

## THE IDOLATRY OF MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS | ASKING FOR A FRIEND

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, 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 (Acts 17:26-27)

### INTRODUCTION | ASKING FOR A FRIEND

1. What did you expect?

- a. Answer: "I will feel happy and my life will have meaning if \_\_\_\_\_"

2. Where you are

- a. Where you are is not random, but fact. Therefore, what you are facing or what you are working through is not oblivious to the Lord. In the context of marriage and relationships, it's a question of what roots you.
  - i. "A marriage of love, unity, and understanding is not rooted in romance; it is rooted in worship." (Paul Tripp)

3. Who you are

- a. Belonging to Christ means that you are first a worshipper. That is, everything you do is affected by who you are (i.e. decisions, thoughts, habits, etc.).
- b. In the context of relationships, we must consider what or who we worship because everything can be "good."
  - i. Idolatry: Anything or anyone that takes the position and place of God in our lives.

### IDOLATRY | ASKING FOR A FRIEND

There are many ways that relationships and marriage can become idols. In an effort to display a contrast, we will be looking at five myths or lies that many Christians can embrace concerning relationships and marriage followed by five truths or realities:

## FIVE MISCONCEPTIONS

1. Worldly Influence
2. Entitlement (selfish promotion)
3. Arrogance
4. Improper Preparation
5. Bitterness

## FIVE REALITIES

1. The work of the Holy Spirit
2. Everyday grace
3. The reality of work
4. Perseverance
5. Confession and forgiveness

## FINAL THOUGHTS | ASKING FOR A FRIEND

The Gospel meets your deepest needs.

- a. "In most marriage situations, you do not face difficulty because your spouse intentionally did something to make your life difficult. Most often, what is really happening is that your life is being affected by the sin, weakness, and failure of the person you are living with." (Paul Tripp)
  - i. Moments
  - ii. Personalization
  - iii. Adversarial
  - iv. Compromise