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Nampa Bible Church Home Groups
Marriage Foundations Part 1: Who are we?

In order to have a successful marriage we must first answer a few key questions. The answers to these questions are the foundation upon which a God glorifying marriage is built and must be fixed in our minds before we can seek out specific application on which to work. The first foundational issue revolves around who we are as humans. Once we understand who we are, and how God designed us, then we can better understand how to relate to our spouse. (Oh, and don't limit yourselves to the provided bible passages...go wild!)

- 1) Look up Gen. 1:26-27. Who are we modeled after? How should we define this kind of 'image'? (Be thorough. Use a thesaurus if necessary)

- 2) If we are image bearers, what responsibility does this involve? (Phil. 2:15 might help) Who else was God's image bearer on earth? See Colossians 1:13-15.

- 3) Since we are all God's representatives (image bearers) what does this imply about how we should treat our spouse? When we sin against our spouse, what are we doing?

- 4) If we're not to sin against our spouse, what should we do instead? Start with Phil. 2:3-4 & I Peter 3:7.

- 5) Simply put, our choices are to:
 - A) Degrade our spouse (and God) – How might we degrade our spouse? See Matt. 5:22 for one example.

 - B) Honor our spouse (and God) – How might we honor our spouse? See Ro. 12:10 for one example.

The goal of our marriages should be to honor God *and* to honor our spouse so that *they* can honor God. We should strive to enhance our spouse's glory so they can live out the glory of God.