

BEMA

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BEMA

Notes on the Christian faith from a Jewish perspective, based upon the works of rabbis such as Ray Vander Laan and Marty Solomon.

[BEMA Discipleship](#) - Marty Solomon

[That the World May Know](#) - Ray Vander Laan

Part I

BEMA

1 Concepts

1.1 Tzedakah - Righteousness

2 RVL Israel

God's people are called to be city gates, standing stones, and at the crossroads

Mashal - Hebrew Parable (Strong 4911)

Jesus stops funeral procession.- cf Elisha "A prophet has awakened in Israel"

2.1 Cities

- Always found on untillable land
- Req water source - Place king can store food
- Defensive position
- Place of safety
- Rich lived in cities
- Surrounded by daughter villages

Don't weep for me, weep for yourselves. The enemies will throw your babies against the wall

You are a city on a hill

4000 extant parables from biblical times, but only two involve cities:

- Hillel
- A certain man when down to Jericho

2.1.1 Gezer

- Located on Via Maris near coastal plain and Aijalon Valley
- 4000BC Glassade
- 2000BC Cannanite
- 1300 DC Joshja
- City not taken by Joshua. Egyptian king gave Gezer as dowry 950BC
- Destroyed
- Destroyed again by Babylon
- Conquered 15 times in 3500 years

2.1.2 Hazor

- City in Northern Israel along Via Maris - Fortified by Solomon

2.1.3 Jaffa = Joppa

- Chief seaport to float cedars of Lebanon to Jerusalem for the temple

2.2 Trade Routes

- Via Maris along coast
- Kings' Highway east of Jordan Valley - more difficult than Via Maris

2.3 Gates

- Defensive
- Define relationship to the world
- Unusual to breach the gates
- Place of commerce
- Place of justice (mishpat) Boaz went to city gates
- Lot - an elder in Sodom and Gomorrah
- Crucifixion just outside city gates
- After Babylonian captivity, Jews separated from wider society
- Nehemiah rebuilt the gates

2.4 Canaanite cosmology

- World is conflict between chaos and order (Ma'at)
- Yamm is Canaanite God of primordial chaos
- Genesis - in the beginning it was chaos, and the spirit of God hovered over the earth
- Plagues: 10 gods addressed by 10 plagues
- Fall: return to chaos
- Jesus: I am the gate
- Care for the poor in your gate (**BibleNIV?**, Deuteronomy 15:7)

2.5 Levant Geography

Coastal - Philistines Foothills

- Can't farm due to chalk in soil
- Shephelah

Judean Mountains

- Farmed in terraces

Back Slope

- 12 miles
- Wilderness

Desert

- Rift Valley

Valleys - Run East West

- Aijalon - Joshua made sun stand still (**BibleNIV?**, Joshua 10:12-13)
 - Pass of Beth Horon - Macabees victory
 - Road to Emmaus (**BibleNIV?**, Luke 24:13-35)
- Sorek
- Elah - David and Goliath
- Lachish

Adullum - Story of two caves

Lachish

2.6 Religious Movements **RVL**

2.6.1 Pharisees

- From Hasmodian freedom fighters of Maccabee era
- 6000 middle-class merchants
- Accepted oral interpretation of OT
- Supported synagogue for Torah study and interpretation
- Strict, detailed obedience to Torah and oral law

2.6.2 Saducees

- Descended from Zadok, Solomon's highest priest
- Formed 200BC
- Priests who were wealthy, aristocratic, and Hellenistic
- Only Torah as God's law
- Temple was the only path to God
- No bodily resurrection
- Dominated Sanhedrin

2.6.3 Essenes

- Resisted Maccabees claim to high priesthood in 170BC
- Preferred isolation in wilderness
- Ritual cleansing
- Unclear if origin from Pharisees or Saducees

2.6.4 Zealots

- Formed in opposition to Roman census 6 AD lead by Judas the Galilean
- Extreme Pharisees living in Galilee
- Similar theology to Pharisees, but only God could rule
- Slavery was worst evil
- Taxes due only to God (refused to pay Roman tax)
- Adhered to Torah interpretation

