**Weekender slide**

**Q + R**

* **Series Slide**
* In 2004, Morgan Spurlock changed the way we look at Fast Food with his documentary “Super Size Me.”
* In the film, for 30 days, Spurlock ate nothing but McDonald’s meals. And every time he would order a meal…if the cashier asked him “Would you like to Supersize your meal?”…he answered YES!
* When you supersized your meal- you were getting a 410 calorie soda and a 610 calorie batch of French fries…to go along with 563 more calories in your sandwich. That’s 1600 calories in ONE MEAL.
* Morgan Spurlock did that for 30 days. Three times a day. That’s almost 5,000 calories a day.
* That’s 2 ½ months worth of calories in 30 days.
* Of course, when he checks in with his doctor, he’s gained a ton of weight and is in terrible health…and his doctor begs him to stop the experiment.
* After the film was released, McDonalds did away with Supersizing.
* …but they didn’t stop marketing to kids.
* In fact, one of the most haunting scenes in the documentary is when Morgan sits down with a few 1st graders and asks them to identify some pictures.
* One picture is George Washington. And most of the kids get it right, albeit with some details that are slightly off. Like ‘He’s the 4th president of the US.’ Or ‘He helped free the slaves.’
* Then he shows them another picture. None of them know who it is. One kid guesses “George W. Bush?”.
* Actually, it's a picture of Jesus.

Then he asked them to identify a picture of Ronald McDonald.

* Every single kid gets it right. With details.
* “He brings all his friends to McDonald’s for a happy meal.”- one girl says.
* “I love their pancakes and sausage!” another little boy says.
* The reason why all those kids can identify Ronald McDonald, better than the first President or Jesus…is because Ronald McDonald is marketed to them. He’s on TV. He shows up in advertising in their living rooms (and now) on YouTube or their iPads.

Now, take a minute and put those 2 things together.

On one hand, we can all admit what Morgan Spurlock showed us is true. That eating a lot of McDonald’s food is bad for you. It’s not going to end well.

On the other hand, we generally see Ronald McDonald as a harmless fun kids character. After all, he’s not ALWAYS talking about eating hamburgers.

But the thing is, even just seeing Ronald McDonald, no matter what he says, conditions us to think about McDonald’s food. He’s a walking Pavlov’s dogs experiment.

The entire aim of Ronald McDonald IS to get you to spend your money buying McDonald’s…for your kids…without discretion.

Here’s my point.

We live in a consumer-based society. The vast majority of the messages we receive are grounded in someone looking for us to spend our dollars buying their service or product. In fact, that bottom line is SO important, we’re willing to market things to the weakest, least-discerning group possible- children- without asking questions about whether or not that marketing is shaping them to their detriment.

This is the world we live in.

Whether its hamburgers or mattresses or cars, the marketers are ever reminding you …over and over… that “you are a consumer”. That your purpose, your joy, your fulfillment comes through buying products…and consuming them.

...and that’s why that scene in “Supersize Me” hit me so hard.

Because, like those kids, the more we identify ourselves as consumers…the less we’ll recognize Jesus.

**Title Slide-“Happy Meal Marriage: How Consumerism Ruins and Covenant Rescues” 1 Peter 3:1-7**

Today, in Peter’s first letter to the church, he’s writing to wives and husbands.

…and, he’s going to tell us something about marriage that directly contradicts our consumerist tendencies.

He’s going to say the words “submit” and “show honor”.

Those are 3 words that Ronald McDonald has NEVER used together.

**1 Peter 3:1-7**

* **In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way their wives live**
* **2 when they observe your pure, reverent lives. 3 Don’t let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes, 4 but rather what is inside the heart ​— ​the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. 5 For in the past, the holy women who put their hope in God also adorned themselves in this way, submitting to their own husbands, 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. You have become her children when you do what is good and do not fear any intimidation.**

**7 Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker partner, showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.**

