



Sermon Discussion Guide¹

Ezra 9:1-5 | Kevin DeYoung

“Why Christians Must Marry Only in the Lord”

Sunday Morning, October 19th, 2025

Big Idea: “Christians should marry only Christians.”

1. Were you raised in a Christian home? Mixed? Neither?
 - a. Do you recall any habits or things about your parents’ marriage that you wanted to take with you into your own marriage?
 - b. How has your upbringing informed your expectations of a good marriage?
2. Do you have any friends/family/colleagues who have tried the missionary dating strategy?
3. What are some ways that you and your spouse differ (significant or not)? How might that be compounded if you differed in your faith?
4. “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” has a teleological emphasis.² Kevin also talked about a rowboat. What does this analogy teach us about marriage?
5. Decisions have a funny way of revealing what we value most. Think about an important decision you had to make in the last few years. What did you learn about yourself?
6. Did anything from Cathy Keller’s article stand out to you? (*Don’t Take It from Me*, TGC 2012).
7. Kevin often says, “We are not so much *rational* as we are *rationalizing*.” Does this resonate with you? Why do you think it’s important for us to be reminded of this?
8. Why must our union/communion with Christ be central no matter what relationship state we are in? How does it bring a kind of balance to all human relationships?

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Outline:

1. Three Reasons
 - a. Mixed marriages lead to religious compromise (Ezra 9:1-5).
 - b. Mixed marriages lead to relational opposition (2 Cor 6:14-16).
 - c. Mixed marriages lead to spiritual contradiction (1 Cor 7:39).
2. What should we do?
 - a. First, do not start on a journey that should not finish.
 - b. Second, if you are in a relationship, take an honest look at the yoke.
 - c. Third, in whatever state you are in, seek the deep communion that comes with union with Christ.

¹ SDGs are put together by the Small Groups Ministry to aid group discussion. They are available every week on the [small groups page](#) of the church website. Please send questions or feedback to calebjohnson@christcovenant.org.

Feel free to pivot to next Sunday’s sermon; reading next text aloud as a group, pointing out observations and connections.

² Meaning it has a direction, purposeful, driven by ends. Teleology asks, “What’s the end game? What’s the goal? Why are we doing this?”