2.7 Standing Stones **RVL**

- Matzevah = Testament to what God has done
- Both lawful practice and pagan
- I Peter 2- You are living stones
- Jacob - Beth El - God has been here. Sets up standing stone
- Joshua sets up standing stones in Jordan river (**BibleNIV?**, Joshus 4:3-9)
- Moses sets up 12 pillars in (**BibleNIC?**, Exodus 24:4)

3 Chronology

3.1 Babylon

-Captivity 586BC - Origin of Scribe, Torah Teacher, Hasidim, Synagogue

3.2 Persia - Post Exilic 500BC

- Return from captivity
- Temple rebuilt
- Ezra, Nehemiah, Zerubbabel
- Saducees

3.3 Greece - 333 BC

3.3.1 Ptolemies 333-198BC

-Jews left Judiasm -> Hasidim renewed Torah Study

3.3.2 Selucids - 198BC

- Hellenism by force
- Resisted by Hasidim

3.3.3 Maccabees 167- 37 BC

- Hasmodian family led revolt in 167 BC
- Supported by Saducces
- Became Hellenistic

3.3.4 Rome 63 BC - 325 AD

- Pompey subdued area in 63BC. Made treaty with Antipater of Idumea -> Herod becomes king

3.4 Negev

3.4.1 Jericho

- City of palm trees (**BibleNIV?**, Deuteronomy 34:3)
- Herod's palace

3.4.2 Masada

- Eliezer Ben Yair and 960 people fled here in 70AD
- Possible place where David fled (**BibleNIV?**, I Samuel 23)
- Stronghold referenced in I Chronicles 12:8

3.5 En Gedi

- "Fountain of the Goat"

3.6 Avdat

3.7 Arad

4 Pre-Assyrian Prophets

Prophetic Themes

- Idolatry (Source A)
- Injustice (Source B)
- Hope in the midst of judgement

4.1 Amos - Plumbline (and ripe fruit)

Prophet to Israel

4.2 Hosea - Prostitute

Prophet to Israel

4.3 Micah - Judge {BEMA50}

Prophet to Judah

God is looking for tzedekah, but instead finds Tze'ekah

Hope: Surely I will gather you, Jacob, I will bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture. The place will throng with people. The one who breaks open the way will go up before them. They will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass before them, the Lord at their head.

Hezekiah is a King of Judah who repents (and God spares Judah)

4.4 1 Isaiah - Vineyard {BEMA51}

4.5 Jonah - Potential {BEMA52}

4.6 Nahum - Diyn {BEMA53}

Diyn - retributive justice (against Ninevah)

vs mishpat = restorative justice

4.7 Zephaniah - T'shuvah (return) {BEMA54}

Prophecizes against the priests who set up a Molech sacrificial center (in Valley of Hinnon)

4.8 2 Isaiah - Woe {BEMA55}

Isaiah 13-39

4.8.1 Taunt against the King of Babylon

12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! 13 You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north;[c] 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ 15 But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. 16 Those who see you will stare at you and ponder over you: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, 17 who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?’ 18 All the kings of the nations lie in glory, each in his own tomb;[d] 19 but you are cast out, away from your grave, like a loathed branch, clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword, who go down to the stones of the pit, like a dead body trampled underfoot. 20 You will not be joined with them in burial, because you have destroyed your land, you have slain your people.

This passage has been applied to Satan, but context (before and after) states it relates to the King of Babylon

cf Ezekiah 28

4.9 Isaiah 36

Format changes from poetry back to prose (like Kings)

4.10 Jeremiah - Weeping {BEMA56}

Babylonian prophet

4.10.1 Valley of Slaughter 7:30

Gehenna used 12 times in NT, 11 by Jesus. Derived from Geehenom = Valley of Hinnom. Actual valley outside Jerusalem. Also known as Topheth

7:30 “For the sons of Judah have done evil in my sight, declares the Lord. They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. 31 And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind. 32 Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth, because there is no room elsewhere. 33 And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the beasts of the earth, and none will frighten them away. 34 And I will silence in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, for the land shall become a waste.

8 “At that time, declares the Lord, the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be brought out of their tombs. ² And they shall be spread before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and served, which they have gone after, and which they have sought and worshiped. And they shall not be gathered or buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. ³ Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family in all the places where I have driven them, declares the Lord of hosts.

