

THE COUNSELOR'S COUCH: A Hot Pursuit Marriage

EPHESIANS 5:1-7

Dr. Matt Shackelford

■ Central Church

■ April 25, 2021

■ Social Media: #Counselor'sCouch

The Measure of Your Marriage is the Measure of Your Pursuit!

1. Pursue One Another Imitating God's _____ (1-2).

2. Pursue One Another Considering Your _____ (3-6).

3. Pursue One Another Partnering for _____ (6-7).

Eph 5:1-7 (ESV)

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷Therefore do not become partners with them"

Biblical Counseling Homework:

1. Memorize Ephesians 5:2. Every time you say it, think about the decisions you will have to make to walk in love.
2. Plan out at least 3 sacrificial actions for your spouse and do them.
3. Meet together and ask one another this simple question: How could I grow in my pursuit of marriage?
4. Pray this prayer together this week: *"Our Father, help our pursuit of one another reflect Your pursuit of us. Let people look at our marriage and be reminded of the gospel this week. Give us grace to be decisional, sacrificial, pure, and protected by the community of godly company that we keep. Help our walk this week reflect the love of Jesus. It's in Jesus's name we pray, Amen."*

THE COUNSELOR'S COUCH: A Hot Pursuit Marriage

EPHESIANS 5:1-7

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be an imitator of God? What attributes of His can we imitate? What is the rationale behind our imitation?
2. Paul spells out ways in which the Christian's walk of love contrasts with counterfeit ideas of love found in the world. What are some of these contrasting actions or themes?
3. As we think about the pattern Jesus laid down when He loved us, what aspects of His love do you feel convicted to copy and introduce into your marriage?
4. Love is decisional. You don't buy a new fridge because its empty. You fill it. You don't buy a new house because the yard is dead. You water it. If the grass is looking greener somewhere else, you need to make new decisions in your marriage, not long to leave it. What decisions do you need to make today for a God-imitating marriage?
5. There are professing Christians that argue that the Bible permits committed, loving homosexual relationships. How will you seek to be a good friend to them through that conversation?

Quote for the Week. . .

by R. Kent Hughes



"Marriage is a call to die [to self], and a man who does not die for his wife does not come close to the love to which he is called. Christian marriage vows are the inception of a lifelong practice of death, of giving over not only all you have, but all you are. Is this a grim gallows call? Not at all! It is no more grim than dying to self and following Christ. In fact, those who lovingly die for their wives are those who know the most joy, have the most fulfilling marriages, and experience the most love."