* **Transition**: We often look at marriage passages in the Bible, because we want to get our marriages “right”.
* So when we come to a text like this, our first thought is often “Great. Maybe this will make my marriage better. Especially if HE listens. Or if SHE pays attention.”
* And that’s not wrong, necessarily…but it carries with it a consumeristic motivation. “I want a better marriage FOR ME.”
* And that approach ignores how the majority of passages about marriage come up in the Bible. Which is not in a “marriage workshop” sort of way.
* These passages come up in a “Mission of God” type of way.
* They talk less about what we CONSUME from marriage…and more about what marriage CULTIVATES in the world.
* …and this passage is no exception.
* So first, lets talk about what marriage IS…so these instructions make a little more sense to us.
* **1) Marriage is a Covenant of Cultivation, not a Consumeristic Contract.**
* + Think for a second how marriage, or just romantic relationships, are marketed to you.
  + You meet the one. Its meant to be.
  + And they will fulfill your wildest dreams.
  + The way you feel right now, when you first kiss, on your first date, is what true love is. Love is an adventure. Its exciting!
  + Even that phrase, “Falling in Love”…its like you are just walking down the sidewalk and you trip….and bam! You’re in love.
  + We even talk about falling out of love. Its this thing that you can’t control. It just happens to you.
  + It reminds me a lot of some of those old McDonald’s commercials.
  + Kids are sitting around bored, its raining outside, then BAM!
  + “HEEEEEYYYYYY KIDS! RAIN GOT YOU DOWN? C’MON…we’re going to McDonalds where you can EAT YOUR FEELINGS!!!!”
  + You remember the Kool Aid man?
  + “I’m bored!”
  + “Yeah, me too!”
  + KOOL AID MAN busts through the wall “NOT ANY MORE! CUZ I HAVE SUGAR WATER AND FOOD COLORING! DRINK MY MAGIC ELIXIR AND YOU’LL NEVER STOP HAVING FUN!”
  + What in the world does McDonald’s fries and Kool Aid have to do with excitement.
  + In fact, some of the most unexciting and sad moments in world history have happened when people were eating a lot of McDonald’s fries and Kool Aid.
  + Likewise…marriage can never be sustained on the high calorie, sugar-laden way its being sold to you.
  + …and that’s why when Peter says, “Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands”…and… “Husbands, show your wives honor”… we often misunderstand it…and take offense.
  + Because we have a sort of “happy Meal” view of marriage.
  + That it should mainly help us be happy. Or meet a set of our own personal goals.
  + But God designed marriage differently.
  + …as a covenant of cultivation, not a consumeristic contract.
  + What’s the difference?
  + Well, think about a contract.
  + Specifically, your phone service.
  + When you enter into a contract with Verizon or Sprint, they are coming to you for ONE thing…and its not a relationship. Its your wallet.
  + The relationship is not CENTRAL.
  + The money is.
  + And, you are not going into that Verizon store looking to make a friend. You are looking for “the best deal” to get the best service.
  + You are a consumer…they are a company with a product to sell.
  + And so, you sign a contract.
  + If you pay so much a month, they will provide you with phone service.
  + If they don’t provide you that service, or you don’t pay, the contract is up and the service is over.
  + Now, a Covenant is different, though it has a few similarities.
  + First, a covenant is centered on relationship.
  + In the OT, Covenants worked like this.
  + There was an Authority, called a Suzerain. Or a Sovereign.
  + And then there was a weaker party, called a Vassal.
  + The Sovereign initiated the Vassal with the good of the Vassal in mind. So Verizon doesn’t market to you with your good in mind…McDonald’s certainly doesn’t (just ask Morgan Spurlock). They engage you to get to your money.
  + But in a covenant, the Sovereign was making a commitment to provide something out of his strength, for the weaker Vassal.
  + The Vassal, was then pledging to the Sovereign, their relational loyalty.
  + And every Covenant had obligations. The covenant wasn’t BUILT on those obligations….but the fulfillment of those obligations were designed to deepen the relationship between the 2 parties. So as each side carried out their obligations faithfully, so there would be blessing.
  + If they didn’t, then there were curses. Like, not in a magical sense, but in a relational sense. The relationship would not deepen…it would shrink…hurt…become more shallow.
  + In short, contracts are promises that aim at what I can get out of you, and covenants are promises that aim at what I can give to you to deepen our relationship.
  + Contracts aim to consume something.
  + Covenants aim to cultivate, or grow, someone.
  + **Gen 1:26-28a (end at “subdue it”)**
  + Marriage is on the first pages of the Bible…in the form of Covenant.
  + When God creates humanity, male and female.
  + He is a Sovereign, creating a Vassal.
  + He is doing this with an aim at relationship with them.
  + And he gives them obligations.
  + Be fruitful and multiply…and rule. Have dominion. Care for the world.
