MYTH 3 – MARRIAGE IS A ONE-TIME THING

Pastor Derek Sanford

November 15, 2015

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. As you reflect on this week’s sermon, what do you remember most? What did you find most challenging?
2. Derek shared the story of Hosea and his prostitute wife, Gomer. Only 12 verses in this book of the Bible talk about the story of their relationship while the rest focus on God’s relationship with his people. Read **Hosea 1:1-3.** Why do you think God did something so crazy as to have Hosea marry Gomer? What other crazy things has God done to show His love?
3. In their book, What’s in the Bible for Couples, Kathy and Larry Miller describe four categories of marital conflict: Annoyances; Preferences; Unintended Emotional Injury; Sin. Read **Romans 15:5-7 and I Corinthians 13:4-7.** How do these verses speak to our areas of conflict?
4. What is the difference between a consumer relationship and a covenant relationship?
5. Derek said, “At the heart of the gospel is a God who deliberately surrenders to the wild, irresistible power of covenant love.” God loves you with a covenant love. He will never stop loving you and never break His promises to you. What does that mean to you? How can that free you to love your spouse or others?
6. Application: God told Hosea to keep his covenant to his wife. The big idea from the sermon was, “when you’re ready to quit, recommit.” Derek said there are two practical keys to keeping a covenant—1) Forgiveness based on grace not paybacks and 2) Love based on commitment not convenience
   1. Think about God’s forgiveness by grace and His covenant love for you.
   2. Each day this week ask God to help you find at least one way to show forgiveness and love to your spouse or others in your life.
7. Challenge: Read **James 5:16**. It’s hard to admit our faults to one another, but the Bible tells us to pray for one another so we can have life change. Would you be willing to share the commitment you made with your Life Group so you can pray for one another and see God bring change into your life and your relationships?

**Prayer Thought:** Though it may have been only a few days or even a few hours since you thoughtfully made a prayer of recommitment to your spouse and/or to the Lord at the end of Sunday’s sermon, take some time again to pray and renew that commitment. Confess your struggles with that commitment, thank God for the work He continues to do in your life, and pray for yourself and others in your Life Group to stand strong.

**Series Memory Verse:** ***Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.* Mark 10:9**