

S.G. Study Guide: *The Potter. Week 3*

1. Image bearing: *From the beginning.* (Mark 10:2-9)

- Jesus answer to the Pharisees was rooted in His Bible: the Old Testament. What does this teach us about allowing God's Word to guide our lives vs. the cultural narrative?
- What are the 2 functional aspects of marriage? (Gen. 1:28)
- What are the 2 relational aspects of marriage? (Gen. 2:24-25)
- When we harmonize Genesis 1 and 2 with Mark 10 what is clear about God's design for marriage? How does this keep with the binaries revealed in God's creation?

2. Image Protecting: *Upholding covenant love.* (1 Cor. 7:2-6)

- How does 1 Cor. 7:2 uphold love and reinforce God's design for marriage as revealed "*from the beginning*"?
- Why does the Bible stress the importance of appropriate physical intimacy *in marriage* as a mutual *obligation* between man and woman?
- Contrast God's design for sexuality with the demonically influenced world of pornography? How does porn defile one being an "image bearer" and make them a "part for pleasure" verses a person?
- How has God ordained intimacy as a way to stay connected and communicate love? Contrast this with the Gen. 2 passage and discuss the aspects of trust and vulnerability within love and how this draw man and woman together, as well as uphold the functional blessings of God.

3. Image Perfecting: *Allowing the Potter to shape our marriages.* (Eph. 5:21-25,31)

- Discuss the balance of roles in marriage and yet mutual submission? What should this look like?
- Why do you think Paul again asserts the "leave & cleave" concept? How can we use this passage to help parents learn to let go of their children by blessing the "leave" aspect?
- What practices have been essential to your marriage?

Take time to pray for your marriages and the condition of marriages in our country.