

Marriage Ministry in the Local Church *Why It's Essential to the Great Commission*

➤ **What marriage ministry in the local church looks like today:**

1. _____ – Do nothing
2. _____ – Do, or provide, counseling when couples are in crisis
3. _____ – actively do things to strengthen marriage BEFORE couples get into trouble.

➤ **Why we need strong marriages:**

- Pew Research Center in late 2010 found that _____ of American adults believe that marriage has become obsolete.
- Over _____ in 10 children born to unmarried parents
- Over _____ million children are born each year out of wedlock
- Another _____ million children a year affected by divorce
- That's _____ million children a year

➤ **God's three institutions:**

1. _____ – Genesis 2 and 3
2. _____ – Genesis 4
3. _____ – Matthew 16:17-18

➤ **Why are Marriage & Family so important to God:**

1. God wants Godly marriages because He wants Godly _____

13Another thing you do: You flood the LORD'S altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. 15Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. 16"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith. (Malachi 2:13-17 NIV)

2. God created families for _____

45When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, 46he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. 47They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess." (Deuteronomy 32:45-47 NIV)

4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Exodus 20:4-6 NIV)

3. The family is God's primary engine of world _____ through the power of multigenerational faithfulness

27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, 28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. 29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him-- those who cannot keep themselves alive. 30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. 31 They will proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn – for he has done it. (Psalm 22:27-31 NIV)

➤ **Conclusion**

If we don't have Godly marriages who raise godly offspring, the church will never fulfill the GREAT COMMISSION!

➤ **COUPLE SHARING:**

1. What is your church currently doing in marriage ministry?
2. Is it enough?
3. What is God asking you to do in marriage ministry?