19 Thus says the Lord, “Go, buy a potter’s earthenware flask, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests, ² and go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom at the entry of the Potsherd Gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you. ³ You shall say, ‘Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing such disaster upon this place that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. ⁴ Because the people have forsaken me and have profaned this

place by making offerings in it to other gods whom neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah have known; and because they have filled this place with the blood of innocents,⁵ and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind—⁶ therefore, behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when this place shall no more be called **Topheth**, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.⁷ And in this place I will make void the plans of Judah and Jerusalem, and will cause their people to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hand of those who seek their life. I will give their dead bodies for food to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the earth.⁸ And I will make this city a horror, a thing to be hissed at. Everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its wounds.⁹ And I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his neighbor in the siege and in the distress, with which their enemies and those who seek their life afflict them.’

4.10.2 70 Years of Babylonian Captivity

25 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon),² which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ³ “For twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, to this day, the word of the Lord has come to me, and I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened. ⁴ You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the Lord persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets, ⁵ saying, ‘Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds, and dwell upon the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers from of old and forever. ⁶ *Do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, or provoke me to anger with the work of your hands.* Then I will do you no harm.’ ⁷ Yet you have not listened to me, declares the Lord, that you might provoke me to anger with the work of your hands to your own harm.

⁸ “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, ⁹ behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the Lord, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. ¹⁰ Moreover, I will banish from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹ This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. ¹² Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that

nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the Lord, making the land an everlasting waste. 13 I will bring upon that land all the words that I have uttered against it, everything written in this book, which Jeremiah prophesied against all the nations. ¹⁴ For many nations and great kings shall make slaves even of them, and I will recompense them according to their deeds and the work of their hands.”

Jeremiah predicts the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, and draws the connection that Judah persisted in idolatry

Chronicles 36:20 comments on that prophecy

²⁰ He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, ²¹ to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. *All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.*

Chronicles draws the connection that the Babylonian captivity was related to failure to keep the Sabbath (and the other OT economic policies, including Shemitah and Jubilee)

5 Roman History

5.1 Augustus Caesar (Octavian)

Adopted some of Julius Caesar, assassinated in 44BC.

Defeated Mark Anthony and Cleopatra in maritime battle of Actium 31BC

Title Augustus conferred in 27BC by Roman Senate

5.2 Tiberius Caesar

Succeeded Augustus in 14AD

5.3 Caligula

Succeeded Tiberius in 37 AD but was mentally unstable

5.4 Claudius

Rose to power in 41 AD and invaded Britain in 43AD

Expelled Jews from Rome in 49 AD

5.5 Nero

Came to power in 54 AD as 17-year old stepson of Claudius

Blamed Christians for Great Fire of Rome in 64AD.

Paul and Peter were executed by Nero during the Romano-Jewish war of 66 AD

5.6 Vespasian

Came to power in 68AD after Nero's suicide

5.7 Titus

Came to power in 79AD. Destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD to end Jewish war

6 Acts

Peter's Speech

3000 added that day - callback to Mount Zion - 3000 died after Golden calf

Jesus is raised on First Fruits. 50 days later is Shavuot

Between First Fruits and Shavuot, no harvesting of the corners of the fields

6.1 Ascension

Ananias and Sapphira

Problem wasn't holding back the money, but lying to the disciples.

At the beginning of a move of God, there are examples of judgement to communicate that it needs to be done right:

- Achan
- Touching the ark of the covenant
- Collecting wood on the Sabbath

6.2 Acts 5 - Peter's healing powers

12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. 13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. 14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, **that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.** 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

6.2.1 Isaiah 32

Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. ² Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, **like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.** ³ Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. ⁴ The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly.

⁵ The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable. ⁶ For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. ⁷ As for the scoundrel—his devices are evil; he plans wicked schemes to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right. ⁸ But he who is noble plans noble things, and on noble things he stands.

Isaiah 32 speaks of the messiah. Perhaps the “great rock” is Peter (Petros).

Marty Solomon: Jews are looking for a messiah who ushers in the Kingdom.

