



[FIRSTIRVING.ORG/MARRIAGE](http://FIRSTIRVING.ORG/MARRIAGE)

# AGENDA / SPEAKER

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Dinner and Fellowship

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM - Session 1

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM - Breakfast

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM - Session 2

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM - Break

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM - Session 3

12:00 PM - 1:45 PM - Lunch Date\*

1:45 PM - 2:00 PM - Child Pick Up

*\* The Lunch Date is OPTIONAL and OFF CAMPUS. The Preschool and Kid's ministry will remain available during this time for you and your spouse to plan a lunch date and reflect on lessons learned from the conference)*



**Tom Mercer** is the Senior Pastor of Christ Covenant Church. Tom was born in Annapolis, MD, and graduated as a loyal Terps fan from the University of Maryland. He owned a CPA practice for several years, which he sold in order to move to Austria to do missions work among refugees there.

Eventually Tom moved back to the U.S., graduated with an M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and pastored in Michigan. Tom has served since 1999 as the Senior Pastor of Christ Covenant, where his passion is to see the believers in this church grow incrementally in grace as they delight in God. Tom and his wife Carol have three children and 8 grandchildren

# QUESTIONS FOR LUNCH

What is something new you learned from Session 1 and/or Session 2?

What is something you are encouraged by from the topics concerning our marriage?

What is something we can pray through from the topics concerning our marriage?

Which deadly sin are you most tempted by concerning our marriage?  
How can I provide encouragement in this area?

What is one way I have loved you well as a spouse and one way you would like for me to grow in my love for you?

# SESSION 2:

## SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF MARRIAGE

### Discontentment

**Define:** Phil 4.11-13: Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**Assess it:**

**Response to it:**

**Question:** In what areas do you feel content?

**Conclusion:**

# SESSION 1:

## BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

**Creation: God's Creation of Marriage. (Genesis 2:18-25)**

**1. God designed marriage as a partnership involving companionship and complementarian.**

2.18: *It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.*

- God makes a woman corresponding to man:

- God makes a woman as a complement to man.

**2. God designed marriage as a gift.**

2.23: *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.*

**3. God designed marriage as exclusive.**

2.24: *'a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.'*

**4. God designed marriage as a oneness in intimacy.**

2.24b-5: *and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

# SESSION 1:

## BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

**Creation: God's Creation of Marriage. (Genesis 2:18-25)**

### Questions:

Do you see your spouse as a source of companionship?

Do you value your spouse as a co-heir of grace? Ask them if they feel this way?

Do you see your spouse's differences as appointed to complete you or annoy you?

Do you see your spouse as a gift?

What are you actively doing to develop a oneness in life? spiritual growth? Do you pray with your spouse?

# SESSION 2:

## SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF MARRIAGE

### Selfishness

**Define:** Phil 2.3-4: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Assess:**

**Respond:**

**Question:** What do you see areas of selfishness in your marriage?

### Criticism

**Define:** Prov 18.21: Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

**Assess:**

**Respond:**

**Question:** Seek forgiveness for words spoken in anger, harshness or meant to hurt.

# SESSION 2:

## SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF MARRIAGE

### Lust

**Define:** Matt 5:27: you have heard it said, do not commit adultery, but I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with a lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.'

**Assess Costs:**

**Respond:**

**Question:** If lust is a struggle, which it is, how will you draw others in to help:

### Apathy

**Define:** Pro 13.4: The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing.

**Assess:**

**Respond:**

**Question:** Ask your spouse where do you see apathy in my life?

# SESSION 1:

## BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

**The Fall/De-Creation: Marriage in disarray. (Genesis 3:1-6)**

**1. The Temptation: (Gen 3.1-5):**

**2. The Fall (Gen 3.6):**

**3. The Shame: (Gen 3.7-13):**

**4. The Effects (Gen 3.7-13)**

- Sin brings death in our relationship with God.
- Sin brings death in our relationship with others.
- Sin brings death to our relationship to yourself.
- Sin brings death to our relationship with God's created order.

# SESSION 1:

## BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

**The Fall/De-Creation: Marriage in disarray. (Genesis 3:1-6)**

### Questions:

When did you realize what a sinner your spouse was? Or you are?

What is your marital response to sin?

When was the last time you said sorry, not just to cover your tracks but to see true resolution?

# SESSION 2:

## SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF MARRIAGE

### Anger

**Define it:** Eph 4.26-27: Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil.

**Assess:**

**Respond:**

**Question:** Are there things/words you are still angry over...?

### Unforgiveness

**Identify:** Eph 4.32: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**Assess:**

**Respond:**

**Question:** Are they things that you need to seek forgiveness for or to offer forgiveness?

# SESSION 1:

## BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

**New Creation: The Ultimate Marriage. (Revelation 19:6-9)**

### Questions:

How do you see your marriage as a means to prepare us for a final marriage?

Do you see that we are in the preparation for this marriage now?

# SESSION 1:

## BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

**Re-Creation: Marriage redeemed (Ephesians 5)**

1. **The promise of God restoration:**
2. **The path of God's restoration.**
3. **The picture of God's restoration. Eph 5.31-32**
4. **The power of God's restoration.**

# SESSION 1:

## BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

### **Rev-Creation: Marriage redeemed (Ephesians 5)**

#### **Questions:**

Do you believe in the power of God to change us?

Do you see the costliness of forgiveness?

Do you see the slow change in our lives?

What does the new life look like in your marriage?

How does submission and right headship show the changes in your life? This is how marriage displays something. What does yours display?

# SESSION 1:

## BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE

### **New Creation: The Ultimate Marriage. (Revelation 19:6-9)**

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”