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Tighten The Knot Taking Marriage Seriously Sermon Notes - Billy Holden

With much of our culture having various understandings of marriage, its benefits, and its value, in this series will cover God's intention for the marriage relationship and why it's more than an expression of love but also one of sacrifice and purpose.

Intro: What is the Knot?

Ephesians 4:12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

1. Marriage is something that has been around since the beginning of time.

It was God that brought Adam and Eve together - Genesis 2:22

Marriage is a commitment between a **man** and a **woman** who are fulfilling God's will (**Not their own will**) for reproduction, partnering in stewardship over the earth, and living out their unique purpose that goes beyond this life.

Marriage is much more than the romantic feelings of love we share with someone else.

Ever take the Marriage "**test drive**" that our culture celebrates?

2. Marriage is a **commitment** that **God** designed.

Ephesians 5:25-27 25For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

Closing - Our marriages are reflections of Christ's love for his church.

Marriage is **NOT** just for **selfish** gain

My responsibility to my spouse is to make sure every day I do nothing that will contribute to their defilement in any way.

Wives and Husbands 21And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. 25For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30And we are members of his body. 31As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." 32This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. 33So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.