  + If you follow along through the ever building drama of Covenant through out the Old Testament, you find that God continues to make new and more robust covenants with humans as humans continue to be unfaithful, and disloyal to him.
  + Honestly, the more consumeristic that humans get, the more they destroy the covenant.
  + **Gen 3:4-5**
  + When the serpent tempts Eve to be a consumer and eat the fruit, its practically a Ronald McDonald commercial.
  + HEY! You bored? LETS EAT OUR FEELINGS!
  + And look, the serpent is convincing Eve that God is more like Verizon, than a loving Father. That this whole thing is a consumeristic contract, with two parties protecting their own interests…instead of a Covenant, with 2 parties intent on cultivating relationship.
  + “You aren’t in a Covenant. God is trying to keep you from competing with him. He doesn’t want you to succeed. He’s taking advantage of you. The only reason you are the weaker party here, is because you are listening to him. Take a bite…and become equals with God.”
* **Back to 1)**
  + Here's my point.
  + If you confuse covenant with contract…if you think marriage is about consuming, and not cultivating…everything you read in this passage will offend you.
  + Like Adam and Eve were offended by God keeping that delicious fruit from them. Or was it a Large Fry?
* **TRANSTION:** So with that in our back pocket, lets see what Peter says with new eyes. First he says…
* **2) The power of a wife is in submission to God,… not in doing everything her husband tells her.**
  + First, notice the covenant language that runs through this passage.
  + **3:1 & 7**
  + Submit. That's what a Vassal does to a Sovereign.
  + And the command to husbands is to live with wives as the “weaker partner”…that’s covenant language.
  + The weaker vessel is the vassal.
  + We’ll talk about what that term “weaker” is about in just a second.
  + First lets tackle what’s in this command to wives…and then we’ll talk about what it DOESN’T mean.
  + **V 1-2**
  + Remember, that Peter has just been giving instructions to new Gentile believers in Asia Minor. They are in a ridiculously consumeristic pagan culture that centers itself on unrestrained sex and abuse of authority.
  + And he’s just told servants not to rebel…against their masters, but to obey them.
  + So now, he translates to another relationship in this society that is being abused…marriage.
  + And he talks first to the most vulnerable. The Xian wives of unbelieving husbands. Because in this culture, an unbelieving husband is going to see his relationship with his wife as something he gets. Sex. Service. He gets to dominate and show his power.
  + And so these wives, who were new to following Jesus are asking, “What should we do?” My husband is not a believer. I love him. But he is doing all sorts of sinful things.
  + And Peter says, “Submit”.
  + He says, “If you are the Vassal, the weaker party in this covenant, your power is not in striking back…your power is in your loyalty.
  + **V 3-4**
  + He says, “You are going to be tempted to play the game. To use your sex appeal, your looks, as the way to control him. But don’t do it. That’s no better than a McDonald’s commercial. Its just advertising to get something from him. His submission to you.
  + If you want to see your husband submit to God, it doesn’t happen through trying to wrestle power away from him, it happens through a quiet revolution. One where you show you encourage him to take his role as the “Sovereign” or “Suzerain” in your marriage.
  + **V 5-6**
  + And he explains this by referencing another story from Genesis.
  + The Story of Abraham and Sarah.
  + Remember, God made a covenant with Abraham and promised that he would be fruitful and multiply. That God would create a great nation from him. But Abraham and Sarah had gotten old…REALLY OLD… way past being able to have kids…so they began to doubt that God, the SOVEREIGN of their covenant…could really keep his promise.
  + Then angels pay them a visit and say, “One year from now, Sarah will give birth”
  + **Gen 18:12**
  + So Sarah laughs and says, “Yeah right. Like a couple of 100 year old people are going to have sex.”
  + But what Peter points out, is that Sarah…even in her most doubtful moment… doubtful that Abraham can live it his covenant obligation…doubtful that they can be fruitful and multiply…
  + ...even with all the doubt that surrounds the Covenant
  + She calls him lord.
  + She still speaks positively and respectfully about him.
  + She still honors her end of the covenant. To be loyal to him.
  + **1 Peter 3:5-6**
  + and Peter says, “she did it by looking to God…even in the craziness…she submitted to God…even when it looked like her husband was incapable of fulfilling his role in the covenant.
  + And notice, the command here to wives is that you do good and do not fear any intimidation.
  + Do you know what that assumes?
  + It assumes that these wives aren’t going to do everything their husbands tell them to do. That’s not what submit means here.
  + Because the command is to DO GOOD…and the intimidation they are not supposed to fear, is their unbelieving husband’s intimidation WHEN they tell him, “NO…I’m not doing that. I’m not going to the temple to have sex with you in front of those idols.”
  + So, this isn’t a carte blanche “Wives, do what your husbands say”
  + Its not, “If he’s beating you, just pray for him and be nice to him.”
  + Its not, “If he continually forces himself on you sexually, just keep giving in.”
  + Let me be very clear. Wives, you are submitting yourselves to GOD in a covenant. And that means that there will be times in a marriage, particularly with a husband who does not follow and obey Jesus, that you are going to have to choose to obey GOD, or do what your husband says. In that case…EVERY SINGLE TIME…with love and respect for both God and your husband…you tell him, “NO.”
  + This is not submitting to physical or sexual abuse.
  + Its not submitting to watching porn with your husband.
  + Its not submitting to cheating on your taxes with your husband.
  + Or hiding his drug and alcohol problem.
  + It is, rather, a commitment to not get into a power struggle with your husband. Specifically here, where wives you use your outward beauty to control him. This is a command to NOT denigrate the marriage covenant to a consumer contract. You are not a McDonald’s commercial.
  + Additionally, this is NOT a command for all women to submit to all men. This is in the context of a covenant of marriage.
  + See, consumerism always results in a power struggle.
  + Looking for contractual loopholes
  + Verizon figuring out how to get in your wallet through the fine print, and you figuring out how to get unlimited minutes without paying the full price.
* **Back to 2)**
  + But Peter is saying, “No. Wives, know the covenant that God has with you…that he will never leave or forsake you. That he has power over your unbelieving husband…and in everyway you can do good with your husband, respect his leadership everywhere he is providing as he should for you.”
  + And when you do, you don’t have to fear or be intimidated by his foolishness or even his threats. And as he observes your trust in God, he can be won to trust God too, without you trying to overpower him.
* **TRANSITION:** So that’s the wives…lets talk about husbands now.
* **3) The power of a husband is in honoring your wife…not taking advantage of her.**
  + If Ronald McDonald was selling marriage in this first century, he would pitch it like this.
  + “Hey, hey hey all you men. Come and get unlimited sex and prove to all your friends that you are king of the castle. Get you a wife, get 2 or 3, in fact, get her pregnant, build yourself a nice little kingdom of subservient children…and make her do everything you tell her. Come and be served! After all, that’s what women are for, right?”
  + **v 7**
  + But Peter says something completely different.
  + Yet, this passage has the potential to be one of the most offensive to the women of our day. Because of that phrase, “weaker partner” or “weaker vessel”.
  + See the whole point of what Peter is telling Xian husbands to do, is to actually elevate their wives ABOVE the consumeristic view of women in those days. Where women are servants who are made for men to dominate and rule.
  + He’s actually pointing them in another direction completely.
  + But first, lets deal with this “weaker partner” phrase.
  + I told you earlier, this is covenant language. Peter is saying, “In the covenant of marriage, the husband is the Sovereign, he is committing to the wife to have steadfast love that provides and protects.
  + The wife, is the vassal, the weaker partner in the covenant.
  + So this is not an insult to women, it's a call to treat them with covenant love and respect that seeks to deepen the relationship between husband and wife.
  + That’s the language that surrounds this verse.
  + “show them HONOR as CO-HEIRS”
  + That’s the opposite of the consumeristic contractual language, both of our day…and of theirs.
  + Now, how exactly are women weaker. What does Peter mean by that, besides covenentally.
  + Well, in 2 ways, really.
  + One is biology.
  + Women, in general, are weaker physically than men.
  + That doesn't mean there aren’t some women in the world that could bench press me. Or do more push-ups. Or play baseball or basketball better. There are.
  + But if all the women in the world, got in a wrestling match with all the men in the world…based purely on physical strength…you would be fooling yourself if you thought the outcome was up in the air.
  + This has nothing to do with emotional strength, intelligence, or any thing else.
  + The other thing that this, I think, represents…is their position culturally.
  + Women at this time, without a husband or a family, would be unprotected and very vulnerable because of the patriarchal nature of this society, where everything ran through the men. The money, the power, etc.
  + Our culture certainly is different today, but there are still some inequalities and injustices being done to women today that reflect this. Such as being paid less for doing the same job as a man.
  + Or being taken advantage of sexually, like the current #MeToo movement has exposed.
  + So lets put this all together for the husbands.
  + Xian husbands- your job is not to tell your wife to submit to you.
  + That is a gift she gives of her own accord as she submits to God. It is not a consumerstic right you demand like you are walking into Verizon because they cut off your phone.
  + When you use your physical strength to abuse, dominate, or intimidate her, you are not living in a covenant, but mirroring a Pagan, Satanic godless way.
