

# DIGDEEPER

May 1, 2016

Why Marriage? by Dr. Richard Rogers

Ephesians 5:31-33 ([Listen Online](#))

## THE BIG IDEA

Marriage is not a temporary contract meant to complete our identity or satisfy our needs (sexual, emotional, or physical). Rather, marriage is a tangible picture of an eternal reality. It is a covenant that points beyond itself that others might know the great love of Jesus for the church. And through the seasons of covenantal love, marriage provides a place for husbands and wives to build a family where others are remade in the image of God.

**START A CONVERSATION** (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

- Why do some marriages last while others fail?

## SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Consider your life before marriage. What did you expect it to provide for you and require of you? How have those assumptions changed over time? If you're not married, answer the questions by considering marriage as a future possibility.
- What effect does being a member of Christ's body (v 30) have on Christian marriage?
- How has marriage changed your relationship with God?
- How has being married to you changed your spouse's relationship with God?
- How is your marriage displaying the covenantal love of God to your spouse and others?

## GO DEEPER

- Selfless love in marriage is the perfect picture of Christ and the church. Watch the story of Ian and Larissa as it [perfectly displays selfless love](#) and covenantal commitment.
- The flower of marriage grows in [the ground of promising, covenant love](#). Any other ground (emotion, compatibility, sex, etc) will not provide what marriage needs to endure.
- [Marriage is a signpost](#) meant to point beyond itself. N.T. Wright explains how the Bible's one message about marriage is unchangeable.
- [Marriage is a mirror](#), not a changeable cultural phenomenon. It testifies to the truth of a relationship more beautiful than any we will find on this earth.
- From his own story, Matt Chandler helps us understand [why covenant love is what we should celebrate](#) in marriage. Without it, marriage is meaningless.

## LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Examine your own life in light of this passage in Ephesians. In what ways is your own life and marriage not reflecting the relationship of Jesus and the church? Husbands, how are you failing to love your wife as you ought? Wives, how are you failing to submit to your husbands as to the Lord? Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart and convict you of sin. Confess it to God and your spouse before talking about ways you might have a healthier marriage that better reflects God's design.