

**From the Book, *Meaning Of Marriage*, by Tim Keller**  
Review on Sept. 26, 2013

**Chapter 1    The Secret of Marriage**

**Pg. 26** *During the last two decades, the great preponderance of research evidence shows that people who are married consistently show much higher degrees of satisfaction with their lives than those who are single, divorced, or living with a partner. It also reveals that most people are happy in their marriages, and most of those who are not and who don't get divorced eventually become happy.*

**Pg. 35** *...some people in our culture want too much out of a marriage partner. They do not see marriage as two flawed people coming together to create a space of stability, love, and consolation--a "haven in a heartless world," as Christopher Lasch describes it. This will indeed require a woman who is "a novelist/astronaut with a background in fashion modeling" or the equivalent in a man. A marriage based not on self-denial but on self-fulfillment will require a low- or no-maintenance partner who meets your needs while making almost no claims on you. Simply put--today people are asking far too much in the marriage partner.*

**Pg. 47** *This is the secret--that the gospel of Jesus and marriage explain one another. That when God invented marriage, He already had the saving work of Jesus in mind.*

**Chapter 2    The Power for Marriage**

**Pg. 51** *The Holy Spirit's ministry is to take truths about Jesus and make them clear to our minds and real to our hearts--so real that they console and empower and change us at our very center.*

**Pg. 52** *First, the picture of marriage given here is not of two needy people, unsure of their own value and purpose, finding their significance and meaning in one another's arms. If you add two vacuums to each other, you only get a bigger and stronger vacuum, a giant sucking sound. Rather, Paul assumes that each spouse already has settled the big questions of life--why they were made by God and who they are in Christ.*

**Pg. 53** *Paul is applying to marriage a general principle about the Christian life--namely, that all Christians who really understand the gospel undergo a radical change in the way they relate to people. In Philippians 2:2-3, Paul says bluntly that Christians should "in humility consider others better than [them]selves.*

**Pg. 56** *That gospel message should both humble and lift the believer up at the same time. It teaches us that we are indeed self-centered sinners. It perforates our illusions about our goodness and superiority. But the gospel also fills us with more love and affirmation than we could ever imagine. It means we don't need to earn our self-worth through incessant service and work.*

**Pg. 56** *Self-centeredness is a havoc-wreaking problem in many marriages, and it is the ever-present enemy of every marriage.*

**Pg. 58** *Some will ask, "If I put the happiness of my spouse ahead of my own needs--then what do I get out of it?" The answer is--happiness. That is what you get, but a happiness through serving others instead of using them, a happiness that won't be bad for you.*

### Chapter 3 The Essence of Marriage

**Pg. 78** *But when the Bible speaks of love, it measures it primarily not by how much you want to receive but by how much you are willing to give of yourself to someone. How much are you willing to lose for the sake of this person?*

**Pg. 80** *In sharp contrast with our culture, the Bible teaches that the essence of marriage is a sacrificial commitment to the good of the other. That means that love is more fundamentally action than emotion.*

**Pg. 87** *Wedding vows are not a declaration of present love but a mutually binding promise of future love. A wedding should not be primarily a celebration of how loving you feel now--that can safely be assumed.*

**Pg. 100** *When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.*

### Chapter 4 The Mission of Marriage

**Pg. 112** *One of the prime qualities of a friend is constancy. Friends "love at all times" and especially during "adversity" (Proverbs 17:17)*

**Pg. 112** *There are two features of real friendship--constancy and transparency. Real friends always let you in, and they never let you down.*

**Pg. 120** *What, then is marriage for? It is for helping each other to become our future glory-selves, the new creations that God will eventually make us.*

### Chapter 5 Loving the Stranger

**Pg. 134** *We never know whom we marry; we just think we do. Or even if we first marry the right person, just give it a while and he or she will change. For marriage, being [the enormous thing it is] means we are not the same person after we have entered it. The primary problem is...learning how to love and care for the stranger to who you find yourself married.*

**Pg. 138** *The merged life of marriage brings you into the closest, most inescapable contact with another person possible. And that means not only that you see each other close up, but that you are forced to deal with the flaws and sins of one another.*

**Pg. 146** *Marriage has the power of truth, the ability to reveal to you who you really are, with all your flaws. How wonderful that it also has the "power of love"--an unmatched power to affirm you and heal you of the deepest wounds and hurts of your life.*

### Chapter 6 Embracing the Other

**Pg. 170** *Whether you identify yourself as an egalitarian, a feminist, a traditionalist, a complementarian, or any other variety on the interpretive spectrum, the differences between men and women will become an unavoidable issue in every marriage. Failure to come to terms with it is tiptoeing around the proverbial elephant in the living room.*

**Pg. 171**        *Though Tim and I have been both clumsy and clueless at times, we have found that in submitting to our own divinely assigned gender roles that we discovered one of God's great gifts for getting in touch with our deepest selves, as well as entering into the Great Dance of the universe.*

**Pg. 173**        *Immediately after making us male and female, God tells us to be "fruitful" and "fill the earth." Here God gives the human race the mandate to procreate, which is a reflection of his own boundless life-giving creativity. But, obviously, this wonderful gift of creating new human life is something we can only carry out together. Neither sex has all the characteristics necessary--only in complementary union can we do it.*

**Pg. 175**        *This passage (Philippians 2) is one of the primary places that the "dance of the Trinity" becomes visible. The son defers to his Father, taking the subordinate role. The Father accepts the gift, but then exalts the Son to the highest place. Each wishes to please the other; each wishes to exalt the other. Love and honor are given, accepted, and given again.*

**Pg. 179**        *Both women and men get to "play the Jesus role" in marriage--Jesus in his sacrificial authority, Jesus in his sacrificial submission. By accepting our gender roles, and operating within them, we are able to demonstrate to the world concepts that are so counter-intuitive as to be completely unintelligible unless they are lived out by men and women in Christian marriages.*

**Pg. 183**        *Christ embraced the ultimate "Other"--sinful humanity. He didn't exclude us by simply consigning us to judgment. He embraced us by dying on the cross for our sins. To love the Other, especially an Other that is hostile, entails sacrifice. It means sometime experiencing betrayal, rejection, and attacks. The easiest thing is to leave. But Jesus did not do that.*

**Pg. 191**        *Just as working out the particulars of how to inhabit gender roles when both spouses are eager to do so will differ from couple to couple, so will the particulars of glorifying God in the more difficult situation of an unbalanced marriage. But you can be sure that if you aren't getting any satisfaction from obeying God, you surely will get none from avoiding his pattern.*