  + As the weaker vassal, in a covenant, your role as the “Sovereign” is not to bully her, it is to build her up. To cultivate something beautiful in her. Not just children…but to cultivate the sort of beautiful inner spirit that Peter talked about a few verses earlier.
  + Your job is to provide what she needs to flourish and succeed.
  + Not to force her to do your will.
  + But to build her up to do God’s will.
  + …and Peter says, the curse that comes to you when you break this Covenant call…is that your prayers to God will be hindered…or cut off.
  + They won’t rise above your ceiling.
  + You know why?
  + Because the covenant you have with your wife is supposed to mirror the covenant God has with us.
  + Where he, as the sovereign, gave of himself to create us…not to LIMIT our power and authority, but to give us dominion over the earth.
  + So God, by cutting you off from being able to be heard by him, is teaching you…you need to listen to your wife.
  + That whole phrase, “live with your wife in an understanding way” is not necessarily, “Understand that your wife is more emotional than you. Or that women are spaghetti from Venus and men are waffles from Mars.” That certainly is an implication of this command…but not what Peter means.
  + Rather, the understanding way means that you understand God’s covenant with mankind…and you treat your wife accordingly.
  + It means your face is in the Scripture seeing how God, as a Sovereign in a covenant, has made promises to benefit his people…and then you go treat your wife like that.
* **Transition:** …and the deepest understanding of that covenant has everything to do with grace. …And the cross of Jesus Christ. See…
* **4) Jesus took the curse of our consumerism, so we could have the blessing of his covenant.**
* + When you track through all the ways that people God covenanted with through the OT, broke their covenant…you can track the curses that accompanied those Covenants.
  + Adam and Eve were cast out of the perfect Garden.
  + Noah’s son was cursed.
  + Abraham’s first son, Ishmael was cursed.
  + Moses wasn’t allowed into the promised land.
  + Much of Israel died after they worshipped the Golden Calf at Mt. Sinai.
  + After King David took advantage of Bathsheba and murdered her husband, his son died.
  + God made a covenant with Humanity in Adam.
  + A covenant where a relationship with him…was central.
  + But just like our ancestors, we keep believing the lie that God is Ronald McDonald, just trying to sell us consumers a product.
  + And that we can compete with him.
  + We can reach out and consume…to be like him.
  + But that only brought death. And separation.
  + It cutoff our prayers from God.
  + Then, the Scripture says, came a 2nd Adam.
  + God himself, born into human flesh.
  + Jesus, submitting to the Father’s will…leaving behind the adornments and beauties of his heavenly home.
  + Limiting his power…but why?
  + And then he lived in covenant faithfulness.
  + Completely obeying his Father.
  + He, though powerful, lived a life of weakness.
  + He served, instead of dominated.
  + He only used his power to bless.
  + He came not to condemn, but to save.
  + And on the night before he died, he had supper with his disicples.
  + And he said, “In this cup is my blood, that will be shed for you.”
  + And it is the cup of the New Covenant.
  + See, God is so faithful to us, that when we couldn’t keep the end of our covenant with him…he did it for us.
  + Jesus life of obedience, that received all the blessings of God’s covenant with humanity…
  + Well..on the cross…he gave it away.
  + On the cross, like the covenant curses of the OT…the son died.
  + He was put out of the presence of his Father, “MY GOD MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME”
  + His prayer was hindered.
  + On the cross, God himself took the curse of our Covenant unfaithfulness…and he gave us all the blessings…as if we had kept our covenant faithfulness to him.
  + ON the cross, we consumed Jesus with our sin.
  + And in return, he blessed us by providing salvation.
  + That’s why the church is called the BRIDE of Christ.
  + Because Jesus, as our sovereign, made us CO-HEIRS of the grace of life.
  + Instead of the curse of death…we got grace…what we didn’t deserve.
  + And when you see marriage like this.
  + When you see covenant membership of a church like this.
  + When this, husband is the “WAY” that you continually are trying to understand…
  + When this Cross of Christ, wives, is the GOD that you submit to even as your husband is living a life that resists God…
  + …well, that’s where all the power to obey God comes from.
  + Knowing that he has forgiven you.
  + Knowing that he has taken the curse of covenant, sin and death, from us….
  + …knowing that he could not love us any more than he does.
  + And he will not love you any less than he already does.
  + Knowing that your future is secure, no matter the intimidation that an unbelieving husband, or threatening employer, or man whistling at you on the street brings…
  + …Your sovereign, the LORD JESUS CHRIST, is with you, to protect you…and through his church, his body…his bride…he will provide a way to both honor your husband…and also, reject and condemn the evil he is doing.
* **Let’s Pray. GIVE SPACE.**