

It's Complicated: Marriage

Darcy Siggelkow

Whether you're married or single, how we think about marriage and singleness is important.

- Marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman for a lifetime.
- The Bible is the written revelation of God's character and saving purposes for humanity and all creation. As God's revelation, the entire Bible is true and trustworthy, and is the final and absolute authority for belief and conduct.

Questions to think about:

- If we believe that women can be leaders in the church, why do we teach that men are to be the head of the home?
- If I believe women can lead in God's house, why does the man have to lead in my house?

Different ways to look at the marriage relationship:

Patriarchy: a system of belief that promotes male authority and female submission in the community, church and family.

Complementarianism: says that men and women are called to different and 'complementary' roles in church and family on the basis of their sex.

Egalitarianism: is mutuality that says men and women are equal. Marriage is rooted in mutual submission and love, and that leadership and roles are shared as they see fit.

A Theology of Mutuality:

- **Men and women are equal in every way.**

Read Genesis 1:27; Galatians 3:28

- **Patriarchy is the result of sin.**

Read Genesis 3:16

- **Scripture is the story of how God redeems humanity and brings salvation to his fallen world.**

In scripture, we need to recognize the difference between what is **descriptive** and what is **prescriptive**.

The patriarchy that continues to appear in biblical text is a mere accommodation to the reality of the times and culture; it is not a reflection of the divine ideal for humanity.

Stanley Gundry

- Jesus subverted and challenged the social norms of his day.
- The experience, practice and teachings of the early church subverted and undermined the social norms of their day.

Question: How do the following scriptures speak to patriarchy that was the social norm of the day?
Ephesians 5:21-25; Ephesians 6:1-4; Ephesians 6:5-9

(Continues)



**There is no important Christian leader anywhere in
the modern world today who defends slavery.
Not one.**

John Stackhouse

Question to think about: Could it be that we need to understand that the practice of patriarchy (male authority and female submission) is not God's intent or God's best for humanity?

**When you truly believe that men and women are
created by God as equals,
it changes the way you treat people.**

Read 1 Peter 3:7

Questions: If you are married, what needs to shift to move closer towards a more egalitarian relationship? What needs to shift in your view of marriage and relationships?