



## Debunking the Myths of marriage | Doug & Sam Wekenman | 6.14-15

### Weekly Study

#### SHARE

Welcome to our last week of our Relationship series, where we have been digging beneath cultural assumptions to uncover the truth about love, dating, and commitment. This week we hear about marriage, what it really is, and what it absolutely isn't. Whether you're single, dating, or married, the myths that are debunked matter for all of us who want to love well and build relationships that last.

Pastor Doug and his Wife Sam unpacked six cultural myths about marriage that sound good but set us up to fail. Each myth hides a deeper truth: marriage is messy, sacred, intentional, and creative. It's not effortless or instant, it's forged through time, friction, and faith. This study explores those truths through Scripture, helping us realign our expectations and refocus our efforts toward the kind of love God designed.

- ☐ What are messages about marriage you've absorbed from culture or media?
- ☐ Which of the six myths felt most familiar, or surprising to you? (*Look at the bottom of the study for the myths*)

#### GROW

##### Read Mark 10:7-8

- ☐ What does Jesus' description of marriage in Mark 10 suggest about its purpose and design?

In Mark 10, Jesus reaffirms that marriage is not just a social arrangement, it's a divine union. He quotes Genesis to remind us that marriage creates something new: two becoming one. This oneness reflects God's intention, but it's not automatic. It's something to grow into, through grace, patience, and shared pursuit of Christ. *Proverbs 27* echoes this, showing that growth comes through friction, *iron sharpening iron*.

Together, these verses challenge our expectations. If we think marriage should be easy or complete us, we'll be disappointed. But if we understand it as creation—a sacred process requiring perseverance—we begin to value the friction, the work, and the daily choice to love. A marriage that sharpens and sanctifies both people is not a failure—it's a success by design.

☐ **How have you seen God use family or marriage as a tool to shape your character?**

## MOVE

**Read Galatians 6:9**

☐ **How does this verse from Galatians challenge you in pushing through the tough nights, weeks, and even seasons in your marriage and future marriage?**

Galatians 6 encourages us to keep doing good, even when the reward isn't instant. Love within marriage is that kind of work, daily effort without immediate payoff. Paul writes that love always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. That's not passive emotion; it's active commitment. Great marriages aren't found; they're forged through repetition, repair, and relentless grace. .

Marriage is an image to honor God but also to transform us in ways that forces us away from our independent minded thinking to a servant hearted mentality. What if we treated romance like a discipline, not a feeling? What if we saw conflict not as failure, but as an opportunity to grow? What if every argument, effort, or act of service was another stroke in the ongoing creation of "one flesh"? That kind of love doesn't come easy, but it becomes strong.

☐ **How do you typically respond when marriage (or any close relationship) feels hard?**

☐ **What's one myth about love you've believed that might need replacing?**

## PRAY

This week, have each person write a prayer request related to their current or future relationships. Exchange them and commit to pray for that person all week long.

- Pray for married couples to press in, not pull away, during seasons of friction.
- Pray for singles to build truth-based expectations about love and marriage.
- Pray for healing where love has been broken or misrepresented.
- Pray for courage to pursue, forgive, and grow in love daily.

### **Six Cultural Myths about Marriage**

1. If you marry the right person, marriage will be easy
2. Marriage is a Contract you can Quit
3. No friction means a healthy marriage
4. Marriage is completion
5. All you need is love. Love is all you need
6. Some marriages are just an overnight success