

## WEEK 4 - OCTOBER 9, 2016

### Sermon Title: Committed

Sermon Passages: *Hosea; Romans 12:1-12; Hebrews 4:11-13*

Life Group Passage: *Matthew 19:1-12; Matthew 5:31-32*

**Big Idea:** *Covenantal love is the foundation of our relationship with God and the only hope for any of us in earthly relationships.*

#### Themes:

- God's covenantal love provides an example of the way you are to love your spouse.
- Marriage is a covenantal commitment, not a contract; divorce is never the preferred option because God hates broken relationships.
- You are tempted every day to believe the lies all around you regarding ourselves and our marriages. You need to identify the lies you are choosing to believe and replace those lies with biblical truth.
- The Word of God must be the standard of truth for our relationships.
- Those who have been divorced are loved by God and need to experience His covenantal love, restoration and grace.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Since the institution of no-fault divorce and more recent marriage laws, people's perceptions of marriage are growing increasingly at odds with God's views. In what ways does our culture differ in its view of marriage?
- Do you believe that you are under contract with God or that He has made a covenant with you? Why?

#### MARRIAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"It is not love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Would you describe your marriage more as a contract or an unconditional commitment? Why?
- Locking the doors. Marriage is like standing with your spouse in a room that has several open doors you could walk through rather than choosing to commit to your marriage. One door you could walk through is divorce or separation. Another door is escape by staying busy with work, friends, or activities that keep you from dealing with the issues in your marriage. Yet another is simply giving up and just living as roommates. Commitment looks like shutting and locking all the doors in the room. It's telling your spouse that you won't leave, you won't become apathetic or preoccupied, and you will work out your challenges no matter what. What doors are open or still unlocked in your marriage? What do you need to do to shut and lock them?
- Read Mark 10:1-12. What do you think it means that God joins a husband and wife together? Why does this matter?

#### ACTION ITEMS

- Set aside some time this week to watch your wedding video or look at pictures from your wedding. Pay special attention to the vows you made each other.

- This week contact at least one person who knows you well and will tell you the truth. Ask them to share with you a few things they have seen you do or not do that have undermined your marriage. Don't be defensive; simply thank them for sharing with you.

#### SINGLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How would you describe singleness from a biblical perspective based upon what Jesus taught in Matthew 19? Does His teaching change your view on anything?
- What relationships in your life require the biggest commitment? Why? What is the most difficult aspect of that commitment? What can you do to strengthen it?

#### SINGLE ACTION ITEM

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