

Chapter 4: The Home Front: Marriage, Ministry, and Adoption (Loc. 1737 – 2377)

- 1. Why would feminists consider the institution of marriage “negative or dangerous?” (Loc. 1751) How does the Patriarchy movement also have a wrong view of marriage? (see <http://www.reformation21.org/blog/2016/10/the-patriarchy-movement-five-a.php>)**
- 2. Rosaria reprints Pastor Comin’s marriage charge in full (Loc. 1776). How does this marriage charge differ in its view of marriage from our culture’s view of marriage?**
- 3. In what ways has the church failed to uphold marriage?**
- 4. How is a Biblical view of marriage better for women than their treatment in most cultures?**

...The Bible speaks of love not in terms of feeling but of action. Love “does this” and love “does not do that” for the promotion of the good of its object. (Loc. 1891)

- 5. What’s your reaction to this definition of love? How is this different from the way our culture—and often even those in the church—view love?**
- 6. Both Kent and Rosaria came from families that didn’t practice Christianity; how were they able to claim a “Christian heritage”?**

SGOPC Book Study: *Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*

Two distinct kinds of home-based ministry developed in our first year of marriage: ministry to those who know God (encouraging the fellowship of the saints through hospitality) and ministry to those who do not yet know God (developing a theology of the public, meeting the “stranger at the gate,” and finding intentional ways and means to bring the gospel to the outcast, the lost, and the lonely). At different times over the years we have had to emphasize one ministry community over the other. (Loc. 2068)

7. What is the importance of each type of hospitality? To what extent should all believers practice this, considering passages like 1 Peter 4:8-10?

At this time, many other families, one at a time, visited for awhile. Each left after a month using the same reason that our original seed family gave to us: they lacked fellowship and they feared for their children in a church without other like-minded families. (Loc. 2091)

8. What does Rosaria think what the families really meant by “lacking fellowship?” Is that a valid reason for choosing a church?

We in the church tend to be more fearful of the (perceived) sin in the world than of the sin in our own heart. Why is that? (Loc. 2102)

9. How would you answer this question?

Sometimes, they were so busy sharpening their intellectual sword that they lacked compassion and empathy for people who didn't already share their worldview. (Loc. 2146)

10. What are the dangers of good theology isolated from the rest of your life?

11. How did the Butterfield's adoption of children change their ministry focus?

12. How does Rosaria's story of the growing of their family through adoption mirror the story of the church?