better for it. We need to have people in our life that are pursuing Christ alongside us and are trusted voices where we can have “real talk” and throw out the lies of the enemy that says it is better to hide than to be exposed. This is not the life God has invited us into. God invites us into freedom and that freedom looks like asking godly people to walk next to us in the good, hard, messy, beautiful life we have.

What have been your initial thoughts on counseling? If you have gone to counseling, share of the experience. If you have not, would you be willing to bravely take the next step to do so?

Who are your trusted people? How have they come alongside you/you and your spouse?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-6

Sex is a gift of God within the covenant of marriage. The intimacy that is created in a marriage is intended to be fulfilling as it is not to be shared outside of that covenant. As Shawn shared this week, God has placed in each human sexual desire and it is good, and within the covenant of marriage it is strong enough to contain the desire. The enemy has tainted sex in our world to be abused, unsafe, selfish and twisted, the opposite of the gift God has for us.

How has the enemy twisted sex in our culture? How do you see this affecting you? People around you? The next generations?

As followers of Christ, how can we shift the view of the tainted sex culture in our world today?

There is such an importance of communication within marriage and specifically when it comes to sex. Serving one another and putting one another's needs before your own is the way of Jesus and it wraps around marriage completely. When we pursue Jesus, and our spouse, God cultivates a beautiful intimacy in that relationship and the gift of sex is a part of it.

What take away did you have from Shawn's talk this week regarding the gift of sex within a marriage?

P R A Y

Commit to praying for one another as we all know real relationships are difficult but worth it. Pray that God will keep us in the fight as we pursue him and he in our relationships. Pray for courage and strength to do the hard work so that we will begin to reflect the love of Christ in our relationships and to the rest of the world.