7 Hebrews

Atonement -

Ransom Captive - cf Lion/Witch/Wardrobe

- Puts Satan in the position of power and God as a deceiver
- Earl

Christus Victor - Jesus came to conquer sin and death

- Crusades
- Greg Boyd - Neo Christus Victor
- Doesn't explain personal atonement

Penal Substitutionary Atonement = PSA

- Sin demands death
- Jesus dies as a substitute
- Reformation (Calvin was a lawyer)
- Set of rules which obligates God's actions

Moral Exemplar

- Avalard vs Anselm
- Resurgence with liberal textual criticism
- Death required to bring down

Solidarity Theory

- Solidarity of Christ with humans

Scapegoat Theory (Hebraic)

- Ultimate Sacrifice
- Sacrifice once for all
- Michael Hardin
- Rene Girard's mimetic theory

7.1 Hebrews 8,9,10

Heb 8 - I will make a new covenant, he makes the first one “obsolete” = old

Heb 9 - Sacrifices could not perfect the conscience of the worshiper.

Jesus is temple + priest + sacrifice

How much more will the blood of Jesus cleanse our conscience

Problem with old system - keeps you in bondage to system. Needed to repeat Yom Kippur every year.

Levitical sacrifices did not cleanse the conscience, but reminded worshippers of sin

7.2 Resources:

A Better Atonement - Tony Jones

Did God kill Jesus? - Tony Jones

A Community Called Atonement

References

Part II

Life Church

8 Premarital Coaching

8.0.1 Questions July 2025

Resources: Catching Foxes

Scope: How many couples are married in the church each year? Salos can manage 3 couples/year

Training a team

- Need 1 or 2 other couples to help with counseling as needs increase
- Read the Catching Foxes book
- Training sessions with Drew and Jessie (and Jonathan and Kelly)

“Red Flags” - Need a plan for these scenarios:

- Chastity - Couple is living together/sleeping together
- Pornography
- History of sexual abuse

Which scenarios are ones in which a pastor would want to be notified/involved during the premarital counseling course (eg pornography addiction)

Pornography When/How do we inquire? How do we triage how serious a pornography problem is? Inadvertent exposure Occasional Use Intensive use Compulsive use (addiction) What resources do we have to help men (and women) find victory? Who needs professional counseling for pornography? Is there a role for providing help for the whole congregation in battling pornography? (eg bulk purchase of covenant eyes software)

Finances/Budgeting

Communications

Conflict resolution

Family planning (in the broadest context)

Date Nights Newlywed counseling

- What should we plan to offer for counseling after the wedding?

8.0.1.1 Meeting with Drew/Jonathan August 2025

Can complete in 4-6-8 sessions

1. Chapter 1
2. Chapter 2 and 3
3. Chapter 4 and 5
4. Chapter 6 and 7
5. Chapter 8 and 9
6. Chapter 10 (meet separately)
7. Chapter 11 and 12 (optional - budgeting)

9 Drew Tucker Key Questions:

9.0.1 Chapter 1:

- I start by having each person share their personal testimony.
- How would you describe your present relationship with the Lord (spiritual disciplines, intimacy etc.)?
- What would be one area of spiritual growth that you believe you need help in?
- Tell me the story of you two meeting, courting, engagement.
- What did you learn about marriage from your family of origin that you'd like to emulate?
- What would you like to do differently?
- Commitment to purity (victories, struggles)?
- Have you talked about past sexual sin, abuse, involvement?

Answers given generally set the pace for where the conversation goes next.

9.0.2 Chapter 2:

Page 47 - Question #4 "What do you think it means to seek Christ and his Kingdom in your marriage?"

9.0.3 Chapter 3:

What kind of rhythms do you have set in your lives for regular accountability - encouragement in a life of repentance and obedience?

Page 58 - Question #7 "What do you tend to run after for comfort, refuge, or deliverance? Do you run to sports, food, career, isolation, or something else?"

9.0.4 Chapter 4:

Page 73 - Questions #1-2 Explain what “Let no man separate” means to you

What difficulties do you foresee in leaving your original family in order to be joined to your husband or wife? Share ways in which you could be too attached to or dependent upon your father, mother, or siblings - whether this involves their approval, respect, money, or advice

Page 77 - Questions #5-6 Share your desires for having children or not having children Share your fears about having children

9.0.5 Chapter 5:

I usually start this meeting with a talk on the practice of identifying evidences of grace in one another. The practice of being on the lookout for places where you see the Spirit of God doing good work in one another and making that a regular practice/culture in marriage. I then ask them to practice - tell me one place you see in your fiancé that the Lord is clearly at work - actually - talk to each other. Then I ask them to identify one evidence of grace in their relationship.

