

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

REVIEW

1. **WHAT IF GOD DESIGNED MARRIAGE TO MAKE US HOLY MORE THAN HAPPY?**

A. This is **NOT** to suggest that **HAPINESS** and **HOLINESS** are **CONTRADICTORY**.

1. On the contrary, I believe we'll live the happiest, most joy-filled lives when we walk in obedience to God.

2. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** is the **MAIN THEME** of every Christians life; **MARRIAGE** is simply the **CONTEXT** for this class.

3. **MARRIAGE WAS CREATED BY GOD**

a. **Genesis 2:24 (NASB)** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

b. **Matthew 19:3-6 (NASB)** *Some* Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful *for a man* to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

4. The **REASON** the **MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP** is often seen as a **SELFISH** one is because our **MOTIVATIONS FOR MARRIAGE** often are **SELFISH**.

5. **James 1:2-4 (NASB)** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

6. **Romans 5:3-5 (NASB)** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

7. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NASB)** Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

REVIEW

2. **CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IS A PROCESS LIKE SANCTIFICATION**

1. **REVIEW: (SEE HANDOUT)**

- a. JUSTIFICATION (IMMEDIATE)
- b. SANCTIFICATION (PROCESS)
- c. GLORIFICATION (IMMEDIATE)

3. **DISCUSS: WHEN YOU CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT THINGS, THE THINGS YOU LOOK AT CHANGE!**

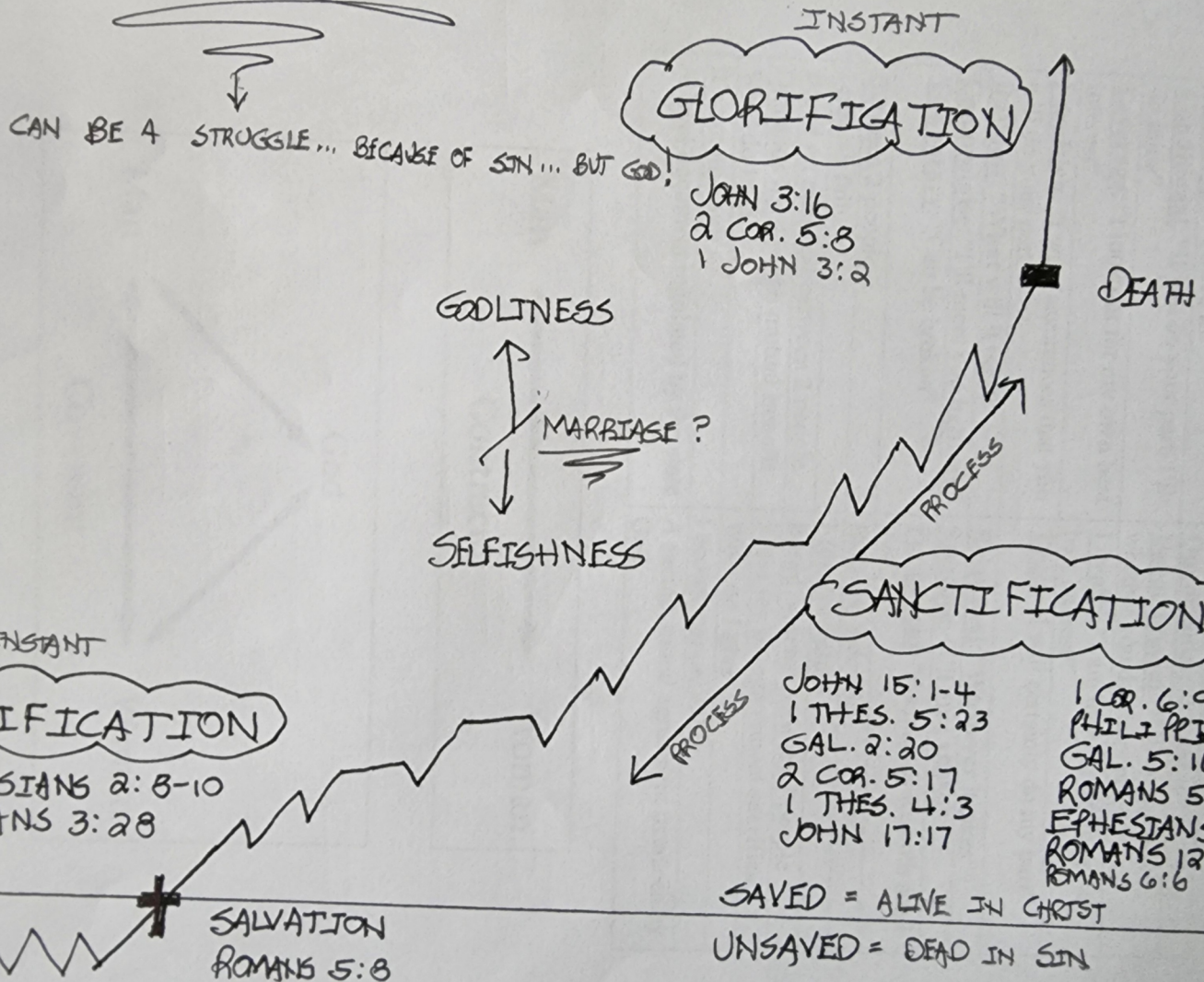
4. **CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IS A COVENANT, NOT A CONTRACT.**

A. **Malachi 2:13-14 (NASB)** "This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. "Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your **wife by covenant**."

B. **DISCUSS: HANDOUT**

C. **DISCUSS: ROPE**

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Covenant</u>
Obligation: "I have to"	Opportunity: "I want to"
Conditional: "If you do your part, I'll do mine"	Unconditional: "I'll do my part whether you do yours or not"
Leverage: "I look out for my own best interest"	Loyalty: "I am looking out for your best interest"
Suspicion: "I want assurances that you will do your part"	Trust: "I will certainly do my part"
Business: "What will it take?"	Relational: "Whatever it takes"
Compromise: "I'll meet you halfway "	Sacrifice: "I'll give 100% "
Temporary: "Can be broken"	Permanent: "As long as we both shall live"
Between 2 people	Between 3 people
I punish failure	I forgive failure
Based on mistrust between 2 people	Based on trust between 3 people
Demands joy through mutual benefit	Seeks joy through mutual sacrifice
What do I get	What do I give
It's not my fault	I accept responsibility
A legal document regulated by the state	A sacred, moral agreement overseen by God

