

THE MOON IS ALWAYS ROUND

AMANDA BEGGS

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

How do you know when your faith is being tested?

- Doubt that God is real?
- Not sure where you land on a particular theological issue?

Beginning in the garden, Satan sows doubt that God is good.

In every trial, the question echoes: **Is God still good?**

The Moon is Always Round, by Jonathan Gibson

1. What shape is the moon tonight?
 - Crescent, etc.
2. What shape is the moon always?
 - Round
3. What does that mean?
 - God is always good.

In preparation for the message remember:

1. We are all in this together.
2. Jesus is near.
3. The Moon is Always Round.

→ Before we can understand brokenness in marriage, we must understand God's intention for marriage.

Genesis 2:23

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Genesis 2:24-25

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

What makes a whole marriage?

Leave: prioritize

Hold fast:

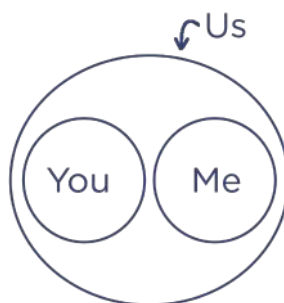
- To stick to something or someone as with glue
- To be joined inseparably
- To pursue with relentless devotion
- Not passive attachment, but active, deliberate, and enduring

One flesh:

- One mortal life fully shared—total access, total openness, total solidarity
- Distinct persons joined together as one
- God creates one flesh (Matthew 19:4-6)
- Represents the oneness we have with Christ

Naked: did not hide differences

Ideal state of marital intimacy = total vulnerability, total safety; no fear of rejection or shame



- In marriage we don't fix brokenness by fixing the other person. We fix brokenness by fighting for oneness.

Sometimes the brokenness and big and obvious, but more often than not, the threats to oneness in our marriage are small.

- Resentment
- Unforgiveness
- Unmet expectations

What are you allowing to attach to your marriage that's fostering division instead of oneness?

ONENESS BUSTERS

- **Shakey Foundation:** Searching for oneness apart from God.
 - *Am I trying to pursue oneness based on connection or feelings? Am I pursuing oneness with God first?*
- **Me Before We:** Looking to own needs before others.
 - *Do I insist on my own way? Do I recognize that our problem in this marriage is MY selfishness?*
- **Keeping Secrets:** Rejecting full intimacy and transparency.
 - *Do I justify hiding things from my spouse because I think it will protect us from brokenness? Am I living in secret shame?*
- **Two Ships Passing in the Night:** Prioritizing busyness and distraction over connection.
 - *Do I bring my best to everything but my marriage? Do I spend more time connecting with parents in youth sports than I do with my spouse? Do girls' nights or video games or my phone distract me from connection and intimacy?*
- **Tying the Knot Without Breaking the Ties:** Unhealthy to family of origin
 - *Do I allow my family's voice to be louder than my spouse's voice? Have I allowed sin patterns from my family of origin to repeat in my family?*
- **Unexpected Path:** Difficult external circumstances that cause stress, pain, anger, and grief.
 - *Is there brokenness outside of our marriage that we are allowing to create brokenness inside our marriage? Are we willing to name the real enemy instead of vilifying each other?*

- **Bleeding Wounds:** Unhealed hurts from the past create walls and distort reality.
 - *Wounds keep us stuck in thought spirals and harmful cycles. Am I bringing the past into the present and sabotaging the intimacy that I crave?*
- **Reckless Words:** Choosing to curse instead of bless; quick to speak, slow to listen.
 - *Words create worlds. Do I pursue oneness with my words? When was the last time I encouraged my spouse in their God-given purpose?*
- **Abuse:** Physical, emotional, verbal, or spiritual abuse is harming the marriage/family.
 - *If you are in an abusive marriage God sees you and this is not something He calls you to endure. You are not alone and there is help. Your Pastor and Elders, or our counseling center want to help you find safety and healing.*

RECKLESS WORDS

Words carry weight:

- Bless or curse
- Build up or tear down
- Call out God's identity or reinforce a broken identity

Proverbs 12:18, NIV

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 18:10

Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

- To fight for oneness in marriage we must replace words that wound with words that heal.

Our natural inclination is toward words that wound because they give us the upper hand, a false sense of control and superiority.

Genesis 3:11-12

[God] said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

Words that win arguments, are words that curse.

Words that fight for oneness are words that **call out and call up**.

→ As spouses we are uniquely positioned to prophesy God's truth in them.

Does your marriage need more encouragement, strength and comfort?

Examples:

- *I see how God has wired you to make an impact, and I am with you in that.*
- *I see how God has made you creative, keep creating.*
- *I see how you endured this hard season, and even though you have doubts I am with you. God has great plans for you.*
- *Even though we're different, I see how our differences make me better.*

What if we had less logistical conversations as husband and wife and more life-giving conversations?

What if you had someone regularly calling you up and out to who God created you to be?

KEEPING SECRETS

Sometimes there is a hidden sickness of sin in our marriages, but instead of facing it, we hide it and deal with the symptoms.

Secrets don't keep us safe.

Secrets keep us sick.

Psalm 32:3

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Genesis 3:8-9

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

We fight for oneness by pursuing full transparency, full intimacy, even when it's hard.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

There is healing to be found through **confession**.

- Repercussions can be awful
- There may be multiple conversations over time

There is grace to be given through **prayer**.

- Doesn't mean we minimize our pain
- Doesn't mean there are real consequences

Psalm 32:1

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

When Adam and Even came out of hiding, God sacrificed an animal and covered their shame.

- **God sent Jesus to draw us out of hiding and cover our shame.**

Are you willing to come out of hiding, and to live naked and unashamed?

Remember:

- We're all in this together
- Jesus is always near
- The moon is always round.

Oneness was never meant to be found only in marriage. From the very beginning, marriage was a signpost, not the destination. A reflection of a greater love story: **Christ and the Church.**

Hosea 2:19-20

I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in steadfast love and mercy...and you shall know the Lord.

→ Whether married or single, our deepest desires can only be met through **oneness with Jesus.**

Ephesians 5:31-32

...the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the Church.

TRIALS  MANY KINDS