How is a covenantal view of marriage different from a contractual view of marriage (or pg 84, Q1)?

Side-Note: I think this to be one of the most important lines in the entire book. “Christian marriage should be distinguished from other kinds of marriage not by the absence of sin but by the presence of redeeming and reconciling grace” (pg 95).

Explain your perspective on divorce. Is it an option as you go into marriage? Usually looking for solid understanding of covenant and generally want to hear from a couple that divorce is a last resort.

9.0.6 Chapter 6:

- Pg 105 - Question #2 If there are things that he wants to talk about - I will engage. But for the most part I spend this time talking about what it means to be a biblical man / husband. God given responsibility to lead, serve, and protect. What is your view of biblical headship & submission?

9.0.7 Chapter 7:

- What is your view of biblical headship & submission?
- Pg 130 - Q4
- Pg 131 - Q5
- Pg 137 - Q8

9.0.8 Chapters 8-9:

I probably lean less heavily on book questions for these chapters. I'm generally after a cohesive understanding of how each saw conflict handled in their family of origin and how they've tended to handle conflict as a couple thus far. This almost always becomes a conversation about communication. When conflict enters - is your fiancé the one you are in conflict with or are you two united to deal with the conflict? What does it look like to be "on the same team" against a particular conflict? Put into the practice - regularly asking one another - "If you knew I wouldn't get defensive or angry - what is one thing you think I could do to be a better husband / wife to you?"

9.0.9 Chapter 10:

How did your conversation about this chapter prior to our meeting go? Are there specific ways I can serve you two as y'all prepare for sexual intimacy?

9.0.10 Chapter 11:

Who is the spender? Who is the saver? What does it look like for you two to prioritize kingdom values in your financial stewardship as a married couple? What is your current work/life balance? Areas of struggle or opportunities for growth? Do you need help with budgeting or other financial preparations?

9.0.11 Chapter 12:

No specific questions I lean on here. This usually winds up being more of a discussion of expectations based on the accumulated information I have from meeting with the couple over time.

10 Catching Foxes

Pre-engagement counseling - start working on critical issues now, and plan to resolve them prior to engagement

History (of yourself and spouse) provides context:

Gives you perspective

Allows you to understand each others' vulnerabilities

10.1 Chapter 1 - Personal History

Gospel is the power of God for salvation Rom 1:16

Scripture allows us to :

- Interpret our history truthfully
- Respond to our history triumphantly
- Behold the glory of Christ shining through

God uses our experiences for our good

- Experiences do not control us
- God controls our life and destiny

II Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

History does not determine who you are, but has influenced the way you think, feel, and live and have impacted your view of the world.

Now is the time to honestly discuss secrets from your past - now is the time to be honest

10.2 Chapter 2

Framework for seeing marriage within a larger context:

- Christ-centered
- God-exalting
- Spirit-dependent

Creation- Designed to display and share his glory

Ps 19:1-6 The heavens are telling of his glory

Col 1:16-17 For by^[a] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Our personal lives are part of God's redemptive plan

I Cor 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

Eph 1:4-6 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

I Tim 1:15-17 ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.^[a] Amen.

-> Paul was saved not only for his sake, but for God's glory and eternal purposes

Acts 17:24-28: ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,^[a] ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;^[b]

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’^[c]

We are created to worship and enjoy God

10.2.1 Questions:

Page 47 - Question #4 “What do you think it means to seek Christ and his Kingdom in your marriage?”

10.3 Chapter 3

Gen 1:26-27: ⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man^[a] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

1) We are purposed by God to exist

2: He decided in his mind to form the world and created us in his likeness

3) God declared the creation of humans as good.

=> Every person has God-designed beauty - dignity

Learn to seek God above all else

Learn to be satisfied in Jesus

10.3.1 FALLEN NATURE

Gen 3:6-7

We revolted -> humanity died

We began running from God rather than to God

Sinful nature is more than a history of sin

We have adopted a way of Life that devalues God and exalts self placed as ruler and savior of our life.

ROm 7:21-25: ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Who loves you enough to tell you you're walking against Christ?

