



“Q&A: Relational Design” Series Questions for Reflection

Part 3: “Questions about Marriage” by Dr. Craig Blomberg Tuesday, Jan 22, 2008

As a young single person, what did you think your “type” was? If you are still single, how has your “type” changed today? If you are married, how is your spouse similar to or better than what you thought your “type” was?

When did you first say “I love you” to someone who wasn't family? How did that love compare to how you view love today? How does it compare to what love between husband and wife should be?

What was your parent's marriage like?

In what ways was it helpful for your understanding of a healthy marriage?

In what ways was it a hindrance?

What is one thing from your parents' marriage that you definitely want to repeat in your own marriage?

If you are single, what do you hope for in your marriage?

If you are married, what more do you hope for as your marriage grows?

If we're honest, what are the struggles of singleness? What are the benefits?

If we're honest, what are the struggles of marriage? What are the benefits?

At times, people who are single have experienced a stigma associated with that season in life that it is somehow inferior to being married. Do/did you experience anything like this as a single person, and if so, how do/did you experience it? Is the perception true? How does it affect you?

This is an excerpt from a traditional wedding ceremony from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer (a guidebook for church services) from several centuries ago. You might need to read this a couple of times to get the gist in today's vernacular, but it contains a description for the purpose of marriage:

1. First, It was ordained for the procreation of children, to be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy Name
2. Secondly, It was ordained for a remedy against sin, and to avoid fornication; that such persons as have not the gift of continency might marry, and keep themselves undefiled members of Christ's body.
3. Thirdly, It was ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

How does this fit, if at all, with you view of the purpose of marriage?

If you had to summarize your view of the purpose of marriage into 3 words, what would they be?

Commenting on Genesis 2:18, Dr. Blomberg noted that the original intent/purpose for marriage was companionship. What does “companionship” mean for a marriage?

Read Genesis 2:24.

- What does it practically look like for husband and wife change their primary family relationships from their birth families to one another?
- If you are married, how has this worked out in your own families?
- If a couple is either over connected or under connected with their families, how can each of these extremes be unhealthy for a marriage?

In the desire for a future marriage, Dr. Blomberg encouraged us to “focus more on being the right person than on finding the right person.” How do you respond to this idea? How are you doing this? In what ways can you become a “more right” person?





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Some cultures today still practice arranged marriages, and in those cultures, divorce rates are almost zero. Thoughts, comments, reflections?

Dr. Blomberg challenged the notion of what we look for in those we might marry: “Whether or not you are “in love” is largely irrelevant from the Bible’s perspective, since most marriages in biblical times were arranged ones. Instead, a key criterion for choosing a spouse is whether you think you can better serve God, using your unique gifts, with that person (1 Cor. 7:25-35)”

- What is the difference between loving someone and being “in love” with them?
- How should romance interact with these ideas?
- How do you respond to his concepts based on 1 Corinthians 7?

Read Eph. 5:21,25-33 and Col. 3:18-19 on marriage, and Philippians 2:4 on Christian love in general.

- What are your reactions?
- How have you seen these ideas lived out in healthy ways? In unhealthy ways?
- How does Philippians shed light on the other passages?
- How does mutual submission work itself out in marriage?

How do biblical images of marriage contrast with images we receive from culture?

Here is a list of “Borrowed Blombergian Proverbs” on marriage. What are your thoughts on each one? Which is most important to you and why?

- Don’t get married unless you’re ready to have children, because there is no infallible birth control.
- Work at least as hard to keep each other as you did to get each other.
- If one person thinks there’s a problem, there’s a problem.
- Always keep short accounts with each other.
- Marriage is about promise-keeping. If you can’t be trusted to keep your promises in marriage, why should we trust anything else you say?
- Just don’t consider divorce as an option, period. Murder maybe? Divorce never!

