



Sermon Notes – Steve Southards – 9/24/2023

***Matthew 19:8b***

...it was not what God had originally intended.

***Matthew 19:4b-6***

“They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’”

***Matthew 19:5-6***

And he said, “‘This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”

**God’s original intent for marriage was not characterized as a contract or license. Marriage is intended to be a covenant grounded in commitment that is reflected in God's love for us.**

**Be intentional to HONOR GOD in your marriage or singleness.**

***Matthew 6:33***

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

**Be Intentional to offer SACRIFICIAL LOVE not pursue SELFISH GRATIFICATION.**

### *Philippians 2:1*

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

### *Matthew 19:8*

Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended.”

### *Philippians 2:2-5*

Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

### **Timothy Keller**

In any relationship, there will be frightening spells in which your feelings of love dry up. And when that happens you must remember that the essence of marriage is that it is a covenant, a commitment, a promise of future love. So, what do you do? You do the acts of love, despite your lack of feeling. You may not feel tender, sympathetic, and eager to please, but in your actions you must BE tender, understanding, forgiving and helpful. And, if you do that, as time goes on you will not only get through the dry spells, but they will become less frequent and deep, and you will become more constant in your feelings. This is what can happen if you decide to love.

**Be intentional to grow MORE CONNECTED each year.**

### **Pastor Pete Scazzero**

Lord, grant us the strength to answer Your call to be a living sign of Your love. Make our love for each other like Your love for us: passionate, intimate, gentle, kind, and patient. May we be as present to each other as You are to us, so that all the world can see Your presence manifested in our tender love for one another. Help us stay close to You in the Body of Christ and continue to nourish our love with Your love. In Jesus Name, Amen.