10.3.2 Corrupted Desires

10.3.2.1 Lust (more than just sexual) James 4:1-2

Source of quarrels: Lusts

10.3.2.2 Fear - an expression of worship (The things we fear have power over us)

Lust & Fear go

hand in hand longings -> fear of missing out

10.3.2.3 Futile attempts to reconcile ourselves to God

Inability to reconcile ourselves to God -» Adam and Eve attempted to cover w/ Skins -> Hiding From God -> Blaming one another

10.3.3 REDEMPTION

Old testament provided temporary deliverance through the shedding of blood.

Rom 3:21-22 ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:

Salvation is more than freedom from sin and death -> New peaceful relation w/ God

II Cor 5:14-15: ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

10.3.4 NEW PERSON

Questions: #7 What do you tend to run after for comfort, refuge, and deliverance? Do you run to sports, career, isolation, or something else?

The reality of eternal life, when we consider it truthfully and often enough, controls the way that we live in this present life.

10.3.5 Questions:

What kind of rhythms do you have set in your lives for regular accountability - encouragement in a life of repentance and obedience?

Page 58 - Question #7 “What do you tend to run after for comfort, refuge, or deliverance? Do you run to sports, food, career, isolation, or something else?”

10.4 Chapter 4

Do you carry a zeal for the eternal purposes of God?

Purpose of Marriage

Gen 2:18-25: ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for^[a] him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed^[b] every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam^[c] there

was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made^[d] into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”^[e]

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Marriage doesn't belong to the couple, but belongs to God

No helper suitable for him

For this reason: Leave + cleave

Created to know, enjoy, worship God

Not good to be alone - God was part of a family

Adam had one to love/serve

AND There was no helper suitable for him

Everything created exists to glorify God

Alone, Adam couldn't display the image of God

Marriage is a gift from God (to be stewarded) for his purposes. => God is with us, for us, and committed to our marriages

Marriage is a covenant which pictures, embodies, and points to the eternal covenant between Christ and the church.

Marriage exists as a means of multiplying

Marriage exists to exhort the next generation

But spiritual multiplication is primary ->

Covenant

Go and make disciples

10.4.1 Questions:

Page 73 - Questions #1-2 Explain what “Let no man separate” means to you
What difficulties do you foresee in leaving your original family in order to be joined to your husband or wife? Share ways in which you could be too attached to or dependent upon your father, mother, or siblings - whether this involves their approval, respect, money, or advice
Page 77 - Questions #5-6 Share your desires for having children or not having children Share your fears about having children

10.4.2 Chapter 5 Covenant

"Christian marriage should be distinguished from other kinds of marriage not by the absence

Noah ~ Rainbow was a sign

Abraham~ Circumcision

Law as book of the covenant Ex 24:7

New covenant foretold

Jer 31:33-34 ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

10.4.3 COVENANT

Noahic Covenant

Abrahamic Covenant

10.4.4 New Covenant

“For this reason [Jesus] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance” (Heb. 9:15).

10.4.5 Marriage Covenants

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” (Mal. 2:14).

Covenant-keeping by Grace

Problem w/ living under the law and judging our spouse under the law

Mt 11:29-30 ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Col 3:12-13: ¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

As we grasp God’s compassion for us -> We have compassion for others

Col 3:14 ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Divorce breaks the covenant

We Enjoy and Keep Covenant with One Another by Grace

We mature together and face sin together in his Grace

In Colossians 3:14–16, Paul keeps unpacking the implications of being recipients of the grace of God through Jesus Christ. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

10.4.6 Divorce Breaks the Covenant

II Cor 5:18 : ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling^[d] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Christian marriage is different not by absence of sin but by redeeming and

reconciling Grace

Matt 5:19-29: ³ And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one’s wife for any cause?” ⁴ He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”⁷ They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” ⁸ He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”^[a]

¹⁰ The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” ¹¹ But he said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”

10.4.7 Why does God hate divorce?

But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. “For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong,” says the LORD of hosts. “So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously.” (Mal. 2:15–16)

10.4.7.1 Exception for Spouse who desires to leave

Are you free to marry?

8. Have you or your fiancé been divorced in the past? If so, please briefly explain the circumstances.
9. 9. According to God’s Word, are you and your fiancé free to marry each other? If you or your fiancé have been divorced, then please read the following passages:

Gen 2:23-24

Matthew 19:1-10

Mark 10:1-12

1 Cor 7:10-16

10. If your previous spouse sinfully divorced you, to what degree does resentment, anger, and guilt linger from your previous marriage and divorce?

10.5 Chapter 6 - Becoming a Husband

Eph 5:25 Love your wives,

BECOMING HUSBAND

as Christ also loved the church and gave

himself up

for her

Eph 5:18-21: And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the LORD; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Filled with the spirit

- New creation
- Trusting/Honoring Good
- Strengthened in his power
- Not ruled by worldly desire

Results of being Filled

- Speaking in psalms
- Singing/making melody
- Giving thanks
- Being subject to one another

Eph 5:25-33L Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

10.5.0.1 As Christ loved the Church

John 10:11 I am the Good Shepherd

Heb 12:2 For the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame

Col 3:19 Husbands love your wives and do not be embittered against them

- Joyful sacrifice
- Speaking truth in love
- Praying for Wife
- Confront wife's sinfulness in a gracious way

10.5.0.2 As his own body ...nourish and cherish...

(training for sports analogy)

10.5.0.3 With understanding and showing honor

I Peter 3:7 Live with your wives in an understanding way. Show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life

(recognize the ways in which God speaks to and through your spouse) (spiritual antennae)

10.5.1 Leaving Parents

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. (Matt. 19:5–6)

The instruction for a son to honor his father and mother also changes from a call to obey and

10.6 Chapter 7 - Becoming a Wife

Temporal, visible, living picture of the eternal, invisible, living reality of Christ and His church

Wife- display attitudes, affections, activities that Christ should have towards the church

Eph 5- Be filled with the Spirit

We work out our salvation

Phil 2:12-13

It is God who is at work in you

Power for obeying comes from God

John 15:5 I am the vine

Submission + Headship starts in the Godhead

God is the head of Christ I Cor 15:28

...As to the Lord

...In everything - except Sin- Christ would not lead the church into sin...

Submission to Christ overrules submission to husband

.. As is fitting in the Lord = fitting to a Christian Woman

I Pet 3

Precious in the sight of the Lord

Chaste respectful gentle quiet

Ly refuse to use beauty to bring glory

and attention to yourself.

Women's source of hope and protection:

hope in God I Peter 3:5

Leaving Your Parents

Gen 2:24 Men are instructed to leave

their parents, but not women

(culturally) assumed that a woman leaves

her Family because and through marriage

Grooms need to leave and are not

given away'

Is this man someone you can entrust yourself

10.7 Chapter 8 - Conflict

Source of all conflict

James 4:1-4: What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

→

Idolatry - Desires that lead us to sin to fulfill them

1. Corrupt Words.
2. Rejection of correction
3. Acting as Two - Acting w/o regard for spouse
4. Trusting in our own eyes (vs God's word)
 - Cain
 - Jonah

10.8 Chapter 9

Humble yourself, and he will exalt you

Marriage conflict begins with our war with God

2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to^[c] his own glory and excellence,^[d] 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

cf Unforgiving servant

Need hearts that love God

Ask yourself: What does my heart love so strongly that I am willing to fight for it?

Eager for forgiveness:

- w/o repentance, we can cover a transgression
- w/repentance-> cancel and bring restoration

Trusting the Lord: A trustworthy spouse is a gift, but we are called to trust God

Hands that serve cheerfully

whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant

Lips that edify vs Speaks rashly like a sword.

10.9 Chapter 10 Becoming One Flesh

Sexual perversion = false worship

Render the Affection Due

Obstacles-

- Immorality
 - Importance of confession/repentance
- Pornography
 - Job. I will make a covenant / my eyes.
 - Mt 5:28 Whoever looks upon a person

– Prov 7

- Past abuse

10.10 Chapter 11 Financial Stewardship

Joseph as arch typical steward

Overseer... Is God's steward

Part III

Jon Tyson

11 Jon Tyson

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks Compassion on this world, Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, Yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Teresa of Avila (1515–1582). Born in Spain, Teresa entered a Carmelite convent when she was eighteen, and later earned a reputation as a mystic, reformer, and writer who experienced divine visions. She founded a convent, and wrote the book *The Way of Perfection* for her nuns. Other important books by her include her *Autobiography* and *The Interior Castle*.