



Fantasy and idolatry are \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 19:21 *“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.”*

Matt 16:25-26 *“Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?”*

The world’s view of \_\_\_\_\_ is a fantasy rooted in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Marriage Fantasies**

A fantasy is contrary to \_\_\_\_\_; the imagining of that which is \_\_\_\_\_ or improbable.

This age of leisure and affluence has encouraged a sense of \_\_\_\_\_.

People are encouraged to believe that all things exist for their \_\_\_\_\_.

This promotes a spirit of self-interest that is \_\_\_\_\_ to marriage.

Even if we admit that we must give as well, we are far more \_\_\_\_\_ with our assessment of our *own* giving and much too focused on what we think we are not getting!

The goal of self-gratification is a \_\_\_\_\_ expectation born of \_\_\_\_\_ that Christians must reject.

People are encouraged to believe they have a \_\_\_\_\_ to happiness.

**Notes**

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

*“At first this sounds to me as odd as a right to good luck...we depend for a very great deal of our happiness or misery on circumstances outside all human control. A right to happiness doesn’t, for me, make much more sense than a right to be six feet tall, or to have a millionaire for your father, or to get good weather whenever you want to have a picnic.” ~ C. S. Lewis*

There is a difference between the right to happiness and the right to the \_\_\_\_\_ of happiness.

The pursuit of happiness is no \_\_\_\_\_ of happiness.

The right of the *pursuit* of happiness is not \_\_\_\_\_.

Society has little regard for expecting people to honor their marital \_\_\_\_\_ when it is pitted against the notion of their personal \_\_\_\_\_.

The right to self-defined happiness is a false \_\_\_\_\_ born of \_\_\_\_\_ that Christians must reject.

**Session 2: Unrealistic Expectations: Only God is Perfect \_\_\_\_\_**

Our sense of entitlement in marriage has produced \_\_\_\_\_ expectations.

Some sociologists suggest the reason marriage is on the \_\_\_\_\_ is because it has become so idealized.

People today not only look to marriage for *“love and romance but also self-fulfillment and personal growth.”* ~ Pamela Smock

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With society’s increasing \_\_\_\_\_ and our culture’s heightened sense of individualism and \_\_\_\_\_, this notion of the ideal marriage has produced a \_\_\_\_\_ of outrageous proportions.

A major component of the marriage fantasy is that the \_\_\_\_\_ exists and, if they did, they would consent to marry you.

A piece entitled “The Perfect Pastor” could provide a \_\_\_\_\_ for your own list of qualifications for a spouse but it would be just as unrealistic.

***The Perfect Pastor***

(Refer to Handout)

Since we are all sinners, no one can measure up to God’s \_\_\_\_\_ standard of perfection much less the \_\_\_\_\_ and skewed list of qualities that we imagine.

***The Perfect Husband***

(Refer to Handout)

***The Search for the Perfect Wife***

(Refer to Handout)

We all have a list of qualities on our “Perfect Spouse List” because it is the nature of sin to see ourselves as \_\_\_\_\_ than others.

As Christians, we should \_\_\_\_\_ this temptation as well as \_\_\_\_\_ our own shortcomings.

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**Video Segment:**  
*You Made A List?*

The notion that there is a \_\_\_\_\_ mate is a false expectation born of fantasy that Christians must reject.

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**Session 3: Expecting What Cannot Be Given**

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Most false \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage assume that marriage is first and foremost about me.

Even \_\_\_\_\_ that a marriage is about us will not keep us from false expectations because marriage is first and foremost about \_\_\_\_\_.

Marriage has a much higher goal than our personal \_\_\_\_\_.

Marriage has a far greater objective than our temporal \_\_\_\_\_.

Marriage is not dependent upon a perfect spouse for the \_\_\_\_\_ of its purpose.



**Video Segment:**  
*Great Expectations*

When we adopt the world's view of marriage, not only will our expectations be false, we will \_\_\_\_\_ from our \_\_\_\_\_ what they cannot provide.

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We too often expect from marriage what it cannot \_\_\_\_\_.

**Session 4: Idolatry, the Root of the Problem**

We began our study by considering the connection between the world's retreat into \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Marriage does not exist merely to serve the needs of human beings, neither does it \_\_\_\_\_.

Marriage is \_\_\_\_\_ institution.

\_\_\_\_\_ joins a couple together in matrimony.

The ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage is to declare the truth of Christ and His church.

The world looks to an intuition created by God for that which only God Himself can provide. That is \_\_\_\_\_.

***"Idolatry is worshipping anything that ought to be used or using anything that ought to be worshiped."*** ~ Augustine

True satisfaction is \_\_\_\_\_ Himself. Only He can provide the satisfaction that we seek.

Marriage will result in true happiness only if our desire to please God is greater than our desire to please \_\_\_\_\_ for it is God who has joined us together.

***"Happiness isn't getting what you want; it's wanting what you have."*** ~ Anonymous

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Selfishness and arrogance keep us from being happy and \_\_\_\_\_ what God has given us.

Finding the \_\_\_\_\_ will not bring \_\_\_\_\_. Only God can fulfill the deepest longings of our soul.

*"Idolatry is worshipping anything that ought to be used or **using anything that ought to be worshiped.**" ~ Augustine*

The first half of this definition encompasses all of \_\_\_\_\_ but the second half of the definition has only one object, \_\_\_\_\_.

There is a vast difference between "God wants what I want" and "I want what God wants."

Far too often, we submit our \_\_\_\_\_ plans to God for His approval rather than seeking to recognize His \_\_\_\_\_ for our obedience.

*"The human heart is an idol factory." ~ Calvin*

It is far easier to identify the sins of \_\_\_\_\_ than to recognize our own faults.

Matthew 7:3-5 *Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

We can easily slip into attempts at manipulation under the guise of \_\_\_\_\_ with God, using Him to get our way.

Since sanctification is God's work we should look to our own \_\_\_\_\_ instead of dwelling on the faults of our spouse.

Galatians 6:4 *Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else...*

**Session 5: A Word of Encouragement – Focusing on God's Purpose**

While there are many \_\_\_\_\_ expectations about marriage we should discard, that does not mean we should have no expectations at all.

God does not call us to relate to the brethren with patient, self-sacrificing love and permit us to behave \_\_\_\_\_ toward our spouse.

We are not commanded to put up with others in the body of Christ yet excused from patient \_\_\_\_\_ with our spouse.

We are not called to put the interests of the brethren ahead of our own but allowed to put \_\_\_\_\_ first in our marriage.

How husbands treat their wives should be a living commentary on how \_\_\_\_\_ treats His church.

How wives treat their husbands should be a real life \_\_\_\_\_ of how the church behaves toward Christ.

Neither the wife nor the husband, but God is the most \_\_\_\_\_ Person in a marriage.

Our greatest expectation should be to fulfill His purpose and honor His name through the relationship He established for us with the person He has \_\_\_\_\_ us to be one flesh.

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