

Text: Ephesians 5:31-33 (ESV)

### **The Original Deceit**

To See how distortions or counterfeits to God's promises take place, we head to where we find the first distortion of God's command in Genesis 3:1-6

a. The Serpent sows doubt in God's command and also doubt of God's character.  
Genesis 3:1b - "Did God actually say you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?"

b. The sinful heart always desires to be its own god

Genesis 3:6 - So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate

The Twofold Lies – 1. external 2. internal

### **The External Lie – Marriage should not be covenant driven but rather consumer driven**

Western society's shift in thinking owes largely to the Enlightenment:

a. the values has shifted from self-sacrifice to individual freedom

b. celebrating duty/role has shifted to celebrating self-gratification and self-actualization

*The Counterfeit Design is this, marriage is no longer about us, but about ME*

### **The Problem: We Look for Mr./Ms. Perfect in Our Future Spouses**

However:

a. No one can ever fill the void of a God sized heart

b. You will constantly judge others and be judged in this consumeristic approach – this does not foster covenant

### **The Internal Lie – I define My Own Purpose for Marriage**

However, the purpose for marriage is already been given to us in Ephesians 5:25-27 (ESV)

a. Marriage is to reflect Christ's unending and unbreakable covenant to the church

b. The purpose of marriage is for the spouses to urge sanctification which Christ has been working out

### **What All this Means for Us:**

For the Singles:

a. Do not comply with the dating standards of the world for they reflect consumeristic approach to marriage

b. Wisdom behind God's command not to be 'yoked with non-believers'

For our Married Couples:

a. We too must guard against the consumeristic error of this era

b. Do not forget the purpose of marriage

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The message talked about a consumeristic model for marriage which challenge God's covenant model. What are some other counterfeit designs to marriage that you've noticed in our culture?

2. If the purpose to marriage is not only to mirror the covenant relationship of Christ and the Church, but also to spur on one another through the steps of sanctification, what are some of the qualities/characteristics you should be looking in your future potential spouse?

3. How can married couples safe guard against losing the purpose for God's purpose for marriage? How can our singles date/meet potentials spouses with the intentions to step into God's purpose for marriage?