

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2025.12.07

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Steve Helterbrand

Title: Living A Spiritual Life

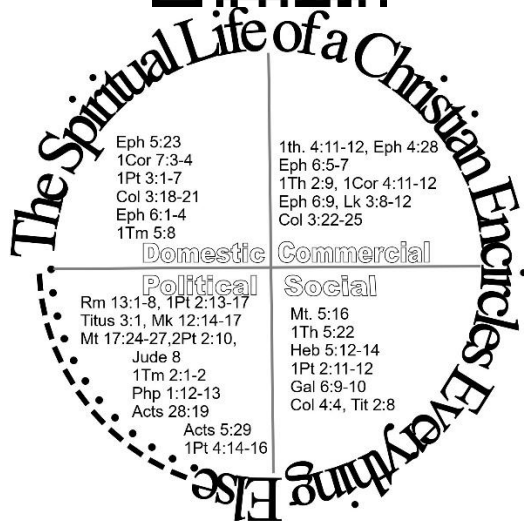
Recording:



Speaker-PM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Trust

Recording:



The Word of the Lord
is faithful and true;
HE IS FAITHFUL
in all He does.

Psalms 33:4

Marriage 11/29/2025 By Patrick Hite

It is no secret that our society has lost the meaning of marriage. For many people of the world the idea of marriage is simply outdated. To them it is either just exchanging empty words or it's too extreme a commitment. Marriage has been degraded to the point that to the world marriage doesn't really mean anything. In response to this, we the church have, quite appropriately, taught on the importance of marriage. The importance of choosing a spouse, of being the spouse God expects, and of the marriage relationship as a covenant with God.

However, there has also arisen among some an equally extreme view of marriage. A view that is creeping into the church in which people become fixated on the idea of marriage. There are some, not a majority, but some who have made it seem as though marriage is something we have to pursue as Christians. That fulfillment and completion are found in a marriage. Some even goes so far as to say, either knowingly or unknowingly, that marriage is a sort of requirement for salvation. As a result of this polarized view, there are many people in the church, young and old, men and women, who feel that they have failed in some way as Christians because they either never pursued marriage or marriage never worked out for them. They feel that their worth is tied to their relationship status. Now, certainly marriage is a wonderful thing and is a gift from God. In Genesis 2:18 God said, "It is not good that man should be alone", and the Hebrew writer said in 13:4 that "marriage is honorable among all". Marriage is a wonderful, honorable, beautiful thing, and for those who desire to be married it is perfectly good to pursue it.

It is also good and necessary for us to teach a biblical view of what marriage is supposed to be. But this other view, this idea that marriage is equivalent to being a Christian is untrue. By holding marriage up in this way, we risk making marriage an idol and we risk leaving single people with the wrong impression of what God expects of us as Christians. In I Corinthians 7:1-7 Paul tells us very plainly that marriage is not a commandment from God. In fact there are all sorts of people throughout the scriptures that were not married, or at least the text doesn't say they were. The prophets Elijah and Jeremiah. John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene, perhaps most famously, the apostle Paul, Dorcas, and Lydia are just a few. Even our Lord Himself while He walked this earth had no fleshly bride. We have to remember that as wonderful as marriage is, as great a blessing as marriage is, it is not a requirement for us as Christians. What's more we have to remember that our spiritual fulfillment is not found in marriage but in Christ. In Colossians 2:9-10 Paul writes, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power", or some translations will say "and you have been filled in Him". The point Paul is making is that it is in Christ that we are made whole. In Him can we find our spiritual fulfillment.

Again, marriage is an amazing thing, and for those who are married marriage can and should benefit us spiritually. But we have to remember that it is not our spouse who delivers us from the power of death. It is not our spouse who reconciles us to God. It is not in marriage that we are made whole. It is only in Christ that we can find these things. Only in pursuing and having a relationship with Him can we find the fulfillment we all need. In Ecclesiastes 12:13 Solomon says we are to "fear God and keep His commandments, for this man's all", and Jesus in the sermon on the mount says we are to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Seeking God, keeping His commandments, having a relationship with Him, these are the things we are called to do, and we can do them whether we are married or not. Each of us must remember that our reason for being is to fear and seek the Lord. That to have a relationship with Him is to have